



- NEWS LOCAL BUSINESS SPORTS BLOGS MULTIMEDIA ENTERTAINMENT LIVING JOBS AUTOS REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIEDS SHOPPING

SEARCH:

# THE PLAIN DEALER

- [Subscribe](#)
- [Today's Paper & More](#)

**BLOGS**

**Breaking News from The Plain Dealer** [RSS](#)

- Metro**
- Cash thief caught in Fairport Harbor 8:45 a.m. ET
  - State funds spring clean-ups done by volunteers 8:47 a.m. ET

- Business**
- An ambitious business plan for Stonebridge Square 8:01 p.m. ET

- Sports**
- C.C. on contract: 'Hush' 7:55 a.m. ET

- Politics**
- Obama wins Wis. primary, Hawaii caucus 7:13 a.m. ET

- Entertainment & Pop Culture**
- The Morning After: Remembering Dan Fogelberg, 'Dexter' tops AFI TV list, Herzog wins 'Survivor' 6:35 a.m. ET

**PHOTO OF THE DAY**



Click image to enlarge  
 Lisa DeJong/The Plain Dealer  
 Supporters hope to touch the hand of presidential hopeful Barack Obama after speaking at the Beeghly Center at Youngstown State University on Monday Feb. 18th.  
 • [Plain Dealer Multimedia](#)

**NEWS VIDEO**

**AP**

- Obama, McCain Extend Victories, Momentum [Play](#)
- At Least 4 Killed in Minn. School Bus Crash [Play](#)
- AP Campaign Minute [Play](#)

• [More Videos](#)

**PRINT EDITION HEADLINES**

- 4 NASA Glenn Research Center engineers honored
  - Cimperman ad about Kucinich stretches truth
  - Cleveland port's planned move sounds good to civic leaders
- [More Headlines](#)

**FORUMS**

## Leading the way to engineering careers

Friday, February 15, 2008

Project Lead the Way is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the number of young people pursuing two- or four-year engineering degrees. Centered around a national curriculum, students learn about various engineering fields and how science and math are relevant through activity-based learning projects.

PLTW is taught at Polaris Career Center, and Michael Haydn is the pre-engineering instructor for the program. He has 20 years of experience in mechanical engineering and teaching CAD/drafting courses. Haydn is a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, American Design and Drafting Association, Society of Plastics Engineers, and the Institute of Packaging Engineers.

Q: What are the opportunities in this field of work?

A: According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the outlook for engineering and technology careers through 2014 is expected to increase by as much as 45.5 percent depending on the career path. Many experienced engineers obtain graduate degrees in engineering or business administration to learn new technology and broaden their education. Many high-level executives in government and industry began their careers as engineers.

Q: What are the typical requirements for employment?

A: Today's engineering student must be prepared to pursue an associate or bachelor's degree in their preferred field. There are still some jobs available for high school graduates, but they are becoming fewer. Graduates of four-year technology programs may get jobs similar to those obtained by graduates with a bachelor's degree in engineering. Engineering technology graduates, however, are not qualified to register as professional engineers under the same terms as graduates with degrees in engineering. Some employers regard technology program graduates as having skills between those of a technician and an engineer.

Q: What are the frustrations?

A: My frustration is that technology and speed have become more important than basic understanding and knowledge of engineering.

Q: What changes, if any, do you think are coming?

A: Technology will dominate the future of engineering, making the world a smaller and more connected place. Continuing education is critical for engineers as technology evolves.

Q: What does it take to succeed?

A: To succeed in engineering, a person must be willing to change and to seek further education. They must never be willing to live simply by what was learned in the past. Have an open mind and be inquisitive.

**INSIDE THE PLAIN DEALER**

- [News](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [PD Multimedia](#)
- [Photo Store](#)
- [Long-Term Paid Archives](#)
- [Weather](#)

**SHARE THIS STORY**

- [Reddit](#)
- [Digg](#)
- [del.icio.us](#)
- [Google](#)
- [Yahoo](#)
- [How Does It Work?](#)

**SITE TOOLS**

- [E-mail This](#)
- [Print This](#)
- [Newsletters: Sign up for breaking news updates from The Plain Dealer](#)

**SPONSORED LINKS**