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Sinclair selected to train teachers

BY MARK FISHER
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DAYTON — Sinclair Community College has been selected to train high school teachers from across Ohio this summer as part of a national effort to recruit more students into engineering-related careers.

The Ohio Department of Education chose Sinclair as the sole Ohio affiliate for a national alliance of pre-engineering programs called Project Lead the Way. The alliance of high schools, colleges and industry has developed a four-year sequence of courses that introduces students to engineering and engineering technology concepts while still in high school.

Ohio teachers who will teach those courses this fall must be certified through the Sinclair training program, which will be offered during two-week sessions in Dayton this summer, said Sinclair's Monica Pfarr, who is directing the statewide effort.

Students who take the hands-on engineering courses will also be expected to take college-prep math and science courses. They would benefit from seeing how

their math instruction applies to engineering-related problems, Pfarr said.

George Sehi, Sinclair's dean of engineering and industrial technologies, said those students will be better prepared for college-level engineering courses and thus will be less likely to switch majors or drop out. The attrition rate in college engineering programs nationally exceeds 50 percent, Sehi said.

Sinclair officials said at least 14 high schools across the state — including Fairmont High School in Kettering and Ridgeville Christian High School in Warren County — have expressed interest in participating in the teacher training, and state education officials hope that number will grow to 35 in the next year. Sinclair has received a \$50,000 grant through the Ohio Department of Education to deliver the training, and participating high schools are eligible to receive a \$20,000 grant, Pfarr said.

Alliance officials said the effort is designed to boost the number of women and minorities in engineering-related careers and to help fill anticipated job openings in the field.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Monica Pfarr at 512-2219 for details about the engineering training for high school teachers to be offered at Sinclair Community College