

Industrial Arts at Treynor

Gary Schuler spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on July 6. He is the wrestling coach and industrial arts teacher at Treynor.

Gary talked about "Project Lead the Way" (PLTW), an initiative to prepare students for the global economy. He started the first semester with 21 students and ended the year with 15. Classes were held every day.

PLTW contains three learning communities: 1) Gateway to Technology, 2) Pathway to Engineering, and 3) Biomedical Sciences Program. Treynor is working on the Pathway to Engineering curriculum. This year they only let Freshmen and Sophomores register. Mr. Schuler taught Introduction to Engineering this year. Mr. Rucker will teach Principles of Engineering this next year. Ms. Gramkow will teach Computers for 7th grade and Designing Motors for 8th grade. In the 2014 school year Mr. Nelson will teach Digital Electronics.

Iowa State University and University of Iowa have classes to teach the instructors.

There is also a web site with a lot of information.

The students had three major projects over the semester and some instant challenges. The instant challenges forced them to make quick decisions to complete the project in 2-3 days. One of the lessons some of the students learned is that everyone's ideas are important.

PLTW and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) classes are designed to introduce students to a mixture of science, math, and industrial technology in the same courses. They also try to introduce more female participants into careers that are normally male dominated.