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September 19, 2018

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**Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. and IN-MaC Partner to Create
STEM Learning and Discovery Laboratory
*Creating manufacturing career awareness for Indiana youth***

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN, – Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. (SIA) and **Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center** (IN-MaC) have partnered to create a STEM Learning and Discovery Laboratory at the Lafayette-based SIA facility. The SIA Learning and Discovery Laboratory provides a variety of opportunities for K-12 educators, schools and youth, and incumbent workers to discover new ways to explore design-thinking, problem-solving, technology and creative skill sets. The lab provides hands-on experience with 3D printers, virtual reality stations, robotics, learning modules, engineering and coding software, and STEM education modules.

“By creating meaningful partnerships, such as this with IN-MaC and Purdue faculty, it allows SIA to have a greater impact and provide industry exposure and awareness to youth. SIA sees this partnership as essential to build a strong talent pipeline of digital manufacturing skills – starting in the classroom – allowing the next generation to be prepared to enter the workforce,” said Brad Rhorer, senior manager of Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc.

“There are an estimated 3.4 million jobs to be filled in manufacturing from 2015 to 2025 – and only approximately two million qualified workers to do so. To address this and create a stronger workforce of tomorrow, the laboratory focuses on basic design thinking, data analytics and coding, all of which will be considered as essential as reading, writing and arithmetic for the current and upcoming generations,” says Dr. Nathan Hartman, Dauch Family Professor of



The SIA Learning and Discovery Laboratory is over 1,000 square feet and has 3D printers, virtual reality stations and robotics, along with other software and STEM education curriculum. The lab will assist youth, educators and visitors in finding new applications for technology through design applications.



Advanced Manufacturing at Purdue Polytechnic Institute and co-executive director of IN-MaC.

“We’re introducing the next generation of workers to the next-generation manufacturing field,” said Dr. Jan-Anders Mansson, Distinguished Professor of Engineering at Purdue University and co-executive director of IN-MaC. “The manufacturing industry today is not just growing; it also offers many new high-tech jobs with its vast implementation of digital manufacturing technologies.”

In partnering with Purdue University faculty, IN-MaC collaborated with associate professor of industrial design in the **Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Design, Art, and Performance**, TJ Kim. Professor Kim is developing “Wonder Makerspace” at the SIA Learning and Discovery Laboratory. “Design can help students understand the importance of other subjects such as math, science, and language; build product solutions; and apply art to real-world solutions and applications,” said TJ Kim.

The SIA Learning and Discovery Lab and Wonder Makerspace is supported in partnership with IN-MaC, a joint center between Purdue’s Polytechnic Institute and College of Engineering.

IN-MaC provides programs and services to enhance the talents and capabilities of Indiana’s present and future workforce by facilitating connections between educators and industry to catalyze the formation of near-term and long-term skills in a highly accessible manner across Indiana. IN-MaC supports a variety of STEM-type, skilled trades, degree (associates and undergraduate) and certificate programs.

IN-MaC leverages its resources, networks and partnerships with industry, local communities, educators and interested stakeholders to provide a variety of formal courses and informal activities that embolden pathways to meet the talent needs of the present and future manufacturing workforce.



The SIA Learning and Discovery Laboratory will house Robot Magician robotic arms from **STEM Education Works** and **SDI Innovations**. The lesson modules involve real-world actions that make sense to young students and were created in partnership with Greg Strimel, Purdue University professor and Purdue University



Sources:

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