



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 2, 2020**

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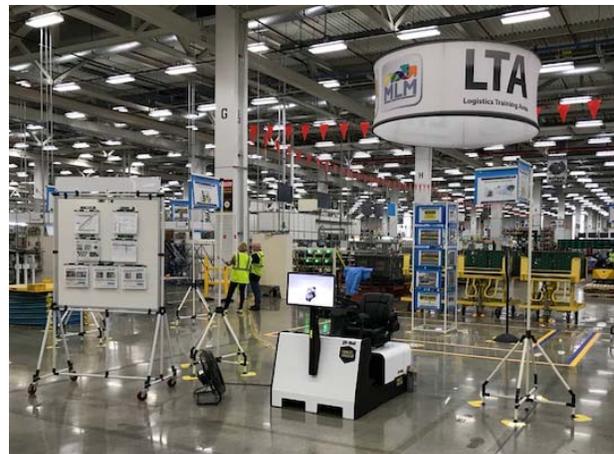
**Virtual Reality Forklift Simulators Expand Training Accessibility and Increase  
Workforce Pipeline  
IN-MaC, Ivy Tech Community College, ProLogistix  
Partnership Powers Logistics Simulator Opportunities for Schools and Industry**

**WEST LAFAYETTE, IND., March 2, 2020** – With the recent investment and installation of six virtual reality forklift simulators around the state, key supply chain and logistics training is now available to more Indiana high school students and workers throughout the state.

The initial investment was made through a partnership between the Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center (IN-MaC) and Ivy Tech Community College. This initiative supports two of the state's largest industries, supply chain management and logistics.

“Indiana is leading the nation in manufacturing job growth and home to the second largest automotive industry in the nation,” said Sascha Harrell, director for education and workforce of IN-MaC. “We must prepare an up and coming workforce for these companies’ future needs while making sure that the existing workforce is educated on current and future technology.”

“Supply chain and logistics are two of the biggest industries in the state of Indiana. Indiana’s central location along with access to global markets is attracting an increasing number of companies to our state” said Aaron Baute, vice president at



*Virtual reality forklift simulator stationed at the Fiat Chrysler Tipton Transmission Plant located in the logistics training area for employees to access.*

# IN-MaC

Ivy Tech Community College. “The certificates for completion of the forklift simulation are designed specifically for the supply chain and logistics fields.”

The desktop forklift simulator training has additional benefits including decreased risk, controlled environments, customized simulation scenarios, objective data evaluation and remote training opportunities. Because of efficiencies in the training and a controlled environment, 15 hours of simulator training can replace 45 hours of training.



*ProLogistix on-site virtual reality desktop simulators stationed at their Indianapolis office to train potential supply chain and logistics workers.*

ProLogistix, initiated their forklift simulator program in 2017, and after seeing the success of the simulators, purchased additional simulators for their workforce. Thanks to a five-day training-to-work program with ProLogistix, the nation’s first and largest logistics workforce specialists and placement firm.

“The battle we have across the country is finding training programs that industry partners recognize and that deliver a high level of detail and realism in material handling simulation models,” said Kristin Bevans, division vice president, ProLogistix. “Indiana is lucky to have this partnership in place.”

As supply chain and logistics workforce needs evolve, IN-MaC and Ivy Tech Community College continue to partner with private sector industry leaders to evaluate and implement innovative strategies to address these needs. To learn more about IN-MaC and its many programs, visit [www.Purdue.edu/IN-MaC](http://www.Purdue.edu/IN-MaC).

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**IN-MaC** is creating an ecosystem for education, industry and communities to create meaningful experiences in manufacturing pathways. By providing high-impact programs and services to enhance workforce talents and capabilities, IN-MaC is supporting 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.

IN-MaC supports a variety of K-12 STEM, skilled trades, degree (associates and undergraduate) and certificate programs. IN-MaC amplifies impact and access by sharing replicable models across the state nation.

**Ivy Tech Community College** serves communities across Indiana, providing world-class education and driving economic transformation. It is the state’s largest public



postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering high-value degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its communities, along with courses and programs that transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.

**ProLogistix** is the nation's leading staffing agency, providing all levels of logistics personnel from entry-level, skilled and managerial talent for the warehouse to senior executives of supply chain for over twenty years. We have the experience in the supply chain sector that enables us to provide more effective solutions and support for your business.