



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IN-MaC Micro-Grant Program
Empowering Growth and Fostering Manufacturing Career Pathways

WEST LAFAYETTE, IND., FEB. 26, 2020 – Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center (IN-MaC) has announced its second round of micro-grant funding. IN-MaC distributes micro-grants to organizations implementing manufacturing initiatives that enhance and provide access to youth (K-12), post-secondary, and the incumbent workforce across the state of Indiana.

Micro-grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 are awarded to organizations that are dedicated to providing innovative programming focused on manufacturing career pathways and positive perceptions about manufacturing.

In 2018-2019, more than 34,000 Indiana youth and incumbent workers in 45 counties benefited from 78 IN-MaC micro-grants. At this time, IN-MaC has invested in 66 projects located in 51 counties and all 12 regions across the state of Indiana.

“It is exciting to see the unique projects micro-grantees are initiating around the state,” said Lisa Deck, program manager for education and workforce if IN-MaC. “These micro-grants empower meaningful work focused on manufacturing-related skills that are customized for a community’s needs and programming that could have statewide impact.”

Priority is given to programs that are replicable and can serve as a model for other organizations and communities throughout the state.



A group of students from two Porter County Indiana schools - Boone Grove High School and Wheeler High School - recently spent the day at ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor to get a feel for the steelmaking operations and local training program. ArcelorMittal was an IN-MaC micro-grant recipient.

IN-MaC

Several funded programs are already in the implementation phase. Examples include providing access to manufacturing facilities, STEM curriculum development, and access to additive manufacturing, supporting FIRST® Robotics Competition teams, and building community outreach.

Support from the IN-MaC micro-grant program has allowed University High School's FIRST® Robotics Competition team, "RoboBlazers," to buy new technology and equipment that has allowed for a more sustainable, competitive team.

"The program has really grabbed student's attention with several of them finding it hard to leave and many more knocking at the door to join," said Meredith Hogan, educator and FIRST® Robotics Competition team coach with University High School in Carmel, IN. "It has allowed students to explore all aspects of team activities, including programming, manufacturing technologies, web-design, social media, and outreach."



Funds from the IN-MaC micro-grant allowed FIRST® Robotics Competition team, The "RoboBlazers," from University High School in Carmel, to compete in the Indy RAGE All Girl's Competition.

The team is now competing on an international stage and expanding offerings, including competing in the off-season and participating in all-girl competitions.

Hogan strongly encourages schools, manufacturers, and organizations to apply for the micro-grant.

"None of this would have been made possible without the support of IN-MaC and the opportunities that the micro-grant has given us," said Hogan.

Projects funded include hands-on experiences, STEM-related activities, camps, and campaigns to increase manufacturing career awareness and pathways. Applications for this round are due March 30, 2020. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.purdue.edu/in-mac/index.php> or contact Lisa Deck at adeck@purdue.edu.

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About IN-MaC: 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.