

Woodlawn Community Center
300 S Beach Drive
PO Box 196
Monticello, IN 47960
574-583-4931



"Every child is one caring
adult away from being a
success story"

~Josh Shipp

**Boys and Girls Club of White County partners with Purdue University IN-MaC
and Community Partners to expand Design and Innovation Studio™ Model**

*Studio provides access to Industry 4.0 technologies and curriculum to
explore the next generation of manufacturing*

MONTICELLO, IND., APRIL 7, 2021 - The Boys & Girls Club of White County is excited to announce a new youth programming opportunity to the White County community focused on changing perceptions and building Indiana's future manufacturing workforce. The site received funding from Purdue University Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center (IN-MaC). IN-MaC, in partnership with STEM Education Works and Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN), is investing in IN-MaC Design and Innovation Studios™ across the state of Indiana and 10-county Wabash Heartland region of north-central Indiana. The studio is also jointly funded by a NIPSCO, NiSource Charitable Foundation STEM grant. The studios provide various opportunities for schools, educators, students, and industry to discover new ways to explore design thinking, problem-solving, technology, and creative skill sets.

They are developing and offering industry-education activities and curriculum for users to cultivate the next generation of high-tech thinkers and doers. The studios provide hands-on experience with additive manufacturing, robotics, coding, engineering, and science learning modules. These studios offer a dedicated space in elementary schools and in manufacturing facilities where K-6 students and their teachers can learn about technologies like robotics and artificial intelligence while they develop a greater understanding of how those technologies can lead to an exciting career in manufacturing. In-school studios match the studios in industry in terms of technology and equipment, which helps students to connect the dots between their school activities and the real world of manufacturing. The Boys & Girls Club of White County will be the first public youth services organization in the state to offer the IN-MaC Design & Innovation Studio programming model.



*One of several technologies
offered in the IN-MaC studio
model. Dobot Magician is a
desktop collaborative robot.*

We plan to educate and empower Club members, community members, and local industry to access new digital abilities, employability skills, and awareness of career pathways at a young age where career perceptions are formed. Foster the tools and technology to explore the next generation of manufacturing to become leaders who will use knowledge to create impact in the future of work. We will institutionalize best practices in the studio through designing, making, and computational thinking. The studio programming and access to Industry 4.0 technology and computer science will amplify impact and access by sharing replicable models implemented

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across Indiana. Ultimately, we will build an ecosystem for Club members, community members, and local industry to create meaningful learning experiences and partnerships.

We want to thank our partners in this fantastic opportunity; Purdue University IN-MaC, NIPSCO, WHIN, STEM Education Works, The Community Foundation of White County, Ace Hardware, REMC, and The House Doctor.

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About Boys & Girls Clubs of White County: For more than 7 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of White County (bgcwhitecounty.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, the Club serves nearly 200 young people a day through Club membership and community outreach. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Club programs promote academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of White County on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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.

About NIPSCO: Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC (NIPSCO), with headquarters in Merrillville, Indiana, has proudly served the energy needs of northern Indiana for more than 100 years. As Indiana’s largest natural gas distribution company and the second-largest electric distribution company, NIPSCO serves approximately 820,000 natural gas and 470,000 electric customers across 32 counties. NIPSCO is part of NiSource’s (NYSE: NI) six regulated utility companies. NiSource is one of the largest fully regulated utility companies in the United States, serving approximately 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers through its local Columbia Gas and NIPSCO brands. More information about NIPSCO and NiSource is available at NIPSCO.com and NiSource.com.

About WHIN: WHIN is an innovative nonprofit organization devoted to making the 10-county Wabash Heartland region of north-central Indiana the global epicenter of digital agriculture and next-generation manufacturing empowered by smart IoT technology.

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About STEM Education Works: As part of SDI Innovations family of companies and brands, STEM Education Works combines standards-aligned STEM curriculum with high-quality technology to empower students in grades six to 12 to integrate science and mathematics concepts into design-based learning engineering practices. The company’s teacher-designed, industry-aligned curriculum delivers authentic learning opportunities to students, bridging the gap between student outcomes and workforce development needs. Learn more at <https://stemeducationworks.com/>.