



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2021

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**4T Academy Inaugural Graduation is Culmination of
IN-MaC Pathway Systems Efforts**
***21 High School Students Graduate with College Placements or
Toyota Career Opportunities***

WEST LAFAYETTE, IND., May 26, 2021 – Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center (IN-MaC) and their partners celebrate the graduation of the Toyota’s 4T Academy Inaugural Class. The celebration comes after two years of intensive effort led by IN-MaC to create a high school-to-career pathway system that provides in-school dual credit curriculum, on-the-job-training, and a career upon graduation.

Twenty-one students from three southwestern Indiana high schools (North Gibson, Gibson Southern, and East Gibson) graduated. Upon graduation, 18 students received job offers to begin their manufacturing careers at Toyota. In addition, three students enrolled in Vincennes University’s Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program.

“I am so proud of the seniors who graduated this week and all of the underclassmen enrolled in the 4T Academy,” said Lisa Deck, program manager for education workforce at IN-MaC. “Through dual-credit classwork with Ivy Tech and paid on-the-job experience provided by this pathway, these students are changing their perceptions of manufacturing and preparing for a successful future in this high-tech field.”

Connecting high school students with industry and post-secondary partners at the earliest opportunity is key to preparing Indiana’s future workforce. Bringing the right stakeholders to the table and creating meaningful programming can be overwhelming. This is where IN-MaC’s Pathway Systems process comes in.



The 4T Academy’s inaugural graduating class is made up of 21 seniors from three Gibson County high schools.



The Pathway Systems are the catalyst of meaningful coordination of people, assets, and resources within a community to positively impact the community's current and developing workforce. Frameworks are established to align industry needs with K-12 and post-secondary programs through the promotion of innovative models with embedded work-based and project-based learning, internships, and integrated professional skills.

In the 4T Academy case, Toyota recognized a gap in opportunities made available to local high school students to prepare them for success upon graduation. As a result, the company partnered with IN-MaC to bring together key community stakeholders and educators to create solutions that benefit the entire region. Solutions were designed to address Toyota's workforce needs while adapting curriculum and identifying resources to empower teachers and students for success.



Representatives from across Indiana gathered to celebrate the state's most recent Earn and Learn designation at the 4T Academy graduation.

“From IN-MaC and community partners providing the schools with technology and equipment to Toyota providing subject matter experts to teach manufacturing modules, everyone has ensured the success of the 4T Academy,” said Sascha Harrell, director of education workforce at IN-MaC. “The partnership between all of these stakeholders is key to creating pathways for tomorrow’s workforce today.”

IN-MaC is excited to replicate this pathway program with other industries across Indiana and is currently looking for new industry partners. The IN-MaC team provides leadership and equity of voice while exploring career pathway systems that support relevant hands-on learning for students to acquire the academic, technical and professional skills needed for the future of work.

To learn more about 4T Academy and to get more details about the graduation, visit www.4Tacademy.com. To learn more about IN-MaC and the pathways program, visit <https://www.purdue.edu/in-mac/> 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.

IN-MaC Pathway Systems: IN-MaC Pathway Systems are the catalyst of meaningful coordination of people, assets, and resources within a community to provide the greatest positive impact on the community's current and developing workforce. Frameworks are established to align industry needs with K-12 and post-secondary programs through the promotion of innovative models with embedded work-based and project-based learning, internships, and integrated professional skills.

IN-MaC provides leadership and equity of voice while exploring career pathway systems that support relevant hands-on learning for students to acquire the academic, technical, and professional skills needed for today's and tomorrow's workforce.