



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Purdue University IN-MaC Empowers Next Generation Workforce
Through Micro-Grant Program**
Applications Now Open for IN-MaC Micro-Grant Program

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN – The Purdue University **Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center** (IN-MaC) has launched the third round of micro-grant funding.

The IN-MaC Micro-Grant Program provides grant funding to Indiana organizations that implement manufacturing initiatives, enhance youth (K-12), post-secondary students, and the incumbent workforce. Micro-grant awards range from \$1,000-\$2,000; micro-grants support innovative programs that focus on increasing access and awareness to manufacturing and serving as a best practice model for organizations and communities across the state.

“IN-MaC strives to provide access and equity to the workforce pipeline in manufacturing awareness,” said Lisa Deck, program manager for education and workforce with IN-MaC. “Bridging the gap between community, education, and industry partners together to create ideas that can grow local workforce development ecosystems and challenge manufacturing perceptions.”

IN-MaC targets initiatives that increase manufacturing career awareness and readiness through STEM-related activities: computer programming, robotics and automation, access to manufacturing, hands-on experiences, internships, externships, and digital technology.

IN-MaC is strongly encouraging collaboration among educators, community-based organizations, and industry partners to create innovative, sustainable



2020 Purdue University IN-MaC micro-grant recipient Endress+Hauser Group host their 7th Annual Community Career + Education Forum (CCEF) for middle school youth and their influencers.



programs that create or strengthen education and workforce ecosystems within communities and regions across Indiana.

From its inception, the micro-grant program has supported 156 initiatives across 66 counties in Indiana and impacted more than 86,900 students and incumbent workers.

Funding applications are open and will remain open until April 30, 2021. Virtual programming and learning experiences are encouraged due to COVID19. To learn more, visit <http://bit.ly/in-macmicro-grant> or email 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 present and future workforce talent needs.

About IN-MaC Micro-Grant Program: The micro-grants are designed to support innovation and encourage organizations across Indiana to dedicate resources toward development and program implementation that impact and create manufacturing awareness for youth (K-12), post-secondary students, and the incumbent workforce.