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## **IN-MaC Micro-Grant Program Announces 6<sup>th</sup> Round of Funding at Annual Summit**

*Program Empowers Indiana Organizations to Use STEM to Build a Dynamic Workforce*

**WEST LAFAYETTE, IN** – The Purdue University **Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center** (IN-MaC) has announced the sixth annual round of micro-grant funding to bring innovative STEM opportunities to Indiana’s future workforce. The announcement was made during the recent Micro-Grant Summit, where micro-grant recipients gathered to foster collaboration and innovation across the state to build a robust workforce pipeline focused on manufacturing talent.

IN-MaC is committed to shaping Indiana’s future workforce through impactful manufacturing/STEM initiatives. With a vision to inspire and educate, the micro-grant program provides essential funding to organizations that empower youth (K-12), post-secondary students, and the incumbent workforce.

Manufacturing is emphasized due to its vital role in driving Indiana's economic growth and prosperity. Consideration is given to collaborative projects that amplify access and awareness of STEM programs that build Indiana's future workforce pipeline. The micro-grant awards, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000, bolster initiatives that foster career pathways and industry readiness.

"Our PhyXTGears robotics team is truly grateful for the financial support we receive from IN-MaC micro-grants. One of the additional benefits we receive is the information and networking opportunities at the yearly Micro-Grant Summit," said Frank Braswell, robotics coach for FIRST Robotics Team 1720 PhyXTGears. "The presentations are always interesting and relevant to our needs. Meeting with other Indiana educators and business leaders broadens our perspective with new ideas on engaging our local community."



*8<sup>th</sup> graders in Lawrence County celebrate Manufacturing Week with support from an IN-MaC microgrant.*

More than 85 members of the IN-MaC Network attended the day-long summit to learn about existing initiatives and how to take their STEM programs to the next level with support from IN-MaC. The day included speakers from around the state. It focused on the impacts of tech adoption and the role industry can play, creating engaging initiatives on a budget and bridging industry and technology.

“One of Indiana's greatest assets is our future workforce, which is being developed through intentional partnerships among industry, academic, and community partners across the state,” said Sascha Harrell, Director of IN-MaC Workforce and Education. “By nurturing these partnerships, we cultivate dynamic programs that open doors to exciting opportunities for students and workers alike.”

Key focus areas for the micro-grant recipients include enhancing access to manufacturing opportunities for K-12 students, empowering post-secondary learners to thrive in the industry, and bolstering the skills and expertise of the incumbent workforce. Moreover, IN-MaC seeks initiatives that are a beacon of best practices, igniting inspiration throughout the state.

“We believe that impactful change begins with collaboration and innovation,” said Lisa Deck, IN-MaC Program Manager. “The IN-MaC micro-grant program is not just about funding projects. It’s about creating a transformative legacy of excellence in manufacturing education and awareness that resonates throughout Indiana.”

From its inception, the micro-grant program has supported 433 initiatives across 90 counties in Indiana and impacted more than 184,664 students and incumbent workers.

Funding applications are open and will remain open until June 30, 2024. To learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/2023-2024INMACMICROGRANT> or email Lisa Deck at [adeck@purdue.edu](mailto: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.