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Purdue University IN-MaC Celebrates 5 Years of Macro Impact to Next Generation Workforce Through STEM Micro-Grant Program

Apply Now to Join the More than 298 Organizations Who Have Used Micro-Grants to Empower Indiana's Future Workforce

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN – The Purdue University **Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center** (IN-MaC) has launched the fifth round of micro-grant funding to bring innovative STEM opportunities to Indiana's future workforce.

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

“Over the last four years, IN-MaC has invested in STEM opportunities that have impacted 139,689 students, preparing them to be a key component of Indiana's future workforce,” said Lisa Deck, program manager for education and workforce with IN-MaC. “The IN-MaC network of partners bridges the gap between community, education, and industry partners to innovate and 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.



Micro-grant recipient Mr. Allen unboxes new VEX Robotics kits to start the robotics program at Southmont High School.



"The micro-grants through IN-MaC were the easiest, quickest, and least restrictive grants that contributed to the middle robotics teams and STEM Day at Wes-Del Community Schools," said Austin Williams, Science/Engineering Teacher at Wes-Del Community Schools. "STEM Day was a HUGE success where 3-5th grade students were able to participate in STEM activities that alluded to careers and career pathways available to our students. This now annual event was made possible by the creative freedoms left by the IN-MaC partnership."

Examples of other past-funded projects include:

- VEX Robotics kits
- 3-D printers and materials
- Equipment upgrades
- Career awareness trips and events
- STEM camps



North Decatur Elementary students program robots to guide through the student-made Mars Yard funded through the micro-grant program.

IN-MaC is strongly encouraging collaboration among educators, community-based organizations, and industry partners to create innovative, sustainable programs that create or strengthen education and workforce ecosystems within communities and regions across Indiana.

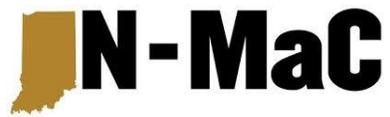
From its inception, the micro-grant program has supported 298 initiatives across 86 counties in Indiana and impacted more than 139,869 students and incumbent workers.

Funding applications are open and will remain open until May 31, 2023. To learn more, visit https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_ehAck4DWhleCzdA 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.