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Purdue University IN-MaC Partnership with Toyota Drives Education and Career Opportunities for Southwestern Indiana High School Students

4T Academy provides work-based learning opportunities and school curriculum to prepare students for manufacturing career

WEST LAFAYETTE, IND. (February 9, 2021) – The Purdue University **Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center (IN-MaC)** has partnered with Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana (TMMI), and three southern Indiana school corporations to create the 4T Academy, a high school-to-career program that provides dual credit curriculum, on-the-job-training and career opportunities upon graduation.

Enrollment is available to students in grades 9-12 from three high schools in Gibson County, Indiana. Participating students receive an in-class curriculum in fundamental manufacturing principles, including Industrial Power Fundamentals, Principles of Advanced Manufacturing, Tech Skills Development, and a Capstone course. And seniors in the program also receive a paid internship. Upon graduation from high school and after successful completion of Toyota's work-based learning requirements, graduates have the opportunity to transition into full-time employment with TMMI.

"Establishing industry-education partnerships and pathways aligns education and industry skills needs. Preparing students to be successful in a range of industry career and accelerating educational and career advancement," said Lisa Deck, IN-MaC program manager for education and workforce. "The 4T Academy ensures that high school students have the skills and access to new technologies allowing students the opportunity and experience to pursue the varied, high-tech opportunities in the region."

The collaboration brought IN-MaC, TMMI, and educators together to create solutions that would benefit the entire community. Key actions included identifying Toyota's workforce needs, consulting with educators to adapt the curriculum to fit teachers' and students' needs, and providing resources to implement the curriculum.

“Toyota is continually looking for ways to meet the needs of our community while growing our business,” said Ted Brown, vice president of administration at Toyota Indiana. “Creating the 4T Academy with local educators was the perfect opportunity to meet the growing needs of students, teachers, and our community. Through this program, we provide customized curriculum and hands-on training for students and prepare them for an array of careers in the manufacturing sector, all while retaining talent in our region and growing our local economy.”

Toyota 4T Academy in Gibson County, IN. In partnership with Toyota, Purdue University IN-MaC, and Gibson County Schools.

Collaborative, real-world education and hands-on training are critical for high school students. The 4T Academy provides a unique opportunity for this level of exposure”, said Eric Goggins, Assistant Superintendent for North Gibson School Corporation. “IN-MaC played a critical role from the ground-level planning phase to implementation. They were the bridge for education and industry to develop a program that meets the needs of both industry workforce attainment and educational attainment."

IN-MaC, which provided education and workforce development expertise and facilitation, is excited to replicate this pathway program with other industries across Indiana.

To learn more about the 4T Academy, contact Dr. Tom Parker, tparker@ngsc.k12.in.us. 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 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.

About Toyota

Toyota (NYSE:TM) has been a part of the cultural fabric in the U.S. for more than 60 years, and is committed to advancing sustainable, next-generation mobility through our Toyota and Lexus brands, plus our nearly 1,500 dealerships.

Toyota has created a tremendous value chain and directly employs more than 36,000 in the U.S. The company has contributed world-class design, engineering, and assembly of more than 30 million cars and trucks at our 9 manufacturing plants, 10 including our joint venture in Alabama that begins production in 2021.

To help inspire the next generation for a career in STEM-based fields, including mobility, Toyota launched its virtual education hub at www.TourToyota.com with an immersive experience and chance to visit many of our U.S. manufacturing facilities. The hub also includes a series of free STEM-based lessons and curriculum through Toyota USA Foundation partners, virtual field trips and more. For more information about Toyota, visit www.toyotanewsroom.com