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**IN-MaC and FIRST Indiana Robotics Increase
Student, Industry Connection in the Face of COVID-19**
Industry contributing to virtual career exploration resource library

WEST LAFAYETTE, IND., June 29, 2020 – Indiana high schools are relying on remote learning and students are looking for unique eLearning opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center** (IN-MaC) and FIRST Indiana Robotics (FIN) are creating virtual content for an online video library to aid students in discovering more about career pathways in the manufacturing industry and hands-on skills development opportunities like internships, apprenticeships and certifications.

In collaboration with manufacturers across Indiana, FIN is producing 30-minute interviews with industry leaders, to provide students who are a part of FIN, with insight into what careers are available and the skills needed to prepare for jobs in the manufacturing industry.

Endress+Hauser was one of IN-MaC's first industry partners to participate in the online video library. The interview walks students through manufacturing careers at Endress+Hauser, innovation within the company, and the skills the organization looks for when hiring: technical expertise, creativity and problem-solving capabilities.

“Many times, when people think of manufacturing, they think of two types of jobs. They think of production out on the assembly floor and engineering,” said Nicole Otte, Endress+Hauser director of



*FIN student board member interviews
manufacturing industry partners for the
FIN online video library.*



workforce development. “Those are only two of the numerous careers you can have in the industry. Manufacturing offers a wealth of high-demand, high-wage opportunities for workers with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Whether it is sales, marketing, finance, HR, tech support, logistics or engineering, our team will find the right fit.”

“From Endress+Hauser to Nipro Pharma Packaging, industries in Indiana are helping us continue to develop our future workforce and challenge perceptions of manufacturing,” said Lisa Deck, IN-MaC program manager education and workforce. “Students are looking for content and connection. The goal is to provide access to our industry partners and provide knowledge about the wealth of opportunities in manufacturing and the steps they can take to prepare for a successful future.”

Throughout the year, the FIN robotics community provides mentorship, hands-on learning, and knowledge to Indiana high school teachers and students. FIN also hosts multiple events and competitions.

“The hardest thing is that before COVID-19, our teams from across the state would all be together to celebrate their achievements,” said Renee Becker-Blau, FIN president. “Students should know that we are providing support and resources for them to access virtually. We can still be a community even if we can’t be face to face during this unprecedented time.”

Additional industry partners are needed to create content for the online video library. To learn more about this initiative and to schedule a 30-minute interview, contact info@indianafirst.org.



Teammates from FRC Team 8232 making adjustments to their robot prior competition.

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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.

About FIRST Indiana Robotics: [FIRST Indiana Robotics](https://www.indianafirst.org/) (FIN) is an organization dedicated to growing *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics programs in the state of Indiana. *FIRST* is a multinational non-profit organization that aspires to transform our culture, making science, math,



engineering, and technology as cool for kids as sports are today. Founded in the fall of 2001 as the Indiana-based affiliate of *FIRST*, FIN brings *FIRST* programming to students in grades K-12, teaching them hands-on skills in engineering, science, and technology that they can relate back to their class work. Kids compete against other kids in district, state, and world championship competitions in what is frequently called "The Varsity Sport for the Mind."

<https://www.firstindianarobotics.org/first-indiana-robotics-mission-vision-and-purpose/>