

Manufacturing Week in Northwest Indiana helps boost awareness of the industry and its workforce

Events spanned across weeks throughout the end of September and into October, as region schools and employers participated in activities to celebrate Manufacturing Week and create awareness on the manufacturing industry in the region. Participants learned about the many companies, jobs, and skills needed to be part of the manufacturing workforce in Northwest Indiana.

- Economic Development Corporation Michigan City (EDCMC) and the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation (GLEDC) hosted "Made in La Porte County." The event hosted 700 middle and high school students and showcased 38 manufacturers. La Porte County Unity Foundation, Center of Workforce Innovations, and the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board served as additional sponsors.
- Merrillville High School students toured Carmeuse Lime and Stone in Gary.
- School City of Hobart Middle School students participated in a virtual manufacturing activity, while some high school students toured Airtek, Inc.
- Starke County Economic Development Foundation hosted approximately 500 students and community members at an all-day manufacturing fair, featuring local employers.
- Portage Economic Development Corporation and Portage schools hosted Manufacturing 360, with tours of four Port of Indiana manufacturers.
- Winamac High School students tour Winamac Cold Draw and Hot Mill.
- 60 Area Career Center of Hammond students toured Dakota Integrated Systems.
- Purdue University Northwest's College of Technology and Commercialization & Manufacturing Excellence Center provides students with tours of Three Floyd's Brewing Company and Land O'Frost.
- Valparaiso, Kankakee Valley, and Neighbor's New Vistas high schools also participated with taking students on tours of manufacturing companies in their communities.



Starke County Economic Development Foundation Manufacturing Fair



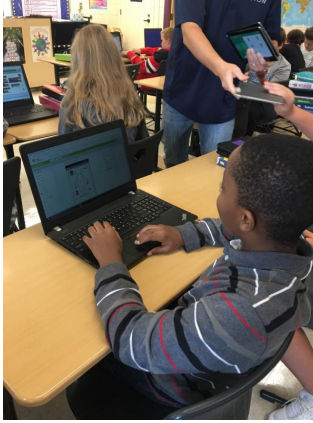
Starke County Economic Development Foundation Manufacturing Fair



Starke County Economic Development Foundation Manufacturing Fair



School City of Hobart at Air Tek, Inc.



Portage EDC Manufacturing 360 at the Ports of Indiana

School City of Hobart



Portage EDC Manufacturing 360 at the Ports of Indiana



Merrillville Schools at Carause Lime and Stone in Gary



Merrillville Schools at Carause Lime and Stone in Gary



Latest Retail Fundamentals and ServSafe® Certification training graduates 10 people

On November 3rd, ten individuals graduated from a Retail Fundamentals and ServSafe Certification class and will be recognized at the Gary WorkOne office in a congratulatory event. The certification training was part of the Reimagine Retail initiative, and was made possible with funding from Chicago Cook County Partnership through a grant from the Walmart Foundation.



Regional Snapshot-- Labor Force Report

Unemployment dipped slightly from 5.2% to 4.8% in Northwest Indiana, maintaining a trend of lower unemployment than 2016. This is nice to see after a significant rise from June through August.

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September 2017

The opposite side of that coin is the lowering of the labor force size. Last year at this time our labor force was 406,903. Currently, we've shed over 6,700 workers and are down to 400,145.

Northwest Indiana still has the highest unemployment rate in the state. In a sense though, this may be an advantage in a labor-strapped economy; unemployed workers are available workers, as far as a company is concerned.

Indiana continues to have the lowest unemployment rate by a meaningful margin compared to neighboring states.

Visit our website



Meet the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board

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Vice Chair-Debi Baughman, *Director of Training*-Horizon Bank

Secretary-Gary Olund, *President & CEO*-Northwest Indiana Community Action

Treasurer-Frank Cardello, *Chief Financial Officer*-Packaging Logic

Past Chair-George Douglas, *Sr. VP of Operations*-Indiana Beverage

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