



**“We are the future.”** THREE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS FEATURE ALL-GIRLS ROBOTICS TEAMS

Launched in June 2022, #GirlsLeadSTEM is a national awareness campaign to elevate the diverse voices of young women and girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

Through a collective voice, #GirlsLeadSTEM celebrates the girls who lead their STEM journeys and raise their voices to inspire and share their perspectives on what’s needed to close the gaps in STEM.

October of that year was the inaugural #GirlsLeadSTEM Month, and that has continued each year since.

In Jackson County, girls at three local high schools are showing how they lead STEM, particularly with robotics.

This school year, freshmen Jazzlyn Cravens and Dafne Dominguez, sophomore Taylor LeBlanc and juniors Hannah Baker and Nicole Ray make up Seymour High School’s Team 31330A. There also are sophomore Alyssa Fields and junior Mallorie Misamore on teams with boys, and eighth-grader Lillian Westmoreland is on a team with two boys that’s going to compete at the high school level.

At Brownstown Central High School, sophomores Allie Barlow, Carmen Herzner and Lauren King are on the same team for the second year in a row. Their official team name is Team 65449B, but they call themselves Furry Fighters.

Trinity Lutheran High School has freshmen Belle Kiewit, Naomi McKinley and Adela Meyer on a team together. They are Team 1483D, but their nickname is Perseus.

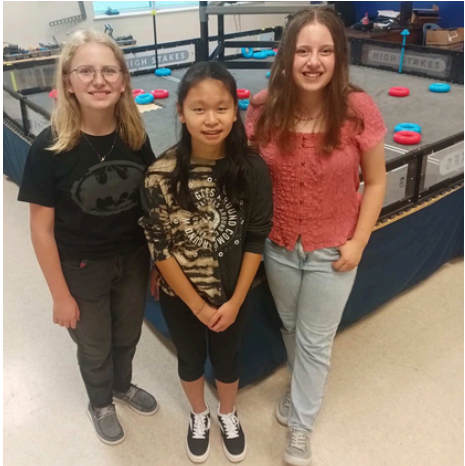
Also in October, International Day of the Girl is being celebrated locally with the inaugural Jackson County Girl Powered Workshop. It will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 23 at Seymour Middle School. Open to Jackson County VEX Robotics team girls in grades 7 through 12, the event will feature visits by local women in STEM careers sharing their experiences, hands-on activities, refreshments, giveaways and prizes. Online registration is available at [robotevents.com/robot-competitions/workshops/RE-WORKSHOP-24-7334.html](http://robotevents.com/robot-competitions/workshops/RE-WORKSHOP-24-7334.html). If you would like to volunteer, reach out to Amy Miller at [amiller@scsc.k12.in.us](mailto:amiller@scsc.k12.in.us).



**From left are Dafne Dominguez, Nicole Ray, Hannah Baker, Lillian Westmoreland, Mallorie Misamore and Taylor LeBlanc.**



**From left are Lauren King, Carmen Herzner and Allie Barlow.**



**From left are Naomi McKinley, Belle Kiewit and Adela Meyer.**

“It’s good that women aren’t afraid to step into male-dominated spaces and take the reins and show them they can do it just as good as anyone else can. We’re breaking barriers and breaking those cycles of having things just be geared toward one gender.  
--Brownstown Central High School sophomore Carmen Herzner”



## VINCENNES TRAINING CLASSES CONTINUE EXPANSION POSSIBLE THROUGH READI 2.0



In just under 11 months, 84 certificates have been awarded by Vincennes University as a result of workers successfully completing industrial maintenance training classes at the Jackson County Learning Center in Seymour.

It was Nov. 9, 2023, that a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Seymour to mark the opening of electrical and mechanical training classes being offered by Vincennes. The training was made possible by the state of Indiana’s READI grant program and the support of area manufacturing companies and the Seymour Redevelopment Commission (RDC).



**Company officials take a tour of the industrial maintenance lab at the Jackson County Learning Center in Seymour.**

According to Brian Sawyers, instructor/site director, industrial maintenance training for Vincennes University in Jackson County, 10 classes had been completed by the end of September – four basic electrical, four basic mechanical, one intermediate mechanical and one intermediate electrical – and 84 certificates had been presented.

Those numbers will grow as the fourth quarter sees another intermediate mechanical course scheduled for graduation on Oct. 9 and a basic mechanical course that will be complete by Nov. 5. Still to come before the end of the year: Intermediate electrical (starting Oct. 28 and graduating Dec. 16) and basic electrical (starting Nov. 7 and graduating Dec. 19).

It is hoped that additional courses will be added as part of the state of Indiana’s READI 2.0 grant program. That would follow the initial READI program funding from 2022 when \$450,000 was granted to support the training. The Seymour RDC matched those funds with additional funding coming from the Aisin companies of Jackson County, Valeo and Cummins. Under READI 2.0, advanced classes for mechanical and electrical maintenance are among the requested programs seeking funding from the South Central Indiana Talent Region’s application.

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR JCIDC

Two new members of the JCIDC board of directors have been welcomed during the third quarter of 2024, according to board President Kevin Gabbard.

Nancy Stidham, vice president of cooperative business, joined the JCIDC board to represent Jackson County REMC, beginning in August.

In September, the board welcomed Travis Edington, an operations manager for Indiana American Water Company.

Both Jackson County REMC and Indiana American Water have been longtime supporters of JCIDC.



**JCIDC’s Jim Plump was among the panelists during the Indiana Energy Association’s 2024 Energy Conference in French Lick on Sept. 26 and 27. Jim was joined by Katie Culp, CEO of KSM Location Advisors, and Matt Wade, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Indiana Economic Development Corp. Brandy Davis-Hardy, far left, served as moderator for the discussion of “Evolving Economies: A State + Regional View.”**





JCIDC Workforce Director Jackie Hill, Jackson County Chamber Director Dan Robison, Seymour Main Street Executive Director Jaylyn Stam and Brownstown Ewing Main Street board member Arann Banks visited local schools in late August to talk about the high school business planning competition Maverick Challenge Jackson County.



Maverick Challenge began in 2008 in Bartholomew County, and Jackson County joined the program in 2011. Last year, Bartholomew County ended the program, but Jackson County leaders kept it going in the county with a partnership between JCIDC, Jackson County Chamber, Seymour Main Street and Brownstown Ewing Main Street and funding partner JCBank.

In September, students worked on their presentations and pitched their business ideas. Next, they will create a 3- to 5-minute video and hear from classroom speakers about presentation, video, financials and marketing. From November to January, they will be paired with a mentor to help them.

The 10 finalists will be announced in mid-February and give oral presentations March 5 with \$7,000 up for grabs.

New this year, the winner will be one of the six finalists in the SPARK Tank competition, which awards \$10,000. The winner and potentially others from Maverick Challenge also can enter the state's Innovate WithIN competition, which has a regional competition in the spring and finals in June with the ultimate winner receiving \$25,000.



## MANUFACTURING TO BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Celebrated annually on the first Friday in October with events continuing throughout the month and beyond, MFG Day is a national grassroots movement that demonstrates the reality and future of modern manufacturing careers. Thousands of companies and educational institutions nationwide are invited to open their doors to students, parents, educators and community leaders.

The Manufacturing Institute initiative empowers manufacturers to come together and address their collective challenges and build excitement about manufacturing careers to help their communities and future generations thrive.

On Oct. 11, MFG Day will be celebrated in Jackson County. Nearly 200 students from the six county high schools will meet at Cummins Seymour Engine Plant in the morning, where they will attend workshops led by employees of Cummins, Pet Supplies Plus, Aisin USA Mfg. Inc., Lannett Co. Inc. and Valeo. Then in the afternoon, students will be at one of the participating companies for lunch, a tour and a hands-on activity.

The inaugural Manufacturing Day in Jackson County was in 2019. Nearly 130 Seymour High School students participated in the event organized by JCIDC that was designed to introduce young people in the community to the manufacturing sector and career opportunities and demonstrate the contributions manufacturing makes to the local economy. Since that first year in Jackson County, the event has expanded to include the other county high schools.

Manufacturing Day, now known as MFG Day, has been observed nationally since 2012 to inspire the next generation of manufacturers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 11:** MFG Day @ Cummins Seymour Engine Plant

**Oct. 28 to Nov. 1:** Senior mock interviews @ Seymour High School

**Dec. 6:** Reality Fair @ Seymour Middle School

## 2024 Board of Directors

**Kevin Gabbard, president**  
(Royalty Companies)

**Curt Kovener, vice president**  
(Town of Crothersville)

**Marvin Veatch, treasurer**  
(JCBank)

**Matt Nicholson, VP development**  
(City of Seymour)

**Arann Banks, secretary**  
(Jackson County Visitor Center)

**Conner Barnette**  
(Brownstown Ewing Main Street)

**Dan Davis**  
(Community Foundation of Jackson County)

**Ray Eakins**  
(Old National Bank)

**Travis Edington**  
(Indiana American Water)

**Chris Engleking**  
(City of Seymour)

**Eric Fish**  
(Schneck Medical Center)

**Kylie Foster**  
(Duke Energy)

**Brandon Goecker**  
(Goecker Construction)

**Gregg Goshorn**  
(Brownstown EDA)

**Sara Guth**  
(RQAW)

**Brandon Harpe**  
(County School Superintendents)

**Jeff Lorenzo**  
(Seymour Industrial Corp.)

**Amanda Lowery**  
(Jackson County Council)

**Craig Luedeman**  
(HWC Engineering)

**Drew Markel**  
(Jackson County Commissioners)

**Doug Prather**  
(Ranger Enterprises)

**Tim Robinson**  
(Town of Brownstown)

**Dan Robison**  
(Jackson County Chamber)

**Katie Sackett**  
(Louisville & Indiana Railroad)

**John Sadtler**  
(SIHO)

**Will Spray**  
(The Peoples Bank)

**Nancy Stidham**  
(Jackson County REMC)

**Brian Thompson**  
(Seymour Municipal Airport Authority)

**Mike Weir**  
(Town of Medora)

**Roger Wessel**  
(Berkshire Hathaway)

**Bruce Wynn**  
(First Financial Bank)

### JCIDC staff

Jim Plump

Jackie Hill

Zach Spicer

## 2024 Contributors

### Board Level

Berkshire Hathaway  
Brownstown Economic Development Association  
Brownstown Ewing Main Street  
Brownstown Town Council  
City of Seymour  
Community Foundation of Jackson County  
Crothersville Town Council  
Duke Energy  
First Financial Bank  
Goecker Construction Inc.  
HWC Engineering  
Indiana American Water  
Jackson County Chamber  
Jackson County Commissioners  
Jackson County Council  
Jackson County REMC  
Jackson County Visitor Center  
JCBank  
Louisville & Indiana Railroad  
Medora Town Council  
Old National Bank  
RQAW  
Ranger Enterprises LLC  
Royalty Companies  
Schneck Medical Center  
Seymour Municipal Airport Authority  
Seymour Industrial Corp.  
SIHO  
The Peoples Bank

### Gold Level

Aisin USA Mfg. Inc.  
Biehle Electric  
CenterPoint Energy  
DEEM LLC  
FPBH Inc.  
German American Bank  
Jackson Township Trustee  
Lorenzo Bevers Braman & Connell  
Nippon Steel Pipe America  
SpaceGuard Products  
Vernon Township Trustee

### Silver Level

Agresta, Storms & O'Leary  
Aisin Chemical Indiana LLC  
Cerrowire  
Cornerstone Environmental  
Dunlap & Co. Inc.  
Force Construction Co. Inc.  
GAI Consultants Inc.  
Gaylor Electric  
Harmon Construction Inc.  
King's Trucking & Excavation Inc.  
Lannett Co. Inc.  
Lawyer Excavation Inc.  
Metronet  
Milestone Contractors LP  
Millman Realty Partners  
O&K American Corp.  
Overhead Door  
Owen County State Bank  
Rose Acre Farms  
Rumpke of Indiana  
State Bank of Medora  
The Tribune

### Bronze Level

B&H Electric & Supply  
Blue & Co.  
CCL Holdings  
Centra Credit Union  
Independent Land Surveying Inc.  
RBSK Partners PC  
Shelby Materials

### Contributor Level

92.7 WXKU & 99.3 WZZB  
Aisin Drivetrain Inc.  
Commercial Office Environments  
Dennis & Blish CPA  
Harrell-Fish Inc.  
Jackson County Water Utility  
Midwest Natural Gas  
Mussett Nicholas  
Reedy Financial Group  
Shepherd Insurance

### Workforce Partnership

Aisin Chemical Indiana  
Aisin Drivetrain Inc.  
Aisin USA Mfg. Inc.  
Brownstown Quality Tool & Automation LLC  
Brownstown Central Community School Corp.  
Cerrowire  
City of Seymour  
Community Foundation of Jackson County  
Cummins Seymour Engine Plant  
Elwood Staffing  
Excel Manufacturing Inc.  
E & H Tubing Inc.  
Jackson County Visitor Center  
Jackson County Education Coalition  
Lannett Co. Inc.  
Nippon Steel Pipe America  
North American Construction Services Ltd.  
O&K American Corp.  
Particle Dynamics  
RR Donnelley  
Rose Acre Farms  
Schneck Medical Center  
Seymour Community School Corp.

## Special Event Sponsors

Beatty Insurance  
Bob Poynter Family of Dealerships  
Duke Energy  
First Financial Bank  
Force Construction Co. Inc.  
Goecker Construction Inc.  
Harrell-Fish Inc.  
Jackson County Visitor Center  
JCBank  
Kocolene Development Corp./Ranger 3PL  
Old National Bank  
Royalty Companies  
Schneck Medical Center  
SIHO  
Vincennes University