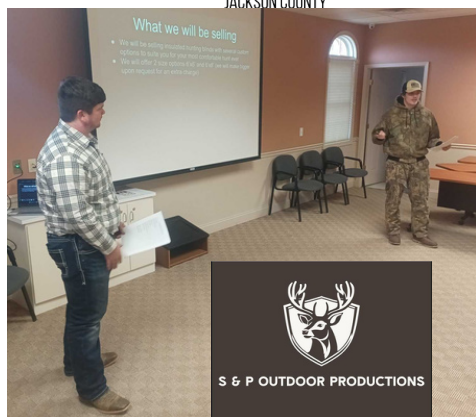




BROWNSTOWN CENTRAL DUO WINS MAVERICK CHALLENGE



Browns town Central High School's Isiah Sitterding and Jack Pace are the winners of the 2025 Maverick Challenge Jackson County.

They were among the top 10 finalists who delivered oral presentations March 5 at the Community Foundation of Jackson County in Seymour. Their business is S & P Outdoor Productions, which makes insulated hunting blinds and is expanding to other outdoor products. They were awarded \$3,000 for winning the high school business planning competition.

Seymour High School's Olivia Wilp received \$2,500 for her business plan for Rock and Roll Rink, a roller skating rink designed to help with mental health and those with disabilities.

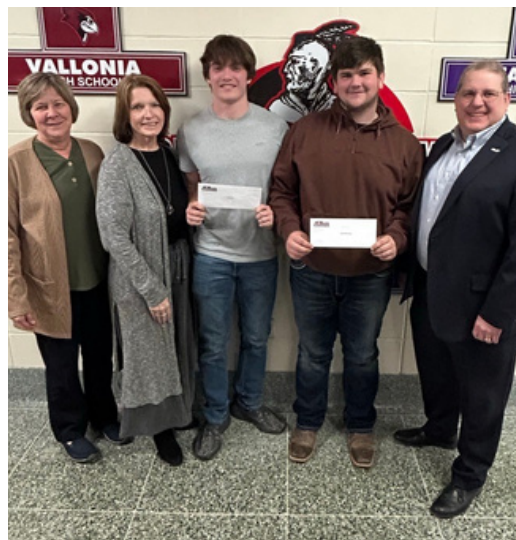
Seymour High School's Michael Brooks received \$450 for his business plan for Infinity Lead, a lead attachment for mechanical pencils, and Browns town Central High School's Presley Hampton received \$450 for her business plan for Next Level Stylist, a fashion app to search for formal wear.

Participation awards of \$100 were given to the other finalists:

- Bryan Jaime, Seymour High School, Pal' Mundo Entero, a food truck that serves Puerto Rican sandwiches and more
- Andrea Heideman, Seymour High School, Easy Life, an adaptive device to help with everyday activities
- Mikayla McCory, Medora High School, Vest Friends, a vest with an adjustable harness for dogs
- Jayda Clodfelder, Browns town Central High School, Jay's Designs, an interior design service
- Caleb Walton, Browns town Central High School, Caleb's Cases, a personalized cellphone case business
- Mallory Applegate, Seymour High School, Uniquely Me Pottery, a pottery business

JCIDC, Jackson County Chamber, Browns town Ewing Main Street and Seymour Main Street sponsor the competition along with funding partner JCBank. A total of \$7,000 was up for grabs for the top 10 finalists.

New this year, the winner was one of the finalists in the SPARK Tank competition March 27 at Jackson Live & Event Center in Seymour.



Students also could 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. Heideman entered that competition and was chosen as a regional finalist. She will present April 22 at Maker13 in Jeffersonville.

JCIDC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER, NEW CONTRIBUTOR

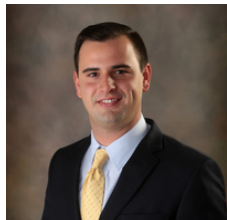
A new member of the board of directors and a new contributor to the Workforce Partnership were highlights of the annual 2025 meeting for Jackson County Industrial Development Corp. in February.

"We had another great year," said President Kevin Gabbard, who also was re-elected to head the board. (See President's Report on Page 2 for more details).

The entire executive committee was reelected as JCIDC prepares for its 41st year. That includes Curt Kovener, who has represented the town of Crothersville since the inception of the organization.

Tyler Thias was introduced as a new member of the board to represent Kocolene Development Corp./Ranger Enterprises, replacing Doug Prather, and it was announced that Guardian Bikes has become the newest contributor to JCIDC's Workforce Partnership.

"We appreciate their support, not only financially but in other activities that help promote the Partnership," Gabbard said.





JCIDC Board President Kevin Gabbard

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: A GREAT TEAM IN JACKSON COUNTY

As JCIDC celebrated its 40th anniversary, there was record-breaking promised investment, more READI funding and additional Workforce Partnership programs. 2024 was indeed a year to remember.

Investments announced in November by Seymour companies Guardian Bikes and Cummins Inc. raised the 2024 promised investment total to just shy of \$200 million, the most in JCIDC's history.

Last year, other companies to announce investments included Walmart, SpaceGuard Products, Dicksons Inc., Valeo, FosTech Inc., AISIN USA Mfg. Inc. and Nippon Steel Pipe America Inc. The investment amounts ranged from \$100,000 to \$100 million as 2024 ended with \$198,506,652 in new promised investment.

That number does not include the new company announcement from Vital Farms in June. The company plans to construct an egg washing and packing facility in Seymour's Eastside Industrial Park with a projected investment of nearly \$84 million and hire up to 120 people through 2027. Construction is set to begin later this year with completion in the fourth quarter of 2026.

For the second round of READI (Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative), the South Central Indiana Talent Region received a second grant of \$30 million to use for projects in Jackson, Bartholomew and Jennings counties and Edinburgh. It was the initial READI grant program that allowed the start of the Vincennes University industrial maintenance training program at the Jackson County Learning Center in Seymour. By the end of 2024, more than 100 certificates had been awarded to area workers who had completed one of four classes offered. READI 2.0 will hopefully allow expansion of that program as well as new infrastructure at the Eastside Industrial Park, assistance to the new SPARK program and new bleachers and improvements at the Brownstown Speedway/Jackson County Fairgrounds. Housing also is included in the application.

JCIDC's Workforce Partnership, headed by Jackie Hill, organized the inaugural JAG Day in February, the annual Career College Transition Fair in April, MFG Day in October and the Reality Fair in December.

JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) is a state-based, national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping high school students of promise who have experienced challenging or traumatic life experiences achieve success through graduation. JAG Day brought together students and specialists from Brownstown Central, Crothersville and Seymour high schools at AISIN World Corp. of America in Seymour. They heard from guest speakers, networked during lunch and teamed up for trivia.

Nearly 1,700 students from the county's six high schools attended the Career College Transition Fair, where around 60 booths were set up for them to explore career opportunities after high school. And nearly 200 students participated in the 2024 Jackson County MFG Day, which is part of a national grassroots movement and involved students from the county high schools gathering at Cummins Seymour Engine Plant.

The Partnership, which also welcomed Zach Spicer to the JCIDC team during 2024, scheduled mock interviews for seniors at Crothersville, Medora, Seymour and Trinity Lutheran high schools; helped the robotics teams at all of the county schools, from elementary to high school; and was part of the Maverick Challenge Jackson County high school business planning competition.

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, JCIDC hosted an event at The Copper Top in downtown Seymour. The overflow crowd heard from keynote speaker Mark Emkes, a Seymour High School graduate and former CEO of Bridgestone Americas.

At the event, the inaugural class receiving the JCIDC Lifetime Achievement Award was recognized and included Mike Tormoehlen, Carl Shake and Gerald Armstrong. Tormoehlen, who was JCIDC's first board president, also was presented the Elmore-Kilgas Award. Plus, JCIDC's only executive director in its 40-year existence, Jim Plump, was presented the Distinguished Hoosier Award by District 44 Sen. Eric Koch on behalf of Gov. Eric Holcomb.

Of course, the success that JCIDC has enjoyed over the past 40 years would not have happened without our board of directors, the continued support of our financial supporters or the businesses and industries that call Jackson County home.

Economic development truly is a team sport, and we have a great team in Jackson County.

SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR INTERNS WITH JCIDC



This semester, JCIDC is excited to have Seymour High School senior Parker Thompson on staff as an intern.

Through the school's Work Based Learning program, he is spending part of each weekday of the second semester working in the JCIDC office after spending the first semester at Valeo in Seymour. He is seeing how we work with local industries and promote development, and he also is learning how the Workforce Partnership works with local schools and the community to offer programs for students. He is helping with a variety of tasks in the office, including recently organizing a student panel for a Jackson County HR group quarterly meeting.



At SHS, Parker is a member of National Honor Society and Riley Dance Marathon, and he is a three-sport athlete. Parker hopes the internship at JCIDC helps as he moves on to Indiana University after graduating from high school. There, he plans to study business management and get accepted into the Kelley School of Business.

Parker is the son of Matt and Kara Thompson. He has a younger brother, Dane Thompson, who is a freshman at SHS. Both brothers play tennis, basketball and baseball for the Owls.

LOCAL ROBOTICS TEAMS COMPETE AT STATE

Jackson County was well-represented with seven teams at the 2025 Indiana Robotics State Championship on March 22 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. Overall, there were 122 teams competing in the elementary school division, 111 in the middle school division and 64 in the high school division.

Elementary school division



Immanuel Lutheran School
Team 520C
Jonathan Rice
Joshua Haugen
Jacquelynn Rice
Placed 73rd



Jackson County Homeschool Robotics
Team 1597Z
Daniel Hinckley
Micah McIntyre
James Timberlake
Raychael Timberlake
Placed 110th



St. Ambrose Catholic School
Team 3522G
Oliver Cutsinger
Ashley Alexander
Zoe Barradas
Felicity Hughes
Warren Davidson
Placed 102nd

Middle school division



Immanuel Lutheran School
Team 520C
Gabrian Wilkins
Daniel Neawedde
Elizabeth Scheiderer
Placed 92nd

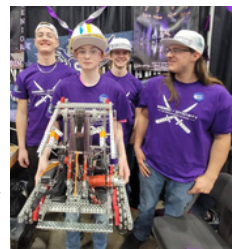


Lutheran Central School
Team 47220B
Collin McKinley
Hank Stuckwisch
Waylon Wolka
Placed 75th



During the state tournament, Brownstown Central High School senior Cody Blackburn was presented a full-tuition Purdue Robotics Scholarship. The scholarship will be applied toward his studies at Purdue University, where he will major in mechanical engineering. Purdue University Vice Provost Cherise Hall said the scholarship supports Indiana's top STEM talent, helping students excel in engineering and technology. Cody, who was one of two scholarship recipients this year, was involved in robotics all four years in high school and two years in middle school.

High school division



Seymour High School
Team 31330D
Micah Yee
Kaeden Leonard
Noah Chambers
Ethan Rubin
Placed 40th



Trinity Lutheran High School
Team 1483C
Jacob Lorenz
Lincoln Huff
Rylan Adair
Nolan Teipen
Placed 57th

JAG DAY UNITES

SENIORS, SPECIALISTS, COMMUNITY

The second Jackson County JAG Day was Feb. 25 at AISIN World Corp. of America in Seymour.

The event began with a welcome from Dave Stagnolia with AISIN before nearly 40 Jobs for America's Graduates seniors from Brownstown Central, Crothersville, Medora and Seymour high schools rotated between three workshops.

OAopoly was a large Monopoly-style game led by AISIN where students had to answer questions about operation availability in manufacturing. IU Columbus led a workshop where students learned about the cost of college and financial aid. Army National Guard members led the other workshop where students practiced teamwork and communication by connecting tubes and moving a marble through them from one wall to another.

During the networking lunch, students sat in groups based on their postsecondary plans and were joined by local school, industry and community officials for networking.

Next, Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Kurt Kegerreis spoke about JAG in Jackson County and Indiana, and South Ripley High School JAG student and JAG Indiana Career Association President Angel Tunny shared how JAG has impacted her life.

The day ended with trivia, emceed by Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson. JCIDC intern Parker Thompson created the trivia that featured nine categories. The winning team, The Red Team from Brownstown Central High School, received Walmart gift cards.

Event sponsors were AISIN, Cummins Seymour Engine Plant, Walmart Seymour and JCIDC.

JAG is a state-based, national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping high school students of promise who have experienced challenging or traumatic life experiences achieve success through graduation. The resiliency-building workforce program helps students learn in-demand employability skills and provides a bridge to postsecondary education and career advancement opportunities.

Currently, there are 250 JAG programs available throughout Indiana, including at all four Jackson County public high schools.



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JCIDC intern
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Gaylor Electric
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