

WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

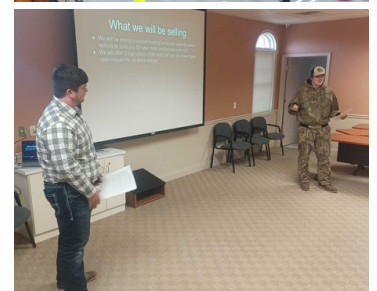
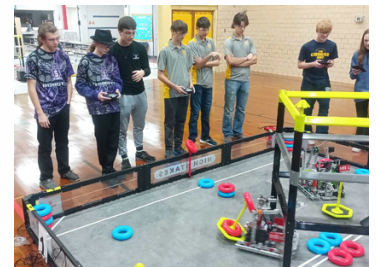
The Workforce Partnership, created in 1998 under the umbrella of JCIDC, was established with a goal to bring industry, schools, local elected officials and economic development leaders together to make the county's employers more competitive.

The Partnership is comprised of 16 manufacturing companies, Schneck Medical Center, the city of Seymour, Community Foundation of Jackson County, Jackson County Education Coalition, Brownstown Central and Seymour school corporations, Jackson County Visitor Center and other grant funding.

School projects and career awareness activities

The Partnership develops and administers programs in the Jackson County schools promoting manufacturing and health care careers and skills.

- **Educator Externship:** Local school staff members receive an opportunity to visit local industries and take what they learned back to their students.
- **Industry tours for Jackson County students**
- **Senior mock interviews:** Seniors at all six county high schools participate in mock interviews with local business professionals.
- **Career days**
 - **Career College Transition Fair** for county high school students
 - **Reality Fair** for county eighth grade students
 - **MFG Day** in October
- **Marketing tools**
 - **Career Path Guidebook:** Industries and businesses share fun facts about their company in this book, and it's distributed to middle and high school students.
 - **Hire Me Facebook page:** Employers are able to post open positions.
 - **Video series:** Short videos highlighting community, workforce, education and other key areas of attraction.
- **Robotics:** Elementary, middle and high school students in the county participate in VEX Robotics.
- **Maverick Challenge Jackson County:** A business planning competition for high school students with written and oral competitions with cash rewards. Students also can enter the state competition, Innovate WithIN.
- **Work-Based Learning:** Assistance in the coordination of workshops and placement of county high school students into work assignments during the school year.
- **Project Lead the Way:** The program is a four-year sequence of courses offered at county high schools. When combined with traditional mathematics and science courses, the program introduces students to the scope, rigor and discipline of engineering prior to entering college.



- Introduction to advanced manufacturing and logistics:** The high school manufacturing program is designed to promote interest in manufacturing careers. The courses are designed to increase the students' technological literacy and problem-solving skills, introduce career opportunities in technology and engineering and provide opportunities for the students to learn and experiment with engineering design principles. The courses are delivered through enterprise systems, modules and master projects. Seymour High School is equipped with a state-of-the-art Amatrol manufacturing lab and offers a two-year program primarily targeting freshmen and sophomores. There also is the Seymour Ag-Science and Research Farm that offers agriculture, precision machining and welding classes.
 
- Owl Manufacturing:** The school-based enterprise at Seymour High School exposes students to the potential of manufacturing-related careers, sharpening their technical skills and instilling the soft skills and professionalism needed in the workforce. Students get hands-on opportunities to try various roles in welding, machining, construction, office management and more that lead to skilled employment positions upon graduation from high school or pathways into post-secondary education and training.
 

Adult education training

Jackson County Industrial Development Corp. and Jackson County Education Coalition have partnered with Vincennes University to provide industrial maintenance training to learners at the Jackson County Learning Center in Seymour. Equipped with an industrial maintenance lab, classes in basic electrical and mechanical began in November 2023. Intermediate courses now are available, too, and advanced courses are in the works.

Community/regional partners

- Tri-county annual wage and benefit survey
- Seymour Community Schools Curriculum Council
- Maintain social media for JCIDC
- Jackson County Learning Center
- Jackson County Education Coalition
- Jackson County Human Resource Group
- Jackson County Chamber