

# Compendium:

NORTHEAST  
INDIANA  
WORKS



Board Newsletter, September 2022

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Dear Board Members:

The Region 8 Education Service Center has been awarded a two-year, \$1,188,950 grant from the Indiana Department of Education that will advance healthcare career awareness and exploration for young people in northeast Indiana.

Key partners involved with the Explore, Engage and Experience (3E) grant include Northeast Indiana Works, Parkview Health, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana, the Questa Foundation, Ivy Tech Community College-Northeast, Accessing Self Knowledge (ASK), the Northeast Indiana Healthcare Consortium, and the K-12 and Career and Technical Education (CTE) districts in northeast Indiana.

Grant Will Advance  
Awareness of Careers  
in Healthcare

“We are extremely excited to have received this grant from the Indiana Department of Education,” said **Joshua Wenning**, executive director of the Region 8 Education Service Center. “Just a few years ago, Region 8 ESC was part of a successful grant effort in the healthcare sector leading to the development of a pre-nursing experience for high school students. This grant will leverage that success, along with the collaborative partnerships of the healthcare industry in northeast Indiana, to build out additional career exploration and work experiences for students in the healthcare field.”

Northeast Indiana Works Director of Communications **Rick Farrant** said: “This grant will help the region address some of the key goals identified by the Northeast Indiana Healthcare Consortium we began convening late last year. The healthcare industry in northeast Indiana is experiencing challenges in developing and retaining talent, and it is essential that we execute long-term strategies to ensure the sector is adequately staffed for many years to come.”

One of the first steps in implementing the grant will be to conduct an asset and gap analysis of current opportunities and resources for students seeking to pursue careers in the healthcare industry. Simultaneously, funds from the grant will be used to expand K-12 student access to career exploration programs in northeast Indiana through Junior Achievement and ASK. A new experience for 10th grade students will be a JA Industry Your Way – Health Career Exploration Day. This experience will connect 10th grade students with healthcare professionals through video conferencing in their health classes.

Using the data from the asset/gap analysis, a digital platform, overseen by Northeast Indiana Works, will be created to consolidate opportunities and resources for students seeking to enter the healthcare industry. Parents and educators will also be able to access the digital platform to better support students.

The healthcare digital platform will eventually be linked with career awareness campaigns for manufacturing and an overarching initiative called Your Future: Make It Your Own that will be launched by Northeast Indiana Works soon.

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**Region Gets \$1.6 Million in ETG Funds:** The application window recently opened for the sixth round of the Employer Training Grant (ETG) initiative, which in the latest cycle will provide \$1,607,212 for northeast Indiana employers.

In total since the funding program began, northeast Indiana employers have been able to secure more than \$10 million in ETG funds. Twenty-five percent of the current allocation will be reserved for new employers or employers who have not yet benefitted from the grant.

As of September 23, 118 applications had been filed in northeast Indiana. The employer portal for beginning the application process is at <https://www.in.gov/dwd/business-services/etg/>

“Once again, our region’s employers are stepping up to take advantage of this great opportunity to ensure our workforces are skilled to meet 21st century industry needs,” said **Kim Tempel**, senior director of business services/human resources.

There are a few new characteristics to the ETG requirements this time around. Here are the essentials:

- There are three types of reimbursements: Up to \$5,000 per employee for training resulting in a post-secondary credential or nationally recognized industry credential (up to \$50,000 per company); up to \$3,000 per employee for specialized company training that does not lead to post-secondary or nationally recognized credentials; and up to \$1,000 per high school student enrolled in a work-based learning program. Training can be provided to new or existing employees, and the trainee must be retained for six months following training completion. This does not apply to high school students enrolled in a work-based learning program.
- New employees must receive at least \$17 an hour; existing employees must receive at least a 3% wage increase before a reimbursement invoice is submitted.
- Training must be in one of these industries: Advanced manufacturing; technology and business services; transportation and logistics; health and life sciences; building and construction, and agriculture. Training must focus on job skills that align with an eligible occupation and last at least 40 hours.

**Manufacturing Camp Planned for October 29:** Manufacturing Experience 2022, a free day camp for young Noble County residents in grades six through eight, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 29 at the Community Learning Center, 401 E. Diamond St., Kendallville.

The camp will include hands-on experiences highlighting 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies, including robotics, programming and circuitry. A free lunch will be provided.

Camp sponsors and organizers include Northeast Indiana Works, the Don Wood Foundation, Be Noble Inc., Freedom Academy, Impact Institute and the iSmart Lab at the learning center. The camp is part of the larger manufacturing awareness campaign that will be launched soon by Northeast Indiana Works. To register for the October camp, visit [www.worknoble.org/manufacturing-experience](http://www.worknoble.org/manufacturing-experience)

“This camp is an exciting opportunity for young people to get a taste of what modern-day manufacturing is all about,” said Farrant. “For young people who are fascinated about how things are made, this camp may be the start of planning a great career.”

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**Employer Seminar Attracts 150+ Attendees:** Northeast Indiana Works and WorkOne Northeast conducted a free employer seminar September 22 at Sweetwater in Fort Wayne.

More than 150 employers attended either in person or virtually. The event was largely planned by Northeast Indiana Works' business services team.

Among the topics addressed at the seminar: Employee recruitment strategies; childcare resources; registered apprenticeships; the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and federal bonding; diversity in the workforce, and employee retention and engagement.

**O'Neal Speaks at Japan-Northeast Indiana Summit:** Northeast Indiana Works President and CEO **Edmond O'Neal** was a panelist at the fourth annual Japan-Northeast Indiana Summit July 19 at the Eagles Theater in Wabash.

This year's summit was organized by the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, Grow Wabash County and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The summit generally focused on supporting Japanese-owned companies, promoting cultural understanding between Japanese and U.S. management styles, identifying demands for a skilled workforce, and forecasting trends related to advancing electrification in the automotive industry in Japan and the U.S.

Indiana has more Japanese-owned companies than any other state, according to the Regional Partnership. In northeast Indiana, there are at least 20 Japanese-owned companies with operations at 31 locations.

Summit invitees included Japanese-owned companies; suppliers and customers of Japanese-owned companies; mayors, county commissioners and city council members; workforce and economic development officials; policy experts on trade and tariffs; university executives and secondary school Japanese programs; the Japan-American Society of Indiana; the Japan External Trade Organization, and the Indiana Japan Chamber.

Among the speakers was Consul-General **Tajima Hiroshi** of the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago.

**Trine, Garrett Collaborate:** Trine University's Trine Center for Technical Training (TCTT) and the Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community School District have entered into an agreement that will allow Garrett High School students to earn advanced industry training through the TCTT.

"Garrett is always striving to be innovative, so it makes sense to partner together with an innovative institution like Trine University," said **Corey Schoon**, director of Garrett-Keyser-Butler's Career Development Program and a Northeast Indiana Works board member. "It's a great opportunity to prepare our students for the next generation of manufacturing and industry."

**Jason Blume**, executive director of Trine innovation 1, which includes the TCTT, said the university and Garrett-Keyser-Butler began exploring opportunities to work together after being connected through Northeast Indiana Works. "This is a northeast Indiana high school partnering with a northeast Indiana university to meet the needs of northeast Indiana industry," he said.

**Veterans Outreach Specialists, Center Honored:** **Adam Colone**, a disabled veterans outreach program specialist at WorkOne Northeast in Fort Wayne and the Fort Wayne career center itself, received National Employment Service Awards from the American Legion in July.

Colone and the center were recognized for “efforts during 2021 to ensure the economic well-being of the veterans of Indiana.”

Colone and two other WorkOne Northeast veterans services specialists, **Jesse Streets** and **Remona Kamer**, received incentive awards at the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) annual conference in Indianapolis September 13-15.

*(The next board meeting will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. October 7. It will be in person and virtual.)*