



Employer Resources

Thank you for visiting the MFG Days digital career exploration platform. We update these resources annually and work year-round to create opportunities for meaningful connections between employers, educators and students of all ages. The South Bend Regional and Greater Niles Chambers are committed to supporting employers as you work to **attract, develop and retain your workforce**.

Move Your Current Workforce Forward

- Next Level Jobs: Employer Training Grants/Workforce Ready Grants (in.gov/dwd/nextleveljobs/)
- Purdue MEP (mep.purdue.edu)
- Multiple post-secondary partners are available to customize in-house training
- The Going Pro Talent Fund is a grant-based program providing funding through Michigan Works! to hire, train, and upskill employees. (michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/wd/programs-services/going-pro-talent-fund)

Apprenticeships

- **The Regional Apprenticeship Program** supports the development of modern apprenticeship programs in Elkhart, Marshall, and St. Joseph(IN) counties to upskill adults within high-demand, high-wage occupations that align with a more technologically and digitally adaptive workplace. Local partners can assist you in developing custom training programs that meet your needs. (southbendelkhart.org)
- **Ivy Tech Community College** and **WorkOne** can help you modify existing models or create custom apprenticeships to meet your current and future needs.
- **Lake Michigan College, Southwestern Michigan College, and Michigan Works! Berrien Cass Van Buren** can help you modify existing models or create custom apprenticeships to meet your current and future needs. Additionally, **Michigan Works** can financially support your training programs and apprentices!
- **MI-Apprenticeship** offers free services to employers to create your future workforce, reduce turnover, and improve productivity. **MI-Apprenticeship** is your state-funded concierge service that will build an apprenticeship program for you.
- **MAT2** (Michigan Advanced Technician Training) helps manufacturing and technology companies tackle the skills gap by providing a nationally accredited approach – an educational model that ensures a future pipeline of qualified talent.

College & Adult Talent Recruitment

- Build **quality internships** to help you get things done and provide needed work experience for high school and post-secondary students. Use **WorkandLearnIndiana.com** to get access to students from across the state, and use **EARN Indiana (\$)** to help cover your investment in developing high school and college student talent.
- Connect your summer interns to professional development, the community, and other interns by signing them up for **[Intern South Bend Region's Summer Connect program](#)**.

- The **Regional Internship Program (\$)** connects students from regional colleges and universities to internships at local companies focused on advanced industries such as technology, manufacturing, data science and analytics, supply chain or logistics management, and research and development. This program will help you recruit and pay interns.
- Many local education, training, and workforce programs can help you connect with the talent you need. **Excel Center, Goodwill, SBCSC Adult Education, WorkOne** and **multiple colleges and universities** stand ready to support the development of your future workforce. Building relationships with these programs can enhance your talent supply chain.
- **Pure Michigan Talent Connect** bridges the gap between job seekers and employers. Whether looking for **internship** opportunities, or **careers**, they provide access to talent based on your business needs. (mitalent.org)
- **INvets** helps **veterans** match their specific skills and interests to career opportunities in Indiana. You can join their network of employers to connect. (invets.org)
- **Veryable** connects businesses to workers through an online marketplace, enabling a real-time approach to production. We give businesses a seamless way to build their labor pool to attack challenges and changes in demand. We give workers more options and give flexibility and control to leaders on the shop floor. (veryableops.com)

Connect with K12 Students & Educators

- **Speak to a class** – it’s easier than ever in our virtual world to introduce students to your industry, business and related careers! The South Bend Regional Chamber can connect you with educators and students – let us know you’re interested in sharing your story!
- Work with an educator to **create a class project** which allows students to learn through doing.
- Provide **work-based learning (WBL) experiences** for high school students and educators.
 - Do you have a **part-time job** to introduce students to your business? Many seniors are willing and able to attend school in the morning and work in the afternoon.
 - Create **summer or school year work experiences** for rising high school seniors and help them see the opportunities to grow a career in the manufacturing sector.
 - Offer **one-day job shadowing** opportunities for students or educators.
 - Participate in an **Educator Externship** program and create a school-based ambassador for your business who can share information on high-demand careers with students.
 - **Host an educator in your business to help identify student-appropriate work-based learning roles** and assist in developing a training and supervision plan. **Stipend funds available** through the South Bend Regional Chamber. (\$)
- Participate in **MFG Days** programming each October, when digital resources are updated, and throughout the school year. **If you’re interested in hosting tours**, please let us know!

Develop Interactive, Educational Project Ideas

- Partner with a group of students to develop materials for attracting new talent.
- Develop fun interactive games to introduce K-5 and/or grade 6/7/8 students to manufacturing.
- Present a past or current business challenge for students to research and recommend solutions.
- If you’d like to **host an educator in your business to identify and help create age-appropriate projects and activities**, the Chamber can help you connect AND fund an educator stipend! (\$)

What other information and resources would be helpful to you?

Let us know and we’ll work to connect the dots.

Contact klee@sbrchamber.com

Additional Business Support and Networking

South Bend Region

- South Bend Regional Chamber: sbrchamber.com
- South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership: southbendelkhart.org
- NTMA Michiana Chapter: mcntma.org
- iNDustry Labs at Notre Dame: industrylabs.nd.edu

Indiana

- Conexus Indiana: conexusindiana.com
- Indiana Manufacturers Association: indianamfg.com
- IN-MaC: (\$) provides **micro-grants** to businesses in support of K12 education partnerships: purdue.edu/in-mac

Southwest Michigan Region

- Kinexus Group - Berrien, Cass, Van Buren: kinexus.org
- MI Works! miworks.org
- Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce: www.greaternileschamber.com
- Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce: cornerstonechamber.com

Michigan

- Manufacturing Growth Alliance: mgalliance.org
- Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center: www.the-center.org
- Pure Michigan Business Connect: www.michiganbusiness.org/pmbc
- Michigan Manufacturing International: www.michmfg.com

National

- American Iron & Steel Institute: steel.org/about-aisi/links
- Association for Supply Chain Management: ascm.org
- Creators Wanted: creatorswanted.org
- Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, International: fmamfg.org
- Manufacturing Innovation Blog: nist.gov/blogs/manufacturing-innovation-blog
- Markle's Rework America Alliance: markle.org
- National Association of Manufacturers: nam.org
- Plastics Industry Association: plasticsindustry.org
- Precision Metal Forming Association: pma.org/home
- Rework America Alliance: markle.org/rework-america
- Robert C. Byrd Institute Apprenticeship Works: rcbi.org
- SHRM (Human Resources): shrm.org
- Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME): sme.org
- Women in Manufacturing: womeninmanufacturing.org
- WorkRise: workrisenetwork.org