

EWIN provides two \$5,000 mini grants for career pathway planning

Education Workforce Innovation Network (EWIN) is supporting the work of two regional partnerships with \$5,000 mini grants to boost their career pathway development already under way. Recipients are led by Whitley County Economic Development Corporation and the Center of Workforce Innovations in Northwest Indiana.

Whitley County Economic Development Corporation in partnership with Whitley County Schools and Whitley Manufacturing Council will use the Education-Workforce Mini-Grant to help create an innovative career pathway in advanced manufacturing. That team will explore models of education/workforce alignment and collaborate with key stakeholders to design a continuous pathway to employment and/or postsecondary training. The partnership hopes to develop a program where students learn basic and advanced manufacturing skills, earn certifications and complete college credits through Ivy Tech, Freedom Academy, Vincennes University and Purdue University.

With leadership from the Center of Workforce Innovations, a Northwest Indiana partnership has developed a Healthcare Consortium that brings together employers, educators, workforce development and community-based organizations to address that sector's education-workforce challenges. The Mini-Grant will help that group raise awareness of career opportunities, coordinate and align educational offerings and provide work-and-learn experiences to prepare students to pursue well paying, high demand healthcare occupations in the region.

"Both of these communities have begun the collaborative process of building career pathways customized to the needs in their areas," said EWIN Director Alisa Deck. "These mini grants will help them explore additional possibilities with promising practice site visits along with further technical assistance and support from EWIN."

Career pathways help make students college and career ready, inspire curricular programs grounded in the real world, engage businesses in K-16 learning experiences and provide the local workforce with highly skilled employees.

EWIN is an initiative of the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL), a non-profit at the University of Indianapolis, which unites districts, schools, communities, universities and businesses to build a sense of urgency and form innovative collaborations for statewide educational and economic improvement.

For more information, contact EWIN Director of Education Workforce Innovation Network Alisa Deck at 812-593-4288.