Ivy Tech Community College
Integrated Technology Education Program
Kokomo, Indiana

Program Model: Grades 10 – 13

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Technology

Overview of the Integrated Technology Education YCC Program
The Ivy Tech Community College of Kokomo Integrated Technology Education Program (ITEP) provides career pathways in advanced manufacturing and industrial technology for high school students through dual credit programs and career and academic advising as students transition to college and/or the workplace. The program also provides a pipeline of entry-level workers for area employers as high-wage occupations in advanced manufacturing remain a top economic driver in North Central Indiana.

More than 28 employers partner in the program, with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) providing in-kind developmental support. FCA has five plants in the Kokomo/Tipton area and employs over 8,000 workers. FCA and Ivy Tech’s development of a “Best Practice in On-boarding High School Students to Work-Based Learning” has been presented at national and state conferences.

Eleven partner high schools and three area career centers provide dual credit pathways designed to prepare students for careers in industry. Planned post-secondary dual credit courses with embedded certifications taken in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades have provided students with a range of 12-28 credits as stackable credits toward certificates and degrees at Ivy Tech upon high school graduation. The coordination through Ivy Tech has provided resources for these partner school systems to meet employer driven needs.

Post-program student outcomes include workplace entry through employer training programs, military service, and pursuit of 2- and 4-year degrees.

Program Highlight
ITEP program partners include K-12 school systems, career centers, employers, economic development officials, post-secondary institutions, parents, and social service organizations. Implementing and sustaining this program while taking into consideration each partner’s unique role and organizational culture is an ever-evolving task.

Flexible partner engagement, however, has proven worthwhile, for as the program has grown, so have these important connections. What began as a small advisory committee to support the program in its infancy is now a regional Employer/Educator Council supported by a strategy of the regional economic development officials.
Employer-educator roundtables to address the need for soft skill verification of high school graduates has expanded into a strategy for implementing the “Governor’s Work Ethic Certificate Program” in all area high schools; employers are recognizing the certificates through such means as a guaranteed interview or, perhaps, a higher hourly entry wage.

The commitment of all partners to the growth of a regional Employer/Educator Council will be the factor that sustains and strengthens the ITEP program.

**Success Story**

The North Central Indiana Economic Development Partnership (NCIEDP) and the North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council (NCIRPC) have worked over the past year to maintain their national status with the Economic Development Administration (EDA). This required developing regional strategies through two review planning processes involving community leaders in the six-county region served.

The strategies support the sustainability and strengthen the foundations of the ITEP program and its ability to build a skilled workforce. The strategies include developing a “Center of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing” to focus on training, research and development, and marketing. They also include plans to support the implementation of the “Governor’s Work Ethic Certificate” and the coordination of the Regional Employer/Educator Council.

Partnerships will include K-12, manufacturing employers, post-secondary education, workforce development, local government, career centers, and equipment manufacturers. Currently the chair of the NCIEDP is taking three ITEP/YCC students to Chicago to visit the DMG Mori facility, which have apprenticeship programs for individuals interested in precision machining.

**Community Impact**

Since the program’s inception, 1,018 individual students have been exposed to careers in industrial technology/advanced manufacturing fields in the surrounding North Central Indiana area through high school dual-credit courses, with 489 students participating directly in the ITEP/YCC grant program.

The most positive change has been seen in students as they graduate from high school with renewed confidence in their futures and their potential to find gainful employment. This is due, in no small part, to the supportive services that accompany senior-year, work-based learning experiences and that develop professional, personal, leadership, and technical skills. Students have access to nationally recognized certifications; strengths assessments; teambuilding; and training in conflict management, personal finance, and etiquette essentials. They perform community service and are included in company events as representatives of the ITEP/YCC program.

Program success and student accomplishments have inspired the development of a co-op program to enable students to complete degrees while becoming a member of the workforce.

Ivy Tech Community College – Integrated Technology Education Program

**Contact:** Michael Erny, Assistant Dean, School of Technology, Ivy Tech Community College, merny1@ivytech.edu

[https://www.ivytech.edu/kokomo/13966.html](https://www.ivytech.edu/kokomo/13966.html)

[https://youtu.be/YMn28okPhn8](https://youtu.be/YMn28okPhn8)