

Bulldog Manufacturing

A MODEL OF EMPLOYER-CONNECTED WORK-BASED LEARNING IN MANUFACTURING

What It Is

Bulldog Manufacturing is a student-led, school-based enterprise at Orleans Jr./Sr. High School that provides students in Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing classes with hands-on experience in design, production, and entrepreneurship.

What Students Do

Students apply technical skills and creativity to design, manufacture, and sell custom products to the community. Student projects include custom gym floor products such as coffee tables, court replicas, and laser-engraved pieces, as well as planter boxes designed using CAD software and produced with woodworking machinery. The team also utilizes their CNC flatbed router to create plywood snowmen and other seasonal decorations, demonstrating both advanced machining skills and creative design capabilities.

EXPERIENCE SNAPSHOT

School

Orleans Jr./Sr. High School

**Location**

Orleans, Indiana

**Industry**

Advanced Manufacturing

**Participants**

Students in Manufacturing
Pathway



VALUE FOR EMPLOYERS

Work-based learning isn't just about giving back—it's a strategic investment in your future workforce.

- Promote awareness of your industry
- Build a pipeline of career-ready talent
- Strengthen your company's community presence
- Lower hiring and onboarding costs
- Foster innovation by engaging young minds
- Improve long-term retention through early exposure

Industry Involvement

Local manufacturing professionals support Bulldog Manufacturing by hosting students on site visits to complement what they learn in the classroom. They also partner with the school to support students and purchase products the students manufacture. Employers also attend events held each semester that showcase student work.

How Employers Can Get Involved

Whether you're interested in supporting an existing program like Bulldog Manufacturing or launching your own work-based learning experience, Ascend Indiana can help. We provide:

- Program design and implementation support
- School and CTE center connections
- Access to funding and workforce partners

Discover how Ascend Indiana can support your business in launching or expanding work-based learning opportunities at www.ascendindiana.com.

School-Based Enterprise Definition

Student-led business that operates within a school, where students produce goods or provide services to real customers, allowing them to gain hands-on experience in running and managing a business.