

Commodore Manufacturing

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

What It Is

Commodore Manufacturing is a student-run manufacturing program at Perry Central Community Schools, providing hands-on experience through real projects for local companies. Active during both the school year and summer, the program supports students in the Advanced Manufacturing and HIRE Tech pathways. As a school-based DOL-registered apprenticeship, Commodore helps students build practical skills while contributing to a field that makes up over 40% of Perry County's job market.

What Students Do

Students work in a real manufacturing setting, producing parts for regional companies such as Waupaca Foundry and Jasper Engines & Transmissions, as well as running their own custom sign business using a CNC plasma table. Current projects include slag tools, firehose clamps, and postal door panels. Students are paid for their work while learning to meet industry standards in areas such as safety, quality, and business operations. They gain valuable skills in welding, measurement, reading work instructions, CAD, CNC operation, and more—building confidence by creating tangible products they can take pride in.

EXPERIENCE SNAPSHOT

School

Perry Central Jr./Sr.
High School

**Location**

Leopold, Indiana

**Industry**

Advanced Manufacturing

**Participants**

Advanced Manufacturing
Pathway Students



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 businesses support Commodore Manufacturing by providing real projects and materials for student production work. Businesses offer students the chance to experience the full product lifecycle—from concept to delivery. Their involvement helps students understand the challenges of modern manufacturing and ensures the training reflects real industry practices while building relevant, career-ready skills.

How Employers Can Get Involved

Whether you're interested in supporting an existing program like Commodore 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.