

PRESS RELEASE

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STUDENTS PREPARING TO COMPETE AT SOUTHWEST INDIANA STEM CHALLENGE 2025

The Southwest Indiana Workforce Board invites you to attend its 9th STEM Challenge. Over 100 Southwestern Indiana students will gather at Oakland City University's campus on April 11 to compete against each other for cash prizes.

Teams of students from area schools and organizations will use science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills to complete the challenges. Southwestern Indiana business partners work to create these challenges year after year for students from EVSC, Pike, Princeton, Jasper and beyond.

Jasper Engines and Transmission is one of six businesses sponsoring STEM Challenge. People Services Generalist, Jason Recker says, "We build relationships and strengthen the future of area students. Our group looks forward to this event annually."

Seven different challenges will be onsite for students to go head to head in a competition. STEM challenge students learn the importance of teamwork and communication throughout the competition in order to reach a common goal.

Kimball Electronics is another sponsor that creates a challenge for students to compete in. HR Manger, Sue Habig says, "we are building the pipeline for the future workforce."

Challenges range from catapulting objects through the air, making and racing derby cars, to freezing candy with dry ice. Southwest Indiana Workforce looks forward to putting together and organizing this event. Executive Director, Sara Worstell, says, "The STEM Challenge connects high school students to industry skills through hand-on, problem solving challenges that foster relationships and build talent retention for the Southwest Indiana Workforce. We enjoy making this event something to look forward to for students and businesses each year."

Winning students have the potential to go home with hundreds of dollars in cash.

Steven Stump, the Outreach and Engagement Director for the University of Indiana says, "STEM Challenge is an excellent opportunity to engage with high school students who are considering furthering their academic careers."

Other participating sponsors who host competitions for the event include Polyvantis, NIX, Farbest Foods, Cleveland Cliffs, and SoINFAME.

The competition will be held at Oakland City University April 11th. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. CT. Competitions begin at 8:15 a.m. CT. Awards are set to start at 1:30 p.m. CT.

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WE AIM TO GROW SOUTHWEST INDIANA'S WORKFORCE

The Southwest Indiana Workforce Board is comprised of business and community organization representatives in Southwest Indiana. The Board oversees the workforce development initiatives and the WorkOne Southwest offices in Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.

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