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## **MakerMinded Student Competition Goes Live in Kentucky and Tennessee; Expands Into Ohio and Detroit, Michigan**

*Online Platform and Competition Are Changing the Course of STEM Education and Advanced Manufacturing Learning*

**Tuesday, August 22, 2017, Detroit, MI**—Today, LIFT - Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow, a national Manufacturing USA institute, in partnership with Tennessee Tech University's iCube, and other state partners, launched the second year educational competition using MakerMinded, an online STEM learning and activity platform.

The MakerMinded campaign impassions students about advanced manufacturing careers and provides them with transformational Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning experiences that set them on track towards that goal. LIFT piloted this national initiative in Kentucky and Tennessee beginning October of 2016 and is launching two new campaigns this school year in Ohio and Detroit, Michigan.

MakerMinded's online platform, [www.makerminded.com](http://www.makerminded.com), connects students to over 150 leading-edge STEM and advanced manufacturing education experiences, while galvanizing participating students and schools around a student-driven, pro-manufacturing campaign and competition. The platform's goal is to provide students access to the right programs that will encourage and prepare them for further education and careers in advanced manufacturing.

"Manufacturers across the country fear a widening skills gap, which could result in 2 million jobs going unfilled unless we take action now to prepare today's students for tomorrow's jobs," said Emily DeRocco, director, education and workforce, LIFT. "MakerMinded shows the magic that happens when we empower young people with the opportunities, inspiration, and tools they need to gain in-demand skills and pursue meaningful careers."

During the 2016-2017 school year, nearly 2,000 students from over 200 middle and high schools across Kentucky and Tennessee participated in close to 2,000 STEM and advanced manufacturing learning programs as part of the MakerMinded competition. This year's goal is to increase the number of schools and students engaged in MakerMinded advanced manufacturing programs by May 2018.

To help realize a STEM and manufacturing career-ready talent pool, LIFT is working with high-powered partners in Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Detroit, Michigan, including:

Battelle  
Detroit Public Schools  
Tennessee Tech University iCube  
Tennessee STEM Innovation Network  
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Tennessee Manufacturers Association  
Kentucky Association of Manufacturers  
Foundation for Kentucky Industry  
Kentucky Department of Education  
Ohio STEM Learning Network  
Ohio Manufacturers' Association

### **How it Works**

The MakerMinded platform includes a searchable database of both national and local student programs, including online and in-person experience, from manufacturing facility tours to engineering design challenges to technical skills competitions. Examples of programs include Learning Blade, a mission-driven online STEM curriculum; Science Olympiad, standards-based science challenges; and the “LIFT Assembly Line” Virtual Reality game. As students complete activities and programs, schools receive points and compete against other schools in their state. The competition culminates in a statewide recognition event and prizes for the schools and students which accumulate the most points for completing the most activities.

**Students and schools interested in joining the MakerMinded campaign can find their state portal and sign up at [www.makerminded.com](http://www.makerminded.com).**

### ***About LIFT – Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow***

LIFT is a Detroit-based, public-private partnership committed to the development and deployment of advanced lightweight metal manufacturing technologies, and implementing education and training initiatives to better prepare the workforce today and in the future. LIFT is one of the founding institutes of [Manufacturing USA](http://ManufacturingUSA.org), and is funded in part by the Department of Defense with management through the Office of Naval Research.



### ***About iCube***

Tennessee Tech University's iCube is a place where students and faculty Imagine, Inspire, and Innovate. We are a leader in advancing collaborative solutions with extensive experience in public policy marketing campaigns and virtual reality development. To learn more about our center, please visit [www.ttucube.com](http://www.ttucube.com).



### ***About Battelle***

Every day, the people of Battelle apply science and technology to solving what matters most. At major technology centers and national laboratories around the world, Battelle conducts research and development, designs and manufactures products, and delivers critical services for government and commercial customers.

Battelle also manages a range of successful projects bringing quality STEM education to students including the [Ohio STEM Learning Network](#), [Tennessee STEM Innovation Network](#), and the national [STEMx network](#).

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio since its founding in 1929, Battelle serves the national security, health and life sciences, and energy and environmental industries. For more information, visit [www.battelle.org](http://www.battelle.org).



#### **About Detroit Public Schools Community District**

More than 47,000 students turn to Detroit Public Schools Community District, a school system made up of innovative schools that builds upon the foundation of Detroit Public Schools, to receive a quality education in a safe environment.

<http://detroitk12.org>.



#### **About OMA**

The mission of The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. Through the OMA, manufacturers and manufacturing stakeholders work directly with members of the Ohio General Assembly, state regulatory agencies, the judiciary community and statewide media with the sole focus of improving business conditions for manufacturers in Ohio. <http://www.ohiomfg.com>.



#### **About the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers**

Established in 1911, the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers is Kentucky's most effective advocate for manufacturers. KAM's mission is to protect and create a manufacturing-friendly environment in Kentucky. In addition to advocating, KAM connects, educates and provides cost-saving programs and products to members. For more information, go to: [www.KAM.us.com](http://www.KAM.us.com).



#### **About the Foundation for Kentucky Industry**

The Foundation is a statewide, not-for-profit, on a mission to strengthen Kentucky's most valuable economic indicator – manufacturing, and the qualified personnel manufacturing needs to drive it. With support from private and public partners, the Foundation advances innovation and technology through education within the changing culture of manufacturing. For more information contact [maryb@foundationforkyindustry.org](mailto:maryb@foundationforkyindustry.org)



#### **About TSIN**

The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) is a unique public-private collaboration between the Tennessee Department of Education and Battelle Memorial Institute designed to promote and expand the teaching and learning of STEM education in K-12 public schools across Tennessee. To learn more about the TSIN, please visit [www.theTSIN.org](http://www.theTSIN.org).



#### **About the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

*Founded in 1912, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry also serves as the Tennessee Manufacturing Association. With statewide partnerships with business and local chambers the Chamber works in the halls of our Legislature on behalf of business. For more information, please visit [www.tnchamber.org](http://www.tnchamber.org)*