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MakerMinded Celebrates Top Schools in Tennessee

Digital Platform and Campaign is Changing the Course of STEM and Advanced Manufacturing Learning

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, Nashville, TN— LIFT – Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow, a Manufacturing USA institute, along with Tennessee Tech University iCube, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, and the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry/Tennessee Manufacturers Association, is proud to announce the winning schools of the 2017-2018 MakerMinded competition. The following four schools in Tennessee are being recognized for excellence in advanced manufacturing and STEM learning through their participation in MakerMinded, an online STEM learning and competition platform:

- Brown Middle School, Hamilton County Schools, Harrison, TN
- Jefferson Middle School, Oak Ridge City Schools, Oak Ridge, TN
- Heritage High School, Blount County Schools, Maryville, TN
- Maxine Smith STEAM Academy, Shelby County Schools, Memphis, TN

“These students are the future leaders of advanced manufacturing in our state,” said Bradley Jackson, President & CEO, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Tennessee Manufacturers Association. “We are proud to support and recognize their talents as they pursue advanced manufacturing learning and prepare for great careers in our industry. The over 5,000 manufacturing enterprises in Tennessee need their talent and leadership to grow and compete in today’s economy.”

These schools will be celebrated today at the STEMx Innovation Summit, where they will take home a portable virtual reality kit to continue to experience STEM and advanced manufacturing learning in their classrooms.

MakerMinded was launched in 2016 to impassion students about advanced manufacturing and provide them with transformational learning experiences and 21st century skills to secure their path to in-demand careers. The platform provides access to a diverse range of national and



local STEM and advanced manufacturing programs, including manufacturing facility tours, gaming activities, project-based learning, and competitions.

“The impact of MakerMinded is powerful evidence of the magic that happens when you inspire young people,” said Emily DeRocco, LIFT’s Education and Workforce Director.” “Since we launched in 2016, over 2,200 students and teachers from 160 schools across Tennessee completed thousands of STEM programs, gaining foundational technical and employability skills that will prepare them for success in the high-tech manufacturing industry.”

The 2018-2019 MakerMinded competition in Tennessee will begin in August, 2018.

For more information, visit TN.MakerMinded.com



Maxine Smith STEAM Academy – FIRST Lego League



Heritage High School – Newell Brands Tour



Jefferson Middle School – Atomic City Invitational



Brown Middle School – Manufacturing Tour

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](#), 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.ttuicube.com.

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.

About the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Tennessee Manufacturers Association

Since 1912, the Tennessee Chamber has worked in the State Capitol serving as the voice of business and manufacturing in the volunteer state. The Tennessee Chamber maintains one of Tennessee's strongest grassroots business advocacy networks through local chambers of commerce and economic development agencies across Tennessee and is the state affiliate for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers and the American Chemistry Council.