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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION SPONSORS

THIRD ANNUAL MANUFACTURERS DAY EVENT

Starke County, Indiana – The Starke County Economic Development Foundation (SCEDF), in partnership with Oregon-Davis School Corporation, North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation, and Knox Community School Corporation, is holding their third annual Manufacturers Day celebration on Thursday, October 8, 2015. During the day, the Foundation will host approximately 300 7th grade students from all three school corporations at the Knox Middle School. Many Starke County industries, as well as SCILL, will have displays showing what their company manufactures, the skills and training required for each job within the company, and the kinds of jobs they have at their company. Company displays will be manned by representatives of the company to explain and answer questions.

Each student will be provided a word search puzzle, which will require some knowledge of the presenting companies. As each student goes from company to company, they will complete the puzzle. They will learn what each company manufactures, who they sell their products to and for what use, what types of jobs are available in their company, and most importantly, what job skills and education are necessary to secure employment at the company. At the conclusion of the tour, the student will receive a “goodie bag” that includes items for them to take home as well as a brochure highlighting SCILL and each of the industries they visited.

The goal of this program is to make sure that students are aware of what is available in their home county, and the skills and education it will take for them to be able to work for one of these companies. The 7th grade was chosen as the best age to present this program to, as what they learn can be used the following year when they start preparing their high school schedule of classes. With

knowledge of what is at stake, it is hoped that students properly prepare for their future, whether it be college or a vocational program.

This event is now in its third year and has proven to be well received by all who participated. The Foundation is using this event, in part, as a way to answer industry's cries for help in finding workers with proper job skills, and at the same time, engaging students in what opportunities their home community can provide if they have the skills employers need. According to Foundation Executive Director Charles W. Weaver, "We are excited to have this opportunity to showcase our local industry. We hope this event will make what they do here more readily apparent to people in the county, and in this case, especially to the 7th graders who will someday be working for these companies. The cooperation of the three school corporations has once again been amazing and we look forward to another successful event this year."

ABOUT SCEDF

The Starke County Economic Development Foundation is a not-for-profit local economic development organization (LEDO) providing economic development opportunities on behalf of Starke County, Indiana, the City of Knox, and the Towns of North Judson and Hamlet through the development of industrial parks, rail spurs, greenfield sites, shovel-ready sites, infrastructure and workforce development. For more information regarding the Starke County Economic Development Foundation, visit www.scedf.biz.

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