

## **Advanced Manufacturing Class Takes Flight**

*December, 2009, Vevay, Indiana*

The Switzerland County High School has created exciting new opportunities for the future of its students with the launch of the school's new Advanced Manufacturing class in December. The grand opening included a public open house featuring instructors and students, followed by a tour of the Advanced Manufacturing Lab. The tour also included student demonstrations of robotics, pneumatics, hydraulics, and programmable logic controllers. This one-of-a-kind program is the first for a Southeastern Indiana High School. The program is a cooperative effort between several county organizations. The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation, the Ec015 initiative, the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, the Switzerland County School Corporation, and Vincennes University, all played a major role in attaining this specialized class and equipment for our High School students.

This new training program helps move Switzerland County students to the forefront of manufacturing opportunities. "Manufacturing job opportunities today don't look anything like they did 20 years ago," said Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation President, Jon Bond, who spoke at the open house event at the Switzerland County High School. "Most modern businesses depend on the skill of their workers, which makes them very picky about the skills of the workers they hire."

The class is intended to provide students with hands-on experience dealing with all the aspects of today's new manufacturing programs, from computers to robotics. The program has great potential to assist with the growth of manufacturing and technology opportunities here in Switzerland County. The program is also extremely important to employers. Modern businesses rely on the technical skill of their workers. These newly learned skills will help graduates attain jobs in the skilled labor market.

