# NOVEMBER BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:

### NOVEMBER 2020 FISHERS, INDIANA

From manufacturing to construction and farming, the act of 'making' is a staple in the American economy. While technology has instigated change in these industries, the need for designers, innovators and problems solvers has persisted and will continue to grow.

As the Maker Movement becomes increasingly important in filling existing and future workforce voids in the new economy, one Fishers-based startup known as 1st Maker Space, is on a mission to spark an interest in experiential and hands-on learning among students.

"To be successful in the new economy, students need to be innovators and problem solvers. Experience doing both is, not surprisingly, required to be good at both. Research has shown that making something is both engaging and motivating. Students who struggle in academic/theoretical areas often shine in the real/practical world," said Kim Brand, Technology Advisor for 1st Maker Space.

Not only specializing in the design and build of makerspaces, STEM labs and innovation centers, 1st Maker Space also helps implement education standards aligned/experiential curriculum and professional development into schools, libraries, and community centers.

Operating out of the IoT Lab since 2018, the 1st Maker Space team notes the benefit of the organic collaboration and culture of the lab for a startup focused on engaging students in STEM and 'making.'





Above: IPS Schools will be using these robots to begin getting experience in coding.



Above: President Mary Rhinehart taking IPS teachers through a professional development course.

"We mostly value the connections that our membership in the IoT Lab has allowed us to develop. The Fishers community and culture are nurturing for a start-up like ours. Having space at the IoT lab is cool and always a source of pride wherever we travel around the state,", said Brand, To date, 1st Makerspace has helped more than 100 schools and community centers in Indiana bring project-based learning and STEM to students. Most recently the start up partnered with Indianapolis Public Schools, in a multiyear strategy focused on computer science.

"We are very proud of the #CSforIPS initiative we helped IPS launch this Fall. This project was a year in the making. It took hundreds of hours of planning with district leaders, school champions, vendors and logistics partners. Working with the state's largest school district is a game-changer for us," said Brand.

With funding support from Eli Lilly and the IPS Foundation, the initiative coaches classroom teachers on how to incorporate computer science into classroom instruction.

"There are gobs and gobs of coding academies, courses, lessons and labs. But ours combines physical computing and cross-curricular academic standards alignment," noted Brand.

"Kids love it when they learn to code when it makes robots move, light up and talk. When students love what they learn they learn better/faster. This is the aim of the #CSforIPS initiative."

If you would like more information on 1st Maker Space and the #CSforIPS initiative, visit www.1stmakerspace.com

## Q&A with Kim Brand, Technology Advisor of 1st Maker Space

#### How has your experience at the IoT Lab helped you grow?

"We mostly value the connections that membership in the IoT Lab has allowed us to develop. The Fishers community and culture are nurturing for a start-up like ours. Having space at the IoT lab is cool and always a source of pride wherever we travel around the state! More communities should have innovation spaces like 'The Lab' to cultivate economic development."

#### Are you focused solely in Indiana?

"As we continue to evolve our education makerspace business model we see opportunities all over our region. Our K12 maker curricula, maker manager courseware, maker 'microcredentials', professional development, novel maker assessment strategies and thought leadership (presentations at conferences, collaboration with Ed Schools, etc.) are scalable."

## What do you want people to know about 1st Maker Space?

"Making = Change Making. More makerspaces = More Hoosier Makers. We've never needed more self motivated/enthusiastic learners & problem solvers than we do today. We believe we are 'making' a difference that will have an impact for generations. "