



ICEA will accept nominations for the Annual Excellence Awards through May 10th.

This is a great opportunity for your chamber to garner statewide recognition for the hard work that staff accomplished on specific new projects throughout the past year.

Chambers are divided into the following categories for judging:

0—400 members

401—700 members

701+ members

Upon reviewing, all applicants scoring above 90% will receive an Excellence Award.

Chambers may enter multiple entries.

Deadline —May 10th.

E-mail entry link with this completed form to [info@iceaonline.com](mailto:info@iceaonline.com).

Mail a non-refundable check payable to ICEA for \$25 per entry to:  
ICEA, P.O. Box 377, Hanover IN 47243.

Questions? Please call the ICEA office at 812-871-3000.

### Excellence in Innovation Awards

About the award: The Annual Excellence Awards will recognize innovative new projects from your chamber this past year. Chambers may submit multiple nominations for various projects, however each nomination must showcase something new offered by your chamber during this past year. This award recognizes excellence in innovative new ideas. Complete a separate form for each entry.

E-mail your entry with this completed form to [info@iceaonline.com](mailto:info@iceaonline.com) prior to May 10th. Each entry submitted for review will be charged a \$25 non-refundable fee. Please mail this review payment payable to ICEA to: P.O. Box 377 Hanover IN 47243. An invoice will also be sent for you to pay with debit/credit card.

Chamber of Commerce \_\_\_\_\_

What are you submitting for? \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete a duplicate entry for more than one entry. Please circle below the size of your chamber:

- 0—400 members
- 401— 700 members
- 701 + members

Forward e-mail with your submission attached to [info@iceaonline.com](mailto:info@iceaonline.com) no later than May 10th.



## The Success School's Career Cruise

Set Sail with the Career Cruise is an innovative educational initiative by the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, designed to inspire local seventh graders about future career paths through a dynamic, cruise-themed atmosphere. Hosted at the Monroe Convention Center, this pioneering event marked a first for the area, engaging students in an interactive exploration of potential careers available within Monroe County.

Upon "boarding" the event, students received passports and color-coded drawstring backpacks to collect materials and navigate through various "ports of call." Each station was manned by exhibitors from over 50 local businesses across diverse sectors such as biomedical, engineering, law enforcement, and more. The hands-on activities—ranging from drilling boards to practicing CPR techniques—were designed not just to inform but to captivate, allowing students to immerse themselves in real-world applications of different professions.

High school volunteers, dubbed "deckhands," guided groups through the event, ensuring that each participant was engaged and informed. Their vibrant presence and directed questions helped maintain energy and focus among the students, facilitating a deeper understanding of each career pathway presented.

### Exhibitor Testimonials:

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters:** "The kids had great questions! While they were mainly interested in us because of our shirts, they were asking some awesome questions about what our agency is, getting SUPER into the jeopardy game which would teach them more about us, and we even got to meet someone served by our program."
- **Visit Bloomington:** "Teaching the students about a career opportunity they did not know about."
- **Catalent:** "Opportunity to get in front of kids and hear about their interest within STEM fields."
- **Harris Services:** "Seeing the kids excited about the event and seeing them engaged."
- **Monroe County Public Library:** "I enjoyed being able to introduce new students to the Library. I loved answering the students' questions and telling them about the amazing work that we get to do at MCPL."
- **Ivy Tech Community College:** "I appreciated the opportunity to share about our programs with that age group."
- **Matrix Integration:** "I live and work in Bloomington and enjoyed seeing so many familiar student faces, teachers, and community members from other organizations. Seeing students excited about careers in IT was an enjoyable part."

The immediate impact of the Career Cruise was significant: 775 students from three local middle schools interacted with 120 exhibitor volunteers, gaining insights into career fields they had never



# The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

Better business. Better community.

considered before. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with students expressing newfound interest in local careers, and employers anticipating a bright future for their industries based on the enthusiasm and curiosity displayed. Educators and administrators noted the invaluable connections made with local businesses, enhancing the educational ecosystem in Monroe County.

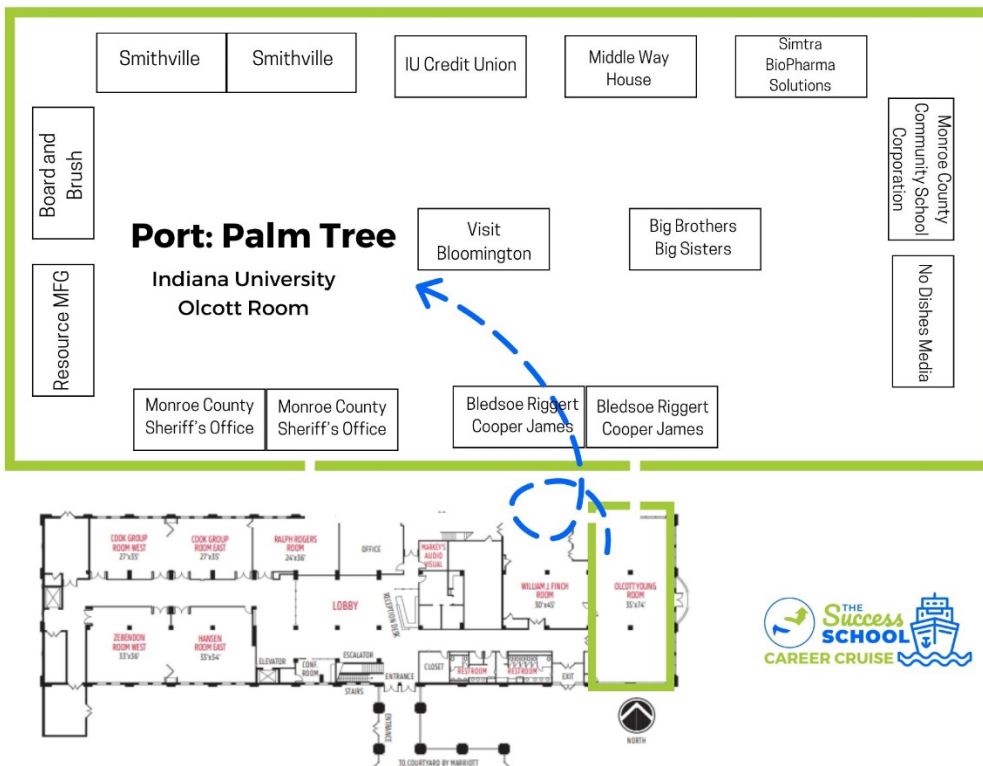
Encouraged by the success of this event, the Career Cruise is set to become an annual highlight. With plans already in motion for the next gathering, the initiative will expand to include another school district, bringing the total to over 975 students. This expansion not only broadens the impact but also cements the Career Cruise as a critical bridge between current and future workforces, fostering ongoing engagement and community collaboration.

## Attached:

- Student Packet “Passport”

## Supporting Links:

- Chamber Blog Post Photos from Event: <https://www.chamberbloomington.org/multimedia/the-success-schools-career-cruise>
- Example of Port Map:



# PASSPORT



**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

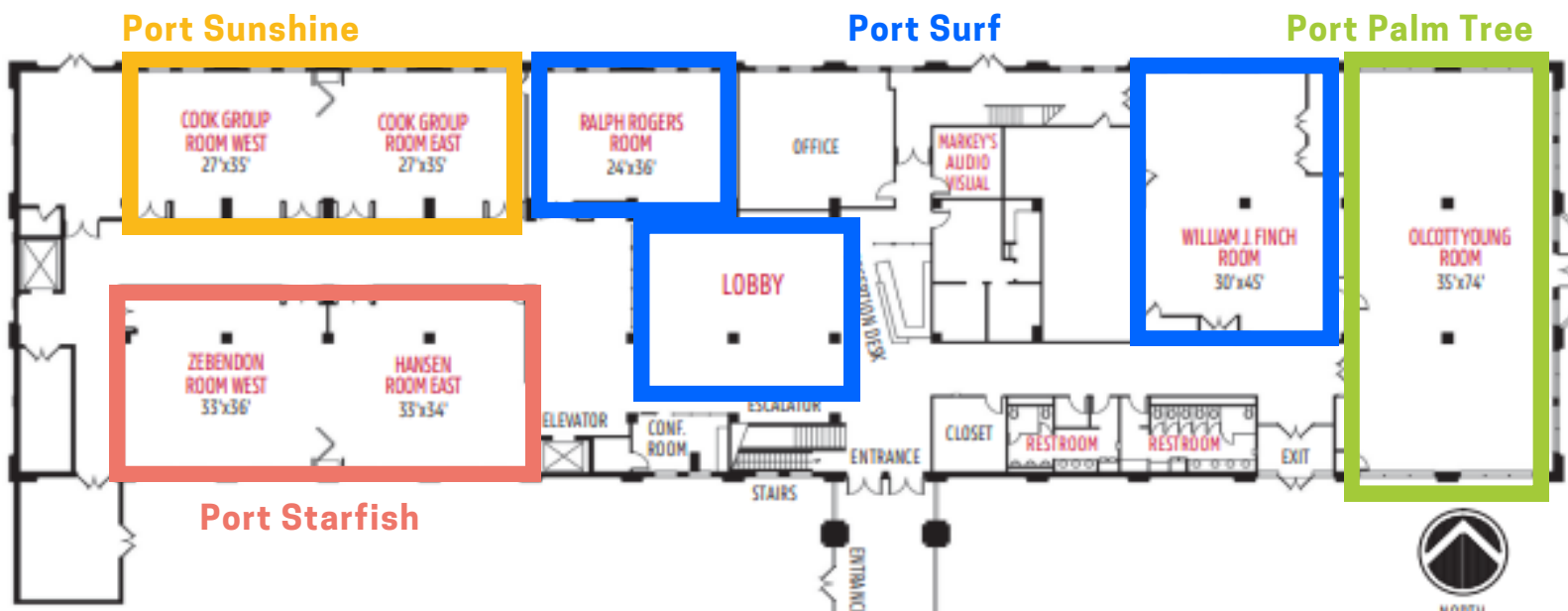
**EACH EXHIBITOR WILL STAMP YOUR PASSPORT. COLLECT AS MANY AS YOU CAN!**

**TURN IN BEFORE YOU LEAVE TO WIN PRIZES!**

	1st Port to Visit	2nd Port to Visit	3rd Port to Visit	4th Port to Visit
Port Sunshine - Cook Group	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 1	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 3	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 2	BATCHELOR
Port Starfish - IU Health	BATCHELOR	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 1	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 3	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 2
Port Surf - Success School	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 2 (DIVIDE INTO 3 GROUPS)	BATCHELOR (DIVIDE INTO 3 GROUPS)	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 1 (DIVIDE INTO 3 GROUPS)	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 3 (DIVIDE INTO 3 GROUPS)
Port Palm Tree - Indiana University	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 3	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 2	BATCHELOR	JACKSON CREEK/ TRI-NORTH 1



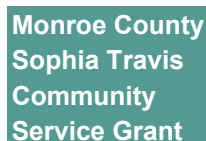
# THE CRUISE PORTS



Navigate through 4 separate ports throughout your time on the Cruise. You will have 30 minutes to explore each port. Deckhands wearing blue shirts and your teachers will tell you when it's time to rotate.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK EXHIBITORS:

1. What is your occupation and job title?
2. What kinds of things are you required to do as part of your job?
3. How did you become interested in this type of work?
4. What is your favorite part of your job?
5. What type of education and training was required for this job?
6. What classes did you take in school that prepared you for your job?
7. What skills do you need to have for this job?
8. Do you have to depend on others in order to accomplish your job?
9. What personality traits are important for this job?
10. What advice would you give a student interested in this career?





# PASSPORT STAMPS

For each exhibitor that you meet with, receive a stamp to show that you cruised to their table! Have the exhibitor stamp their business name on this paper.

Matrix      Matrix      Monroe County Public Library      Adalie Allen State Farm

TASUS

**Port: Starfish** 


IU Health  
Zeb/Hansen Rooms

Ivy Tech Nursing

Sincerely Yours Weddings and Premier Events      IU Health      Singota Solutions      Old National Bank

Clutch Fabrication      Cook Aviation      Cook Medical      Mejaro Inspection services

Ivy Tech Health Sciences

**Port: Sunshine** 

Cook Group  
Cook Group Rooms

Ivy Tech School of Education

David Martin Design      Crane      JC Bank      The Mill



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For each exhibitor that you meet with, receive a stamp to show that you cruised to their table! Have the exhibitor stamp their business name on this paper.

**Rodgers**

Stone Belt

Ivy Tech  
Biotechnology

Catalent

Catalent

IU Luddy  
School

## Port: Surf

Success School  
Rodgers, Lobby, and Finch Rooms

**Finch**

WonderLab

Ivy Tech  
Advanced  
Manufacturing

VET  
Environmental

WonderLab

WonderLab

Harris  
Services

Harris  
Services

*\*Split into 3 groups and visit each room for 10 minutes*

**Lobby**

Premier  
Cabinet

Boston  
Scientific

Bell Trace  
Senior Living

Ivy Tech College  
& Career Coach

Indiana  
Members Credit  
Union

Board and  
Brush

## Port: Palm Tree

Indiana University  
Olcott Room

Resource MFG

Smithville

Smithville

IU Credit Union

Middle Way  
House

Simtra  
BioPharma  
Solutions

Monroe County  
Community School  
Corporation

Visit  
Bloomington

Big Brothers  
Big Sisters

No Dishes Media

Monroe County  
Sheriff's Office

Monroe County  
Sheriff's Office

Bledsoe Riggert  
Cooper James

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Cooper James