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NEWS RELEASE

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Wabash Heartland Innovation Network Celebrates Planning Grant to Improve the Workforce Readiness in Technology Careers

[WEST LAFAYETTE, IN] Eleven Fifty Academy have been awarded \$99,400 from the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network Regional Cultivation Fund for a planning grant. They will be working with regional partners, such as Wabash College, Greater Lafayette Commerce, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Crawfordsville and many others, to provide an analysis of the needs of the Wabash Heartland Region in order to create a pipeline of talent that can be job ready to fulfill careers that are technology focused. They will locate partners that exist within the region that can be assembled to create the pipeline.

Technology continues to evolve and be a more prevalent aspect of jobs across numerous industries in the Wabash Heartland Region; the talent of today, and tomorrow, must be equipped to meet the job demands and work fluently with different types of technologies in order to be fully career-ready. Internet of Things technology, a network of internet-connected objects able to collect and exchange data using embedded sensors, is disrupting how tasks are being completed in numerous industries and changing how people are completing tasks and how companies are hiring for jobs. WHIN has a mission to create a talent-rich pool of candidates to fulfill these roles, and therefore attract top companies seeking such candidates. By investing in this grant being executed by Eleven Fifty Academy, and others, efforts are being made in order to accomplish this mission.

In order to fully meet the demands of the employers within the WHIN region, visionary planning sessions need to take place to correctly align curriculum and programs with the needs of the employment opportunities within the Wabash Heartland Region. The money being granted to Eleven Fifty Academy, and partners, will be used to hold planning sessions to develop curriculum and programs matching needs of the region, establish community partners, create a workforce funnel to fill needed jobs in the region, and establish relationships with area high schools and local businesses in order to bridge career opportunities in the area that strengthens the regional workforce.

Help us congratulate Eleven Fifty Academy, and partners, on their planning grant and we look forward to seeing the impact this money can make within the Wabash Heartland Region.

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ABOUT WHIN: WHIN is an innovative nonprofit organization devoted to making the 10-county Wabash Heartland region of north-central Indiana the global epicenter of digital agriculture and next-generation manufacturing empowered by smart IoT technology.

ABOUT ELEVEN FIFTY ACADEMY: Eleven Fifty Academy is a nonprofit organization focused upon high quality, immersive software development courses designed to accelerate the learning curve for people of all ages and skill sets. The mission of Eleven Fifty Academy is to build an ecosystem of coding talent that financially benefits the individual, their employer, and their community. For more information, visit <u>elevenfifty.org</u>.

If you would like more information about this topic, please visit:

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