2025-2026

WHERE GRIT MEETS GROWTH

Community Impact Report

MISSION

To ignite sustainable economic growth through relentless innovation, entrepreneurship, hands-on partnerships, and an unwavering commitment to our community.

VISION

Our vision for the future is to be the preferred economic development partner in the State of Ohio and its business community.

OUR PROGRAMS

At YBI, each program contributes its own strength to a shared mission: expanding economic opportunity, advancing innovation, and supporting the people who drive our region forward.

AM Advanced Manufacturing Services

Ohio Department of Development
Minority Business Assistance Center

ENGINE
Tech Incubator

EXPLORE VR
Youth Virtual Reality



BARB EWING

CEO

"We'll look back at 2025 as the year that change happened. Three new initiatives launched: the Innovation Hub, AMUX, and EmpowerUS, while we also updated YBI's main facility, brand, and Explore VR youth program. As they say, change is the only constant, and our team is committed to making it happen." **– Barb Ewing**

AM Advanced Manufacturing Services

Advanced Manufacturing Services helps companies adopt cutting-edge technologies and strengthen their competitiveness in a rapidly evolving industry. We focus on helping small- and medium-sized manufacturers integrate advanced technology into their operations, and we showcase this work at our annual Advanced Manufacturing Users eXpo at Eastwood Event Centre.

Our staff's technical expertise has enabled us to complete projects with marquee customers, including:

BOEING GOODYEAR LOCKHEED MARTIN





Inaugural YBI Advanced Manufacturing User eXpo



22,600+
PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH EVENTS

35 NEW COMPANIES ADDED TO MANUFACTURING PROGRAMS

20 EVENTS

7 COUNTRIES SERVED

210 BUSINESSES SUPPORTED

635 WORKERS ENGAGED

80 JOBS RETAINED

53 NEW JOBS CREATED

3 NEW BUSINESSES LAUNCHED

Recipient of the

2025 ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

from the American Foundry Society

ENGINE

Tech Incubator

The **Engine Tech Incubator's** mission is to support hard-tech, healthcare, and SaaS startups with exactly what they need right now: expert guidance, commercialization strategies, investor readiness, meaningful introductions, and flexible assistance that scales alongside their businesses. Our bespoke incubation program accelerates startup growth without barriers or bureaucracy.



Wayne Mackey, founder of Aimlabs



Pictured from left: Engine Tech Incubator Portfolio Company, LeapFast Manufacturing, CTO Kranthi Balusu and CEO Zachary Courtright



$110,580,000
THIRD PARTY EQUITY INVESTMENTS

11 PATENTS

52 COMPANIES ASSISTED

2 CLIENTS THAT RAISED AT LEAST $1M

4 CLIENTS THAT RAISED AT LEAST $250K

"In 2025, YBI was named Ohio's Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing, a recognition that shows how fully we've committed to where manufacturing is headed. By focusing the Engine Tech Incubator on hard tech, we've brought the right resources together in Northeast Ohio, so founders building physical products can find what they need to grow right here." – Chandler Fiffick

EXPLORE VR

Youth Virtual Reality

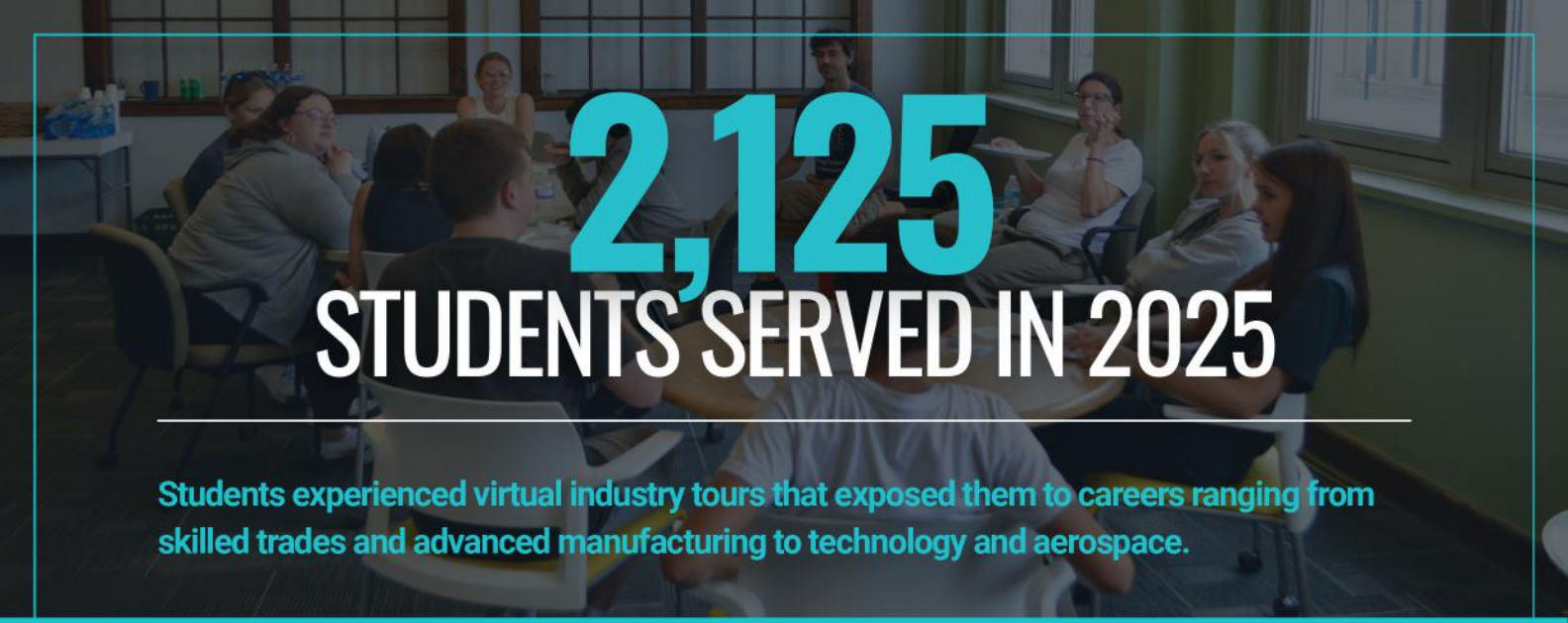
YBI's Explore VR program connects classroom learning to real-world careers through immersive, technology-driven experiences. Using virtual reality, middle and high school students step inside STEM and skilled trades workplaces, from advanced manufacturing and engineering to technology and aerospace, gaining firsthand exposure to the technologies, skills, and career pathways shaping the Mahoning Valley and beyond.



Students using Explore VR headsets.



Pictured from left: Cara Mia Battaglia, Explore VR program coordinator, and Rochelle Landy, Explore VR director.



2,125
STUDENTS SERVED IN 2025

Students experienced virtual industry tours that exposed them to careers ranging from skilled trades and advanced manufacturing to technology and aerospace.

15 NEW VR HEADSETS TO EXPAND OUR SERVICE CAPACITY



20+ INDUSTRY TOURS EXPERIENCED THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY

EXPLORE VR EXPANDED ITS LOCALLY PRODUCED 360° CAREER CONTENT THROUGH WORK WITH EMPLOYERS AND ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING:

Humtown
Always innovating.

ultium cells

Novelis

SPONSORED BY: MVMC Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition

Department of Development

Minority Business Assistance Center

At YBI, our team prioritizes community development by creating opportunities for minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses, as well as other underserved businesses. Our regional MBAC provides critical services, including technical assistance, information about obtaining working capital, professional consulting, and help locating state, federal, and local procurement opportunities.



Announcing the inaugural EmpowerUS Awards honorees



Pictured from left: David Hood, DeMaine Kitchen, Tanisha Wheeler, Dominick Brown, Karrington Griffin, & Monica Anderson, celebrating Black History Month at the Governor's Mansion



$454,423
IN CONTRACTS AWARDED TO CLIENTS

140+ NEW CLIENTS

491 COUNSELING HOURS

60+ JOBS RETAINED

80+ JOBS CREATED

$185,300
CAPITAL INFUSION FOR CLIENTS

The Minority Business Assistance Center continues to expand economic opportunity across our region. In 2025, MBAC supported:

22 WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES
17 EDGE-CERTIFIED BUSINESSES
16 MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES
4 VETERAN- FRIENDLY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

EVENTS


YOUNGSTOWN
BUSINESS INCUBA
ybi
EmpowerUS AWARDS
Ten Thousand ?
SHARK TANK

MAY 20

AMUX

Advanced Manufacturing User Expo

The Advanced Manufacturing User eXpo is YBI's annual gathering of innovators, industry leaders, and technology adopters pushing manufacturing forward in Northeast Ohio. Our inaugural event drew 150 attendees to Eastwood Event Centre for panels on Industrial IoT, Innovation on the Shop Floor, AI, 3D-Printed Sand Cores, AM Polymers, Federal Funding Opportunities, and the Youngstown Innovation Hub for Aerospace and Defense.

SEPT. 10

ybi THE CONNECTOR

Hosted by YBI's Minority Business Assistance Center, **The Connector** is a relationship-driven networking event that connects small businesses, buyers, and potential customers. More than 100 entrepreneurs and over 15 community partners came together to build connections, gain experience, and get the access they need to grow.

OCT. 23

ybi SHARK TANK

More than 760 people attended **YBI Shark Tank**, our premier fundraising event, in 2025, raising more than $340,000 for our programs. Pitches came from Nivalon Medical, a 3D-printed spine company; LeapFast Manufacturing, an advanced welding technology company; Gizmo and Trinket, a gaming device company; and Rapt, an AI product designed to support Bible study.

BUILDING THE *FUTURE*



In 2025, a major milestone came with the launch of the Youngstown Innovation Hub for Aerospace and Defense, a landmark initiative supported by $26 million in funding from the Ohio Department of Development.

Expected to generate 450 jobs and more than $161 million in economic impact, the Innovation Hub further positions the Mahoning Valley as a national leader in advanced manufacturing and supports efforts to rebuild the U.S. Defense Industrial Base.



JOHN REED

CHAIRMAN OF THE YBI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"2025 was a huge year for YBI and the Mahoning Valley. In February, the announcement of the Youngstown Innovation Hub for Aerospace and Defense felt like the start of what I like to call 'Youngstown 2.0,' a transformational opportunity to attract high-tech companies, strengthen advanced manufacturing, and create long-term growth for our region." **– John Reed**