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## **The Pantheon Celebrates a Year of Growth, Innovation, and Community Impact**

Vincennes, IN – During 2025, The Pantheon continued to execute on its mission to support entrepreneurship and help launch new businesses into the Knox County economy. Through intentional programming, education, and access to space and resources, The Pantheon celebrated a year marked by measurable growth, innovation, and impact including the successful “graduation” of two businesses that have since moved on to their own brick-and-mortar locations.

Throughout the year, The Pantheon hosted 104 programs and events, serving more than 1,200 attendees to date. Entrepreneurs, students, educators, industry leaders, and community members engaged in business training, networking opportunities, youth entrepreneurship initiatives, entrepreneur spotlights, and industry-specific showcases, each reflecting the diverse pathways The Pantheon supports from idea to execution.

“Being able to offer over 100 programs and events to our community is something we are incredibly proud of,” said Kimberly Fourman, Director of Programming & Development at The Pantheon. “We’ve celebrated innovation, supported entrepreneurs at every stage, and seen firsthand what happens when a community invests in people and ideas.”

### **Entrepreneurial Growth in Action**

That impact is perhaps best illustrated by the businesses that grew inside The Pantheon and took their next steps in 2025.

Two coworking members, Ice Design Studio and TimelySoles, successfully transitioned into their own brick-and-mortar locations, marking a significant milestone for both businesses and the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem. Ice Design Studio expanded from an open desk to a private office, hired its first employee, and now operates independently with a full team of employees. TimelySoles grew from a single-owner, home-based business into a full team with its own physical location.

“These stories represent what’s possible when entrepreneurs have access to space, resources, and community,” Fourman said. “The Pantheon is one part of a larger, intentional economic design taking shape in Knox County and Vincennes to grow and strengthen our rural economy.”

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## Innovation and Industry Momentum

In spring 2025, The Pantheon also helped spotlight and launch TerraForce, a high-growth, venture-backed agricultural technology company. Since its introduction to the community, TerraForce has closed an oversubscribed funding round and is preparing to close its next round of investment demonstrating that scalable, innovation-driven companies can grow from rural regions.

The momentum continued through The Pantheon's Ag Tech Showcase, which brought together farmers, students, innovators, and community leaders to explore how technology can address real-world agricultural challenges. The event featured a demonstration of TerraForce's autonomous watermelon harvester and welcomed attendees from AgriNovus, Agrilnstitute, local farms, and regional leadership.

## Building Skills and Supporting Entrepreneurs

One of the year's signature initiatives was Blueprints to Business, a 10-session workshop series designed to support new entrepreneurs, early-stage startups, and existing businesses seeking to strengthen their skills. The program served 90 entrepreneurs, covering topics such as branding, digital marketing, communications, financial health using Microsoft Excel tools, human resources fundamentals, and operational efficiency.

Participants left the series with practical tools, increased confidence, and clearer next steps for growing their businesses, many continuing to engage with The Pantheon through coworking, mentoring, and additional programming.

## Sparking Entrepreneurship in the Next Generation

In 2025, The Pantheon also launched First Founders, a youth entrepreneurship program created in partnership with local high schools to spark innovation and entrepreneurial thinking among young talent in the community. The program engaged 116 students from five high schools, guiding them through idea development, problem-solving, and pitch preparation.

The program culminated in a competitive pitch process, with 20 teams advancing to a semi-final round and five finalist teams competing in a final pitch event. Three teams were awarded prize funding to help move their business ideas forward, giving students a tangible opportunity to turn creativity into action.

Together, Blueprints to Business and First Founders reflect The Pantheon's commitment to supporting entrepreneurs at every stage from students with their first ideas to founders preparing to grow and scale.

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## Community Support and Collaboration

Beyond programming, The Pantheon's coworking space continued to grow in 2025, now supporting 70 members, including remote workers, startups, creatives, nonprofits, students, and small businesses. The space serves as a daily hub for meetings, collaboration, mentoring, and learning.

The year concluded with the Harvest Gala, a fundraising event supporting The Pantheon's Ag Tech Initiative and reflecting strong community support for innovation-driven programming.

Throughout the year, The Pantheon collaborated with partners including Vincennes University, Purdue University, North Knox High School, South Knox High School, Rivet High School, Lincoln High School, Pike Central High School, AgriNovus, AgrilInstitute, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, and the Indiana Small Business Development Center, along with local and regional chambers and economic development organizations.

## Looking Ahead

As The Pantheon looks toward 2026, new initiatives are already underway, including AI & Apps, a community-driven AI learning series, expanded founder-focused programming, continued entrepreneur support, and new youth and workforce development initiatives.

With strong momentum and community support, The Pantheon remains committed to creating space for ideas, collaboration, and growth in Vincennes and beyond.

## ABOUT THE PANTHEON

The Pantheon's mission is to spark innovation and fuel entrepreneurship by inspiring, growing, and supporting new and existing businesses in Knox County. The Pantheon is Southern Indiana's hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, offering coworking spaces, business advising, and strategic programming to help startups and small businesses succeed.



**Kimberly Fourman**

Director of Programming & Development | The Pantheon  
812-886-1146 | [kimberly@pantheontheatre.org](mailto:kimberly@pantheontheatre.org)