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2026 MFG DAY - STUDENT DESIGN CONTEST

Wisecarver Innovation Award

Idea:

This year's theme challenges you to explore the boundaries of innovation in packaging automation. Your system should pack products reliably under real environmental constraints, such as extreme heat or cold, dust, water, or motion. Choose one or more harsh environments and design a packing system built to perform there. Here are some examples:

- Field-to-Box Harvest Packer: packs fresh produce right in the field, handling dust, mud, and heat.
- Freezer Case Packer: picks and packs frozen foods inside a -20°F cold-storage warehouse.
- Dusty Warehouse RTU Packer: Design a robotic packing system that travels along a linear transfer unit to pick, sort, and pack products across multiple stations in a dusty warehouse or manufacturing environment.

The system must maintain accurate positioning and reliable operation despite airborne dust, debris, and repeated long-distance movement.

Description:

Design an actuated packing system that operates in one or more harsh environments. Your design must include:

- At least one Bishop-Wisecarver motion component product, such as DualVee® or UtiliTrak® that is used in a multi-axis, driven motion solution.
- Sensors and/or vision technology to detect, inspect, or guide the products being packed.

All designs must show how the system keeps packing accurately and reliably despite the environment. These solutions reflect BW's expertise in harsh-condition automation and long-lasting motion control systems.

Prizes:

One (1) winner will be chosen and receive $500. Their school will also receive a $2,500 donation from Bishop-Wisecarver.

How to Submit Your Idea:

Provide a 60-second video that includes an overview of the idea and what it does. In addition to the video, please attach design files that show how your system works. Accepted formats include hand or digital drawings, SketchUp models, or CAD models. 3D models created in Autodesk Fusion are encouraged.

Dates & Deadlines:

Submit your video, design files, and contact information to **mfgday@bwc.com**. Deadline to submit is December 31, 2026.

Contact Information for Submission:

Name:

School Name & Address:

Grade:

Winner:

The leadership team at Bishop-Wisecarver will review all entries and determine the winner of the 2026 Wisecarver Innovation Award by January 29, 2027.

Three key areas will be used to determine the winner (in no particular order or importance ranking):

1. Innovation – How does this idea improve the process of packaging fragile products?
2. Thinking outside the box – Originality of idea.
3. Executable – Is this something that could actually be developed/implemented leveraging existing or new technology?

Eligibility:

Eligible to students currently enrolled in a primary or secondary accredited educational facility only.

Questions: Please contact us at **mfgday@bwc.com**.