US Manufacturing Depends on Universities

Many programs at America's universities offer engineering and manufacturing programs, but few are recognized as drivers of the US manufacturing landscape. The College of Engineering at The Ohio State University created CDME as an extension whose purpose is to support the manufacturing industry. Upon being awarded a $6.8M MEP grant, we focus much of our expertise on small and medium-sized manufacturing companies in central Ohio. These valuable entities can profile as local start-ups, outlets with a mere handful of employees or a veteran company that is feeling the squeeze. The foundation of The Ohio State University was built on a land grant awarded in 1870, so it fits that CDME is actively promoting and enhancing manufacturing through a similar means.

In an interview with IndustryWeek's Michelle Nash-Hoff on March 4, The Dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. David B. Williams, cited CDME's MEP program as "working directly with manufacturers to identify and execute growth strategies". We are one of several centers on OSU's campus who interfaces with the external manufacturing industry - Ohio Manufacturing Institute was also noted by Dean Williams in the article. US manufacturing is rebounding, and our universities are graduating the qualified people needed to collectively elevate the manufacturing landscape in our country. Similarly, centers like CDME and our MEP program can provide manufacturers with university researchers, facilities, equipment, and students to support their product development, ignite their innovation and drive their growth plans. Read IndustryWeek's article here.

Income from Licensing Technology at Ohio State Increased Despite Tough Competition in Big Ten

Figures for technology commercialization income among the 14 universities in the Big Ten Conference were reported by the Association of University Technology Managers. While figures for 2016 are not yet available, Ohio State saw a growth in revenue of 12% in 2015 versus the previous year. "OSU has been making steady incremental progress in a six-year effort to get more of its research out of labs and into market through manufacturing licenses and spinout companies", as reported by Columbus Business.

MEP Client Spotlight: Columbus Nanoworks

Columbus Nanoworks is the charter client of our MEP program, which officially began October 2016. They were introduced to CDME by Rev1 Ventures, one of our external partners. The initial challenge Columbus Nanoworks brought to CDME was the design and creation of a hand-held fluorescence detector.
Technology Transfer from University to Industry Not As Painful as Portrayed

Dipanjan Nag, Associate VP Technology Commercialization at The Ohio State University, published an article recently dispelling the belief that university-industry tech transfer is comprised of stubborn parties mired in a stand-off of sorts. Nag’s article is written from his experience in bridging “this innovation divide”. He identifies three target areas that invite innovation and facilitate its movement from university to industry. Read article here.

Trending: NIST Blogger Foresees Similar Challenges in Small Manufacturing as in Tier One Corporations

NIST MEP blogger, Tab Wilkins, reports common challenges presented within large, multinational manufacturing corporations and predicts similar aches among small and medium-sized manufacturers in the US as we embrace the fourth generation of the Industrial Revolution. It’s a constant state of crunch time for manufacturers shrouded by the propagation of technology exchange immediately and autonomously within manufacturing facilities. Read the full article here.

Introductions

Libby Culley joins the CDME team as the Center's Marketing Outreach Coordinator. She will be managing the partner outreach program and overall marketing for CDME and MEP at OSU. Her career includes over 15 years of marketing and communication in industrial manufacturing.

Rich Arnold is a Manufacturing Extension Partnership Growth Advisor at CDME with a focus on electronics and integrated systems companies. Rich has a wide and extensive set of experiences in developing commercial electronics systems from idea to implementation.

Charlie Young joins CDME as Director of Business Development helping to grow projects and memberships for the Center. His experience spans 32 years with ABB in their Process Industries Division and includes global business management of the Measurement Products and Analytics Business Unit, sales management for industrial automation systems and products.

CDME Partner Spotlight: SunDown Group

SunDown Group is a non-profit that supports entrepreneurs and connects them to investors, mentors and talent through a network of chapters operated in Ohio. Their free Ask an Expert Network and other partnerships open the doors for startups and small businesses who are looking to access capital through lending and equity-based platforms. SunDown Group also offers a series of business pitch events, workshops and classes to help entrepreneurs hone their skills and gain new skills to run their businesses.

Events

Ohio Manufacturing Institute (OMI) at OSU
*Industry 4.0 Workshop: German and US Perspectives
March 27  1:00-4:00
Lunch and Learn at CDME sponsored by Bank of America Merrill Lynch
"Bridging the Gap Between Concept and Product"
Friday, March 31  12:00-2:00
Register now (includes free lunch)

2017 Rev1 Innovation Hop at Rev1 Ventures
Thursday, April 13  4:00-7:00
Register now

Applied Model-Based Systems Engineering Course
Wright Brothers Institute, Beavercreek, OH
8:00 am Thursday, April 13- 5:00 pm Friday, April 14
Register now

Open House at CDME
Friday, April 21  12:00-2:00
Register now (includes light refreshments)

Production of automobiles, steel and computers performed well in February contributing to the six-month streak of growing manufacturing output in the US. This is a 0.5% increase over January as reported by the Federal Reserve. The trend is spurred by a growth in consumer confidence since elections and has presented through the procurement of industrial machinery and near-record-setting purchases of automobiles. The Washington Post

About CDME and MEP
CDME is a new applied research and commercialization center established by the College of Engineering within The Ohio State University to provide support to manufacturing companies in the state of Ohio. CDME provides industry partners with a simple, expeditious vehicle to access the technical assets of the university and surrounding research community. CDME has been identified as a Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) affiliate for the state of Ohio to provide value-added consulting services to small and medium-sized manufacturing companies in Ohio with the purpose of helping them grow. Clients of CDME’s MEP program have access to our external partners, CDME’s engineering staff and 40,000 square feet manufacturing facility, and equipment and laboratories at OSU’s various colleges. Your company is qualified to participate in the MEP program. Contact us to start growing your manufacturing company today.

The MEP program at OSU is available through the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) to support the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Manufacturing Extension Program.