An Economical Option for Innovation

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When your product development or manufacturing company needs design, engineering or business services not currently employed, the most typical solution is to outsource the work to a consulting or design firm. There is now a new, cost-effective, novel program at Ohio State's Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence (CDME) which utilizes students to bring about high-value manufacturing projects as part of their curriculum. These young minds are eager to learn and willing to expend time and effort to bring about successful projects. When properly mentored and guided by CDME's experienced staff, they are capable of doing incredible things.

While there is often a trepidation with using students, CDME embraces their passion and creativity to delivery on high-value projects successfully. Our engineering director, Nate Ames, has often been heard stating that one of the biggest values of students is that they are “unencumbered by experience”. While experience is a great trait in our senior engineering staff, students who do not have decades of industry experience are able to look at product design and innovation problems with a fresh perspective.

CDME is proud to have recently launched the Experiential Entrepreneurship Education (E3). This program is the first of its kind in the nation to combine state-of-the-art educational programs in product design, manufacturing, commercialization, and business modeling with advanced on-site prototyping capabilities and real-time, industry-sponsored research and development projects. We are proud to offer another option to innovate for the small to medium-sized manufacturing market. You are encouraged to bring your innovative ideas and engineering challenges to the program and allow these bright students the opportunity to develop your product into a commercial, competitive deliverable. The students gain experience, advance in the E3 program and are gainfully employed. You gain a customized and marketable product.

The E3 program is made possible from a generous donation from an alumni of Ohio State's College of Engineering. Those who complete the E3 program will be much more prepared than their peers upon graduation and will start value-added employment from day one. For more information on this program, click here.

Ohio Sites: Prime Locations for Budding, Expanding Businesses

Ready to scale up and go to market in Ohio? JobsOhio identified eight Ohio sites that have been SiteOhio authenticated. This means that the area is "construction ready", having passed audits performed by a third party. The infrastructure and utilities are already developed, market analytics have been performed, and the area is staged for growth.

The eight sites are:
- Airport West Industrial Park, Richland County
- Eastwood Commerce Center, Wood County
- Leesburg Industrial Park, Highland County
- Logan Hocking Commerce Park, Hocking County
- NextEdge Research and Technical Park, Clark County
- Ohio Crossroads Industrial Center, Crawford County
- PrimeOhio II Industrial Park, Clark County
- Washington Industrial Park, Fayette County

SiteOhio Site Authentication Program
Full article

National Day of Celebration
Manufacturing Day 10.06.17

The perception of a manufacturing career includes dirty boots, greasy gears, dim lights, and damp conditions. The most manufacturing exposure America's youth get is in history class when the Industrial Revolution lesson is taught. Manufacturing Day started as a day to get people to pursue jobs in the industry. Manufacturing jobs require highly-skilled people, and the environments in which they work are very innovative, exciting and lucrative. The opportunities of advancement in the manufacturing field are abundant and can provide opportunities well beyond what is described in sixth grade history. With the onset of smart factories and advanced manufacturing, there is a greater need for humans to design and manage this automation. Full article.

We encourage any of you who have manufacturing operations to open your doors on Friday, October 6, and invite the community to see what real manufacturing looks like and how it impacts the ecosystem near and far.
Lunch and Learn
Talent Management: Presenting the availability of skilled and highly skilled talents in manufacturing
Friday, September 29  2-4 PM
Register here.

Open House Honoring Manufacturing Day
Friday, October 6   2-4 PM
Register here.

SBIR/STTR Workshop
Faculty Club
Friday, October 20    7:30 AM - 5 PM
Register here.

Partner Events
Enhancing Your Soft Skills To Be A Better Entrepreneur
9/8  12-1 PM
Cultivate
Grove City, OH
Register here.

The Healthcare Innovation and Entrepreneurship Workshop
9/21 7:30 AM
The Longaberger Alumni House
The Ohio State University
Register here.

Ohio Manufacturers' Workforce Summit
11/1  10:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Greater Columbus Convention Center
Register here.

CDME is hosting their own celebration for the public. Register here.

OH MEP Summit 2017
Members of our leadership team attended the annual Ohio MEP Summit on August 17. Phillip Wadsworth, Regional Manager for NIST, presented the current state of manufacturing, impending budget approvals for 2018 and cybersecurity. Susan Foltz, Director of OH MEP, covered the current manufacturing profile at the state level.

Manufacturing in OH by the numbers
- 45% of our economy is driven by manufacturing
- Ohio has over 14,000 manufacturers
- Manufacturing accounts for more than 700,000 jobs in Ohio
- Ohio ranks 3rd in the nation for manufacturing employment

Source: 2016 Manufacturing Counts, Ohio Manufacturing Association

The featured presenter was Shawn Waldman, CEO of Secure Cyber Defense, LLC. His company's focus is protecting small businesses from security threats. Waldman's delivery was threaded with a host of helpful hints to prevent security breaches and actions to take in the unfortunate event that one should occur. His experience and examples were frightening but had everyone reconsidering both their professional and personal digital behaviors. His past in law enforcement lends extra credence to the threats among us.

August Lunch and Learn: Guests Inherit a Wealth of Knowledge
Eric Wagner, Program Manager of Ohio State's MEP Program, presented extremely valuable content at August's Lunch and Learn. He is one of the most well-versed experts on state and federal funding options for small businesses. His thorough delivery took guests into the world of funding opportunities for everything from employee training ($4,000 per employee!) to contracting with the federal government to contact lists for state agencies. While the only cost to attend was time, guests left with a wealth of information, funding options and contact information. State and federal funding programs are available for just about every small business. It helps to know what they are and how to find them.

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