Our Territory Has Grown to Include Southeast Ohio

Recently, the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership program at Ohio State has expanded its coverage to include the southeastern region of Ohio. As announced on October 23 in an article published by The Columbus Dispatch, this partnership "offers assistance in technological innovation, workforce training and improved management practices through six partnerships and in collaboration with the Ohio Development Services Agency" ("Ohio manufacturers aided by state partnership," 2017). MEP helps small and medium-sized manufacturers to increase sales, create jobs and generate cost savings through technological innovation, workforce training and improved management practices. Ohio State’s CDME is honored to offer assistance to small to medium-sized manufacturing enterprises in central and southeast Ohio. The other five MEP affiliates in Ohio are Center for Innovative Food Technology, FASTLANE, Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET), PolymerOhio, and TechSolve. More information regarding the Ohio Manufacturing Extension partnership can be found on the Ohio Development Services Agency’s website.

Join us for the official launch of our expanded MEP service area

Wednesday, November 29
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The Ohio State University South Centers
Endeavor Center | 1862 Shyville Road, Room 160 | Piketon, OH 45661
RSVP to Jennifer Dunn 740.289.1605 dunn.595@osu.edu

Lean Manufacturing: A System Built on American Ideas

By Andy Reith, Scioto Productivity Solutions

“How do the Japanese do it?” This is a question I’ve been asked over and over during the last decade; a recurring conversation when I mention I worked for Toyota Motor Manufacturing.

It has always struck me as an odd question. I’m from northern Ohio, and I worked alongside thousands of other Americans from the United States, Canada and Mexico. Toyota is building great cars in Japan, but they are doing so in Kentucky, Indiana, Mississippi, and Texas as well. These are American workers supervised by American management and directed by American executives. While Toyota naturally utilizes Japanese words for key concepts, these facilities are American. The Japanese population within most production operations is generally less than 1%. In fact, there are even Japanese “trainees”, engineers from Japan, embedded within our production engineering groups. Sent to the United States for 18 months, they live and work with Americans to understand how we do things differently than our counterparts in Toyota.
The famed Toyota Production System (TPS) was developed by Taiichi Ohno throughout the 1950’s. It is the gold standard for production efficiency and quality, but it is not Japanese. Lean manufacturing pulls upon many principles developed by Americans. Toyota assembled, polished and fine-tuned them into their own highly effective system. Read the entire article here

Ohio 'Externship' Program Bringing Together Students and Industry

By Ryan Horns,

Private and public funding for the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops (OMIC) program is uniting universities and community college students with regional industries in a win-win pilot "externship" concept. In Ohio, the goal is to close the skills gap, increase the number of college graduates, create more opportunities for diversity in education, and give the state a competitive advantage in the global marketplace. Innovation Director of the Institute for Materials Research (IMR) at Ohio State, Jay Sayre, PhD, said one success story is how the OMIC is teaming up with IMR to hold INNOVATE-o-Thon events and classes at the new Materials Innovation Lab (MIL) on Kinnear Road in Columbus.

It's the cosmic dilemma of every ambitious college student: How can a freshman land that coveted internship without industry experience, yet gain experience without an internship?

A new collaboration between the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and The Ohio State University proposes a solution.

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Continue reading here

Bret Whitaker, Program Manager of MEP at CDME

Bret Whitaker was recently hired as a Program Manager for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program at CDME.

His primary responsibilities will include working with clients, external supply partners, and CDME Program Managers to ensure professional and complete delivery of contracted services. Additionally, he will work with CDME and ODSA staff to coordinate project reporting and other related programmatic activities. Bret previously worked as a Fiscal Associate at CDME and holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business.

NIST MEP Provides Financial Aid to Victims of Hurricane Harvey

"The Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), a program of the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), has awarded $3 million in funding to help manufacturers begin the long road to recovery from Hurricane Harvey.

The funding will allow two of the MEP National Network™ Centers, the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) and the Manufacturing
The Ohio State University College of Engineering, Technology Commercialization Office, CDME, and Rev1 Ventures partnered to offer a one-day workshop on Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Research (STTR) programs with the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy and Department of Defense. Entrepreneurs and faculty filled The Faculty Club, where they were treated to a quality team of speakers who spoke exclusively about how to fund the commercialization of their research. Guests also had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with some of these speakers for personalized guidance. Guest speakers and panelists at this inaugural event included Dr. Martin Kleckner of UC Irvine and IN-SD; Bill Harrison, Director of Small Business, U.S. Air Force Research Lab; Dr. Randy Moses, Senior AVP, Office of Research at Ohio State; Dr. Art Gooray, Senior Technology Licensing Manager, TCO at Ohio State; Wayne Embree, Rev1 Ventures; Dr. Paul Matter, pH Matter, Brian Borkowski, Asymmetric Technologies; Lynn Garrison, SBIR/STTR Center of Technology Transition Lead, NASA Marshall; Dennis Andersh, OFRN; Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Program Director, SBIR/STTR. This complimentary event was generously sponsored by Telhio Credit Union, Benesch Law, OFRN, Asymmetric Technologies, and Rev1 Ventures.

Other Upcoming Events

SBA Federal Small Business Programs
Wednesday, November 29th 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Webinar by SBA Columbus District Office
Register Here

Economic Development 411
Friday, December 1st 7:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Ohio Union - The Ohio State University
$25 per attendee
Register Here

Managing GHG Emissions Amid Uncertainty
Wednesday, December 6th  10:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
Ohio Manufacturers’ Association Offices  
Register Here

Non-Technical Skills in Business for Technical Founders  
Friday, December 8  12:00 PM  
Idea Foundry  
Register Here

AWH Product Course: Introduction to Product Management  
Thursday, December 14th  2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Dublin Entrepreneurial Center  
$155  
Register Here

Lean Manufacturing for Small Business Workshop  
Tuesday, January 9th  8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Dublin Community Rec Center  
Register Here

Creating and Commercializing Products

Product failure. Market testing. Design to Manufacture. Commercialization. We covered it in our November Lunch and Learn. AWH, CDME and Vesna Ventures combined their expertise and presented to a standing-room-only crowd at Rev1 Ventures. The presentation was divided into idea and problem validation, prototyping and proof of concept, and transitioning from validation to commercialization. This was our second such Lunch and Learn this year, and it proved to be just as popular as the first with the innovators in central Ohio who have helped grow Columbus into a recognizable force in technology and innovation. Speakers included Ryan Federick and Chris Slee of AWH, Erica Waite of Vesna Ventures and Eric Wagner of CDME.

Experiential Entrepreneurship Education Program reflects this solution and is being designed to ensure the readiness level is elevated and met. Be hopeful, Ohio.

Small Business Growth Through Export to International Markets

Our October Lunch and Learn addressed the incredible opportunity available to our small businesses by entering international markets. Patrick Hayes, Export Financing Manager with the Small Business Administration (SBA), talked about the programs offered by the SBA to help small businesses expand their markets through exports. He covered Export Express, Export Working Capital and International Trade Loans. Through U.S. Export Assistance Centers and State Trade Expansion Promotion grants, the SBA provides support through various channels to ensure that small businesses have access to exporting markets. There is a tremendous opportunity for small businesses to tap into the consumers who exist outside of the United States, which totals 96 percent of the world’s consumers. This free Lunch and Learn was made possible by our partners at Telhio Credit union, who are experts at helping commercial and business clients add locations, purchase equipment and real estate, grow employees, and shorten receivable cycles. We want to thank their team for their continued support of small businesses.

The Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute for Science and Technology, the Ohio Development Services Agency and local partners.
including the Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence. Ohio MEP is driving productivity, innovation and global competitiveness for Ohio manufacturers with a focus on small and medium sized enterprises (SME).