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Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership Announces Plans for Growth

The Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center has been awarded \$13.79 million in federal funding over the next five years to serve the competitive needs of small and mid-sized manufacturers in Indiana.

The funding, which quadruples the size of the center, allows for a dramatically increased presence in critical manufacturing areas across the state; increases services for small, emerging and rural firms; and provides a stronger focus on services related to product, customer and market growth.

The funding was awarded by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which is committed to strengthening U.S. manufacturing. The MEP program consists of centers located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

In the past decade, Purdue MEP has provided on-site assistance to more than 950 manufacturing clients with services such as lean manufacturing assessment and implementation, Six Sigma certification, quality improvement, supply chain optimization, energy efficiency and sustainability, and quality management systems.

Purdue MEP will use the increased funding and resources to reach even more of Indiana's 8,200 manufacturers.

To maximize the award and best serve the competitive needs of small and mid-sized manufacturers in Indiana, Purdue MEP has outlined a five year vision--the Made in Indiana 2020 plan. This strategy builds upon the Center's history of high marks within the MEP national program's performance metrics, and more significantly, further expands the Center's contributions to the Indiana economy, which includes past achievements of over \$1.2 billion of client reported economic impact.

The [Made in Indiana 2020 plan](#) significantly boosts Purdue MEP's manufacturing extension services to small and medium-sized manufacturing firms with the aim of enhancing productivity, accelerating innovation, increasing technical performance, and strengthening competitive positions in the global marketplace. To improve on the Center's past performance, the Made in Indiana 2020 plan calls for an increased presence in critical manufacturing centers across the state; expanded services for small, emerging and rural firms; and a stronger focus on services related to product, customer and market growth. The plan features new engagement and subject matter experts in MEP outreach offices throughout the state, 24 service delivery and economic partnerships, top line growth initiatives, supply chain optimization, and many more competitive business solutions.

For more information about Made in Indiana 2020, contact Dave Snow, MEP Center Director - davesnow@purdue.edu.