



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

Industrial Outreach Service

Who We Are

The MSU Industrial Outreach Service is an outreach unit of the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University. Our primary mission is to assist Mississippi businesses in becoming more competitive in the global economy, with a focus on small- to medium-sized manufacturers. Secondary missions include supporting the development of new industries for the state and fostering faculty and student engagement with business and industry. To accomplish these missions IOS provides technical assistance and management training to businesses and partners with industry organizations and economic development groups.



Our Services

The Industrial Outreach Service is equipped to provide industry with services in the areas of:

- Lean Manufacturing
- Manufacturing and Operational Improvement
- Quality Systems
- Management Planning and Decision Making
- Organizational Development
- Biomass & Biofuels Industry Development
- Strategic Planning & Leadership Development

Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Industrial Outreach Service (IOS) is part of a national network of manufacturing service providers called the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Partial funding to support IOS operations is provided for this program by the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the Department of Commerce. Under this program, over the last five years IOS has conducted approximately 85 projects with 72 companies. Independent surveys conducted by MEP concluded that these projects resulted in a total economic impact to the state and region of more than \$72 million and 355 jobs created or retained.



Conferences & Events

IOS partners with other university departments and with industry, state and national organizations to host educational workshops, technical conferences, and other outreach events targeted at business and industry in the state. Between 2006 and 2009, IOS hosted or helped to organize 20 such events dealing with topics ranging from lean manufacturing and biofuels to industrial tooling, catfish processing, and industrial energy management. More than 2,000 individuals attended these events. IOS also routinely is a sponsor/exhibitor at industry events such as the Mississippi Manufacturers Association and the Mississippi Economic Development Council annual meetings.



Lean Program

In response to consistent calls for assistance from Mississippi industry, IOS has taken a leadership role within the University in developing programs in the area of lean manufacturing (also known as the “Toyota Production System”). In this role, IOS held a successful regional Lean Manufacturing Conference (held in partnership with Nissan), developed a lean certificate program that has trained dozens of engineers and managers from industry, and has conducted in-house projects to help the leaders of several leading Mississippi manufacturers transform their organizations to reduce waste and improve performance.

IOS provides Mississippi manufacturers with Lean and Six Sigma training to help them create a culture of continuous improvement that is team based and self sustaining. IOS offers training and project implementation service in four major areas of interest to the manufacturing community:

In 2008, IOS awarded a total of 44 lean certificates to participants representing 24 organizations.

- *Lean and Six Sigma Leadership Seminar* - One day of classroom training devoted to learning the concepts and terminology of Lean and Six Sigma Systems. At the completion of training, executives are prepared to participate in strategic planning for Lean and Six Sigma deployment.
- *Continuous Improvement Events (Kaizen Events)* - Three-to-five day events that function as the primary team building technique for a cultural transformation of the workforce. Participants focus on intense analysis and application of Lean or Six Sigma concepts in the daily work environment.
- *Lean Certificate Training* - Intense eight day course with the objective of developing participants to be in-house experts in the recognition and elimination of “Waste”, and the improvement of “Flow” in their operations.
- *Six Sigma Basic Training* - Provides data driven problem solving skills for plant floor managers and team leaders. Participants practice basic Six Sigma methods and tools for immediate deployment.

“Lean training has been a good investment for survival in the global marketplace. You will eventually have to change, or go out of business. Not only do you have to compete in the US but also China and other countries in the future” - Lean Certificate Graduate

Biomass & Biofuels

Since its inception, IOS has worked to support the development of industries in Mississippi based on biomass and renewable energy. IOS is an active organizational member of the Mississippi Biomass and Renewable Energy Council (MBREC), and is a perennial supporting organization of the annual Southern Bio-Products and Renewable Energy Conference. IOS has also partnered for the last several years with the MSU Sustainable Energy Research Center to organize and conduct an annual MSU Biofuels Conference highlighting MSU biofuels-related research.

Contact Us

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