About NC State Industry Expansion Solutions

Who is IES?

Industry Expansion Solutions (IES) is the engineering-based, solutions-driven, client-focused extension unit of NC State’s College of Engineering. Our broad portfolio and deep industry expertise help organizations grow, innovate and prosper. Our extensive partnerships with business, industry, education and government generate a unique culture of collaboration that provides access to cutting-edge expertise, research and technology.

In 2019–20, IES-led NCMEP efforts resulted in $694 million economic benefit to the state of North Carolina and created or retained 8229 jobs.

What Expertise Does IES Offer?

IES expertise extends to diverse areas like process optimization; quality management; workplace health and safety; sustainability and energy; and innovation and growth strategies. IES oversee the North Carolina Awards for Excellence (NCAfE) Program, modeled on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria. It also administers the membership-based MNC Network and the Manufactured in North Carolina (MNC) supply chain tool.

NIST MEP

Since 1996, IES has been the designated state agency for the federal National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). The North Carolina MEP center includes IES, the North Carolina Community College System, NCWorks Customized Training, the Economic Development Partnership of NC, the Polymers Center of Excellence, the Manufacturing Solutions Center, East Carolina University, UNC Charlotte; Hangar6, and North Carolina A&T University.

IES Fact Sheet

2019–20 Overview

› Founded in 1955; headquartered at NC State University in Raleigh, NC
› Offers improvement strategies for manufacturing, healthcare, government and service sectors in 100 NC counties
› Expertise in process optimization; quality management; health and safety; sustainability and energy; and innovation and growth strategies
› NIST MEP center for North Carolina
› Additional programs include the Southeastern OSHA Training Institute Education Center, and the Minerals Research Laboratory
› Administers the Manufactured in North Carolina (MNC) supply chain tool and website, MNC Network program and North Carolina Awards for Excellence (NCAfE)
How IES is Funded

Approximately one-third of the IES budget derives from client fees for services. As the designated state MEP center, IES also receives funds through the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The State of North Carolina also matches the MEP funds.

Recent Budget Year

The 2019-20 IES budget totaled approximately $8.65 million, with funds received from various sources:

- Receipts (fee-for-service): $1.49 million
- MEP federal funds: $3 million
- State of NC matching NCMEP funds: $3 million
- Federal grants and contracts: $1.9 million
- Professional learning and state appropriated receipts: $986,870

In the most recent survey to date, client companies responded to NIST MEP surveys and reported $694 million in economic impact and 8,229 jobs created or retained.

Additional Facilities

Southeastern OSHA Training Institute Education Center (SEOTI): In partnership with the University of Tennessee, IES administers SEOTI, which provides the US Department of Labor OSHA Outreach Training Program to states throughout the region.

Minerals Research Laboratory: IES manages the Minerals Research Lab in Asheville, which is equipped with mineral processing equipment and an analytical support facility for mineral characterization.

Featured Offerings

MNC Network: The MNC Network is powered by NCMEP as the organizing and management body of Manufacturing Connections. NCMEP is an active public/private operating alliance of state supported programs working together to enhance the performance of NC manufacturers. The combined resources and collaboration efforts lead to more economic growth and job creation in manufacturing.

Manufactured in North Carolina: The MNC Network is networked by MNC (manufacturednc.com), the leading database that provides access to NC manufacturing companies. MNC is a searchable directory designed to showcase the capabilities and innovations of North Carolina’s manufacturers to business-to-business markets locally, nationally and globally. MNC is becoming the leading source for finding and initially vetting new suppliers in the state of North Carolina.

It provides access to premium services including “concierge” support by a professional who manages search requests to ensure best responses are discovered. Additionally, through MNC, NCMEP representatives can visit and evaluate prospective suppliers on your behalf and provide a report addressing your specific interests.