

Seize the Future While Supply Chains Are in Flux

The pandemic has decimated entire industries, interrupted supply chains and upended traditional business development processes. But this disruption has created opportunity for many manufacturers. By returning to their entrepreneurial roots, they can seize the future of their business through novel diversification. Here are some small, purposeful ways you can shift your business to make yourself sustainable over the long run.

[Make Yourself Sustainable](#)

Where Will Manufacturing Get Highly Skilled Workers for the Digital Revolution?

There are articles every day in the trade magazines describing the new digital programs that will revolutionize manufacturing. They are all about bringing digital technology to the shop floor to increase productivity. According to the experts, everybody should be on the Industry 4.0 bandwagon today, or they will be left in the dust.

[Click to read full story.](#)



How Healthy is Your Organization?

Companies are challenged with continuously reducing cost, increasing flexibility, and decreasing lead times while still providing their customers with high-quality products.

In an effort to help North Dakota's manufacturers, Impact Dakota is expanding its on-site, no-cost assessment of your manufacturing business to identify and discuss opportunities that can help with improved productivity of your resources. The approach to this assessment is based on principles of LEAN manufacturing which focuses on reduction of wastes helping companies achieve higher levels of productivity in their production and operations. As part of this assessment, in a very friendly but purposeful way, the Impact Dakota staff walk the shop floor to observe, evaluate, and discuss your production and supporting operations. Following the on-site visit a brief summary report reflecting observations and outline of recommendations will be provided.

[Have we got a deal for you!](#)

Driving Innovation With Simulation

Simulation platforms are moving the industry away from 'one-size-fits-all' solutions, making way for collaboration, flexibility, and cost reduction in the midst of COVID-19.

In every industry, we've seen manufacturers face the challenge of adapting to delivering more hi-tech products at a greater rate and a lower cost than ever before. The upshot is that 'lean' product innovation requires the next iteration in lean manufacturing processes.

[Click to learn more.](#)

Supply Chain Scouting System

Impact Dakota is partnering with NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and our nationwide network of 50 other MEP Centers across the U.S. and Puerto Rico to help solve supply chain gaps encountered by government entities, critical care service providers, and manufacturers.



[Supply Chain Scouting](#)

NIST Scientists Get Soft on 3D Printing

New method could jump-start creation of tiny medical devices for the body.

Researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have developed a new method of 3D-printing gels and other soft materials. Published in a new paper, it has the potential to create complex structures with nanometer-scale precision. Because many gels are compatible with living cells, the new method could jump-start the production of soft tiny medical devices such as drug delivery systems or flexible electrodes that can be inserted into the human body.

[New Method of 3D Printing](#)

MANUFACTURING *in Lehman's Terms*



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Economic Resiliency Grant Update

As the leaves start to change and we roll into month six of the COVID-19 pandemic, Commerce has been busy working on the Economic Resiliency Grant (ERG) and the ND Smart Restart Technical Skills Training Grant. These grants were made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding provided to North Dakota. For this month's newsletter, I just wanted to provide a brief status overview of these two grant programs.

[Grant Update](#)

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Client Results*

» **\$357** MILLION IN NEW AND RETAINED SALES

» **\$109** MILLION IN COST SAVINGS

» **\$204** MILLION IN NEW INVESTMENTS

» **3,605** JOBS - CREATED OR RETAINED

*Determined by an independent third-party survey.



Combining Lean Enterprise Certification Program and Quick & Easy Kaizen generated **\$153,000** in savings and **243** implemented ideas.



Job Instruction Training enabled **75%** reduction in set-up time and **50%** reduction in deviations from standard procedures.

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