The Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) seeks to make Iowa better by educating its businesses about the latest research-proven methods and best practices of industry. Here are just a few of the ways we plan to do that in the coming month.

**Upcoming Conferences, Trainings, & Workshops**

- **ILC Lean Virtual Roundtables to talk COVID-19**
- **New CIRAS Services**
- **Pandemic Places Lean Coffees Online**

CIRAS has been honored to play roles in many of your COVID-19 stories – our conversations tend to be more directed and far more productive. To focus on this democracy in discussion – a focus on what the participants really want to know. The roundtable for manufacturers meets at 7:30 a.m. each Tuesday. A specific group for food industry companies meets 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The Iowa Lean Consortium’s annual event focusing on continuous improvement during a pandemic is June 10-11. CIRAS has assembled a vast virtual forum for anyone interested in sharing ideas and personal experiences with Lean. It's the same Lean Coffee conversation you're used to, only a lot closer to home. The online version follows the same formula as traditional Lean Coffees.

Last month, as part of the CIRAS response to COVID-19, the Iowa Lean Consortium was forced to cancel all in-person Lean Coffee events through the end of July. Instead, we’ve moved the discussions online to offer a robust virtual forum for anyone interested in sharing ideas and personal experiences with Lean. The roundtable for manufacturers meets at 7:30 a.m. each Tuesday, while a specific group for food industry companies meets 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Many company leaders, worried about their employees, have reworked their workplaces to install social distancing measures and temperature checks. Many have worked on plans to return employees to the office. Some have formed new ventures to help Iowa medical institutions find the personal protective equipment they need. Many have focused on ways to restructure service delivery to help meet the needs of their customers. Many company leaders, worried about their employees, have reworked their workplaces to install social distancing measures and temperature checks. Many have worked on plans to return employees to the office. Some have formed new ventures to help Iowa medical institutions find the personal protective equipment they need. Many have focused on ways to restructure service delivery to help meet the needs of their customers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a body blow to companies throughout the state, with about half of Iowa manufacturers responding to a CIRAS survey saying that they’re now operating at a reduced capacity. April was a disruptive time for Iowa businesses, and the challenges are not over just yet. Iowa manufacturers were hit hard, with about half of manufacturers who responded to a CIRAS survey saying that they’re now operating at a reduced capacity.

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