

Touring Tech – Manufacturers Find Value When They See What ISU Can Do



Nathan Meyer was no stranger to CIRAS, but he wasn't fully aware of all the technical expertise available at Iowa State University until he took a CIRAS-led tour of campus research labs in the fall of 2017

Meyer is director of engineering for Ozonics LLC, a Mason City maker of ozone-generating devices designed to eliminate the scents of hunters. The 10-year-old company now makes more thousands of such devices each year, but its market is always growing and changing. New prototypes are always required.

"One of the things I saw on the lab tour was the ability for a couple of machines there to 3D-print tooling," Meyer said. "That was my keen interest at that point in time... Basically, I saw that there were several capabilities there, and I decided it was time for me to get with CIRAS and see what they could offer me."

[Find out more and join us on a Lab Tour!](#)

Cox Honored for "Achievement in Economic Development"



CIRAS Director Ron Cox was one 15 College of Engineering faculty and staff who received Iowa State University's highest honors during an annual awards ceremony on September 14.

Cox, who started as a CIRAS field agent in 1997 and has served as CIRAS director since 2001, received Iowa State's Award for Achievement in Economic Development in Iowa.

University rules say the award is intended "to recognize faculty and staff members for outstanding ISU-based achievements in advancing the economic development of the state of Iowa."

[Read More!](#)

CIRAS Tech Scouting Helps VT Industries Open New Doors



A quick five years after its journey began, a Holstein, Iowa, door-maker's quest to find new alternatives for one of its products has morphed into a massive new business and a new company-owned recipe for producing fireproof doors.

VT Industries has been making doors and countertops since 1956. The family-owned company used to purchase the fireproof core for its commercial doors from an outside supplier. But VT officials decided in 2013 that it was time to investigate a replacement for the fireproof substance. Company engineers reached out to CIRAS for suggestions.

CIRAS project manager Shankar Srinivasan said VT began with an open mind. Leaders just wanted the new substance, whatever it might be, to meet safety requirements and be easier to handle than the previous mineral-based material.

[Read more!](#)

Fort Dodge Finds Efficiency, Better Service Through Lean

David Fierke still remembers the 30-year public works employee who looked him in the eye at one of the city of Fort Dodge's first Lean events in 2009 and asked what Fierke, the then-relatively new city manager, really thought he was going to teach a veteran about filling potholes.



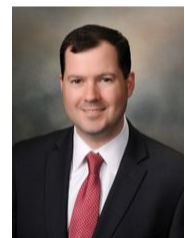
David Fierke
City Manager, Fort Dodge

Probably not much, Fierke acknowledged. But after Fort Dodge employees spent several hours that day looking for waste in the city's pothole-filling process, they nevertheless managed to make it better.

"There actually wasn't a lot we changed about the way he filled the holes," Fierke said. "But there was a lot of time and miscommunication going around between us getting the complaint and sending him to fix it. Plus, there were issues with the way we were storing the patch material... We ended up finding a much more efficient way to do it."

[Find out more!](#)

MEP Best Practices Conference: Lessons Learned



Mike O'Donnell

In September, leaders and subject matter experts from around the MEP National Network™ gathered in Kansas City for our biennial best practices conference. Why is this a big deal? The 300 or so manufacturing experts in attendance brought back lessons learned from working with more than 26,000 U.S. manufacturers in the last year alone. In addition to sharing operational practices that make us successful, this was an opportunity to get a pulse on American manufacturing.

CIRAS Program Manager

So, what's going on in American manufacturing these days? It's all about the people. Rural or urban, east coast, west coast, and everywhere in between, the top point of discussion is the need for more people in manufacturing.

[Read on!](#)

Upcoming Conferences, Trainings, and Workshops

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.



Attracting and Retaining Global Talent

October 16th, 2018 10:00 AM

[Register Today!](#)



CIRAS: Materials, Structures, Non-Destructive Evaluation Lab Tour

October 18th, 2018 9:45 AM

[Register Today!](#)



Data Analytics for Manufacturers

October 23rd, 2018 9:00 AM

[Register Today!](#)



Subcontracting and the Federal Government: Everything You Need to Know

October 25th, 2018 9:30 AM

[Register Today!](#)



Tools for Growth- Tech Scouting, Tech Driven Marketing Intelligence, and Three Technologies to Try

October 25th, 2018 11:30 AM

[Register Today!](#)



Free Lunch & Learn: Winning the Race on Strategy - SWOT 2.0

November 01st, 2018 11:00 AM

[Register Today!](#)



Importance of Using Market Research to Grow Your Business

November 06th, 2018 11:00 AM

[Register Today!](#)



Water and Wastewater Strategies

November 08th, 2018 9:30 AM

[Register Today!](#)



CIRAS: AM and Polymers Lab Tour

November 08th, 2018 9:45 AM

[Register Today!](#)



You are a certified Targeted Small Business (TSB) - What's Next? (Webinar)

November 14th, 2018 9:00 AM

[Register Today!](#)



ISU Lab Resources for Manufacturers

November 15th, 2018 10:00 AM

[Register Today!](#)

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