

Quick Links

- [ILC Annual Conference to be Largest Ever](#)
- [New Technologies in the Digital Lab](#)
- [More changes coming to SAM.gov](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [View the latest CIRAS News](#)



ILC Annual Conference to be Largest Ever

The Iowa Lean Consortium's Annual Conference will be coming to all corners of the state this fall, as CIRAS expands its efforts to make Lean management techniques more accessible in an Iowa facing severe concerns about workforce availability.

The Annual Conference, traditionally the ILC's largest and most extensive yearly opportunity for Lean advocates to network and learn, was shifted online in 2020 because of the pandemic.

This year, as the world restarts itself in the wake of COVID-19, availability of people has become the number one discussion topic among Iowa leaders. How do you support growing businesses while Iowa's population growth continues to be lower than the national average and statewide unemployment already is rapidly approaching pre-pandemic levels? How can you grow if there simply are no more people?

One key answer is Lean, which focuses on developing your existing employees to spot waste and solve problems.

[Learn More](#)



New Technologies in the Digital Lab

This fall will mark the second anniversary of the CIRAS Digital Manufacturing Lab powered by Alliant Energy, and we're still growing.

We opened the lab in September 2019 as to experiment with ways to de-risk technology adoption for Iowa manufacturers. Since then, we have served the Industry 4.0 needs of many businesses in Iowa via in-person events, counseling sessions and projects.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 kept most people out of the lab last year. But we haven't been dormant. Instead, CIRAS used the opportunity to expand our technology partnerships, upgrade our technology, and evolve our services from in-person to virtual engagements.

Longtime technology partner Ramco Innovations donated a \$25,000 SCARA Robot cell to help the lab demonstrate the latest in Robotic automation. We also added a vision system for smart quality inspections, smart sensors for vibration and temperature mapping, safe work solutions for COVID-19, smart tower lights for remote monitoring, wearable sensors for operator safety, quick-change gripper solutions for collaborative robots, and some of the latest 3D printers.

[Learn More](#)



More changes coming to SAM.gov

The saying goes, "The only constant in life is change." If you have been working in the federal contract market during the past couple of years, there seems to be no truer statement. The long-awaited, much-anticipated integration of SAM.gov and beta.SAM.gov occurred on May 24.

As of May 24, legacy SAM.gov, as you know it, was retired. Its registration, EXCLUDED parties listing, and other functionalities were moved to beta.SAM.gov. But the "beta" also went away, and it is now called **SAM.gov**. This is an entirely new, consolidated system. Also new to users will be the introduction of the **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**. This eventually will take the place of your company DUNS...

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Conferences, Trainings & 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. [View full event list.](#)

- [Capabilities Statement Webinar](#)
July 7th 11:00 AM
- [Buy American and Trade Agreements Act Compliance for Federal Procurement](#)
July 13th 9:00 AM
- [ILC Virtual Lean Coffee](#)
July 16th 9:00 AM
- [ILC Training Within Industry: Job Methods Webinar](#)
July 20th 11:00 AM
- [Iowa's TSB Program, plus an introduction to the Dept of Admin Services](#)
July 21st 10:00 AM
- [Business with the US Coast Guard- Ways to Build Your Capabilities Statement](#)
July 21st 12:00 PM
- [Application of Industrial robotics - Part 1- Fanuc robots](#)
July 22nd 9:00 AM
- [Automating Repetitive Processes](#)
July 27th 10:00 AM
- [Industry 4.0 - Applying the 80 / 20 Principle for Business](#)
July 29th 11:30 AM
- [CIRAS Service Showcase Series - Nondestructive Evaluation](#)
July 22nd 11:30 AM
- [Identifying State and Local Government Markets](#)
August 3rd 12:00 PM
- [ISU Supplier Orientation](#)
August 4th 10:00 AM
- [Application of Industrial robotics - Part 2- Fanuc robots](#)
August 10th 9:00 AM

Podcast



The ILC Radio Network has a new name and a great new mission. Hosted by CIRAS Account Manager, Steve Wilson, [Industry Iowa](#) is a CIRAS podcast to help Iowa businesses and communities prosper and grow. Check out the latest episode: [Leaning Into Your ERP System](#) with CIRAS Project Manager, Troy Crowe.

Staff Updates



Kira Kistner joined the CIRAS team in June after 20 years experience with chemical manufacturing companies. Her new role at CIRAS will be as external services project manager.



Mayra Ramirez joined the CIRAS team after five years of working for Engineering Career Services at ISU and as a Program Manager for Science Bound. In her new role, Mayra will lead the rollout of a new internship program focused on improving the diversity pipeline in manufacturing.

Retirements

Paul Dunnwald has retired after 8 years with Iowa State University as the CIRAS Account Manager serving Southwest Iowa.

Rudy Pruszko has retired after serving Iowa companies for 22 years at CIRAS.

Glenn Volkman has retired after 8 years with Iowa State University as the CIRAS Account Manager serving Southeast Iowa.

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