



The North Dakota Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) hosted five Lean 101 workshops in Dickinson and Fargo, ND, in the fall of 2000. Lean Manufacturing is a systematic approach to identify and eliminate waste through continuous improvement techniques. Here, Fargo manufacturers participate in a variety of simulations held throughout the one-day workshops.

ND Manufacturing Extension Partnership hits the ground running with Lean 101

The Department of Economic Development & Finance (ED&F) conducted nearly 200 on-site interviews with manufacturers across the state as a basis for establishing a Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center in North Dakota. The MEP is a public/private partnership between federal and state organizations to [address the needs of small- and medium-sized manufacturers](#).

At the system's heart is a network of regional manufacturing extension centers. These centers provide direct services to manufacturers, helping them address their most critical needs. During the interviews, many manufacturers indicated implementing Lean Manufacturing principles as a high priority.

In direct response, the North Dakota MEP center hosted three Lean Manufacturing workshops in late October. Lean Manufacturing is a systematic approach to identify and eliminate waste through continuous improvement techniques. [Benefits such as significant improvements in productivity and quality](#), increased space utilization, and enhanced company flexibility, teamwork and communications are realized by virtually every company that participates in a Lean workshop.



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