



West Virginia EDA University Center

West Virginia EDA University Center

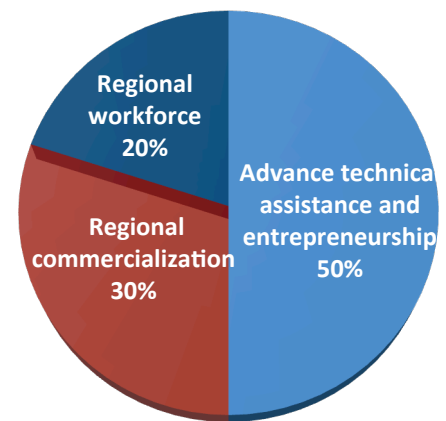
Marshall University and Concord University's West Virginia EDA University Center provides resources and services to implement regional strategies that support job creation, the development of high-skilled regional talent pools, and business expansion in the region's innovation clusters.

Activities

The Center provides direct technical and business assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the state in areas of need, including feasibility studies, market analysis, business planning, commercialization support, prototype design/development, and manufacturing/quality control program development. For example, university researchers are given advice on marketing and inventors are given prototyping advice. The Center also provides business skills training and assistance to help new and existing businesses maximize their revenue potential and incorporate management, quality control, and lean manufacturing practices.

Leveraging

The Center leverages extensively the formal relationship of Marshall University Research Corporation, Concord University Research & Development Corporation, and the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing. Through this trio of service options the Center is able to provide a wide range of complementary services to their clients. In addition, Marshall University



and Concord University have rich pools of academic scholars and students with the capacity to support R&D projects in numerous disciplines relevant to key economic industries, such as biomedical sciences, engineering, and recreation/tourism education. The Robert C. Byrd Institute has centers in

University

Marshall University
Concord University

Center Director

Tom Minnich

Center Location

Outreach Unit

Center since 2011

Center Activities

- Business counseling
- Feasibility studies
- Market analysis
- New product development

Clients

- Small businesses
- Entrepreneurs

Contact Information

tminnich@rcbi.org

Huntington, Charleston, Bridgeport, and Rocket Center that currently serve technical government and commercial manufacturers through advanced equipment and staff expertise.

Success

Innovate West Virginia: Leveraging existing resources for a quick start-up

In partnership with the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) at Marshall, the Center hosts an application-based grant program to provide technical assistance in the form of services at specific funding levels. The grants are awarded competitively for defined projects. The services offered include computer-aided design, rapid prototyping, reverse engineering and fabrication, and other computer-controlled machining

services. Specifically, the program is designed to help small manufacturers/inventors utilize the first-class facilities at RCBI to turn their good idea into a working model. Although still in the first round of awards, five companies have made use of the Center and its partner's services and have attributed the creation of six jobs to work expanding their product lines.

The Center leveraged existing resources to enable quick service to their service area. The Center was able to market Innovate West Virginia to many companies that may not have heard about it.