



UW-Stout EDA University Center

The University of Wisconsin-Stout EDA University Center leverages innovation as a means to advance business and workforce development. The Center focuses its efforts primarily in Wisconsin's rural and distressed communities. The Center's mission is to bolster the profitable growth efforts of entrepreneurs and businesses through hands-on product development and process improvement, and to promote innovative solutions to business challenges through efficient and effective knowledge transfer.

The UW-Stout EDA University Center's support and services include:

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

The Center assists innovators, entrepreneurs and company intrapreneurs with challenges related to product development, prototyping, design for manufacturing, manufacturing feasibility and related activities. These services are bolstered by the efforts of UW-Stout faculty, staff and students that the Center efficiently deploys in metrics-driven projects leveraging the Discovery Center's digital fabrication laboratory.

EXECUTIVE PEER ROUNDTABLES

The Center facilitates a collection of C-level peer roundtable groups, strategically selected by regional geography, industry cluster and company profile. These roundtables self select topics for Center facilitated discussion and resultant action. Through these roundtables the Center connects remote, rural companies with like-minded leaders to initiate actions that solve challenges critical to the long-term viability of their businesses and communities. These roundtables also inform Center staff on how businesses address current key strategic issues. Topics have included addressing employee mental health issues, mentoring emerging leaders, innovative health care initiatives, automation and robotics, industry 4.0, and partnerships with local K12 school districts.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Center serves client companies throughout Wisconsin with a broad array of services linked to UW-Stout's polytechnic program expertise, as well as the Center's expertise in strategic organizational development and management. Center staff engages in direct technical assistance with these primarily rural companies to optimize team performance, and improve financial performance and sustainability of these organizations, which are critical to rural Wisconsin's economic vitality.

APPLIED RESEARCH

The Center translates rural business and industry challenges into research questions, engaging UW-Stout faculty, staff and students in applied research activities and capstone experiences that provide targeted solutions.

UNIVERSITY

University of Wisconsin-Stout

CENTER STAFF

Randall Hulke

Dr. Renee Surdick

CENTER LOCATION

Menomonie, Wisconsin

CENTER ACTIVITIES

- Entrepreneurship Support
- Rural Business Development
- Technology Transfer
- Technical Assistance
- Applied Research

CLIENTS

- Entrepreneurs and innovators
- Small businesses and early stage companies
- Students and faculty
- Communities
- Economic Development Organizations

CONTACT INFO

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WEBSITE

<https://www.uwstout.edu/directory/economic-development-administration-university-center>

DISCOVERYCENTER

Inspiring Innovation

The UW-Stout EDA University Center (EDA-UC) is integrated within the Discovery Center, UW-Stout's primary outreach, engagement and technology transfer entity. Funding for the EDA-UC is provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, with campus support through UW-Stout and the Discovery Center.