

South Dakota

South Dakota Economic Development Administration University Center

SDSU University Center

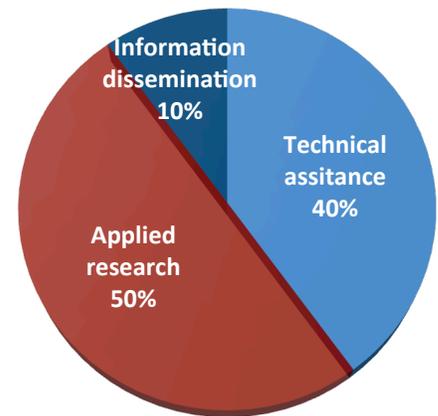
The goal of the South Dakota State University EDA University Center is to build sustainable and economically robust supply chain networks linking agriculture, manufacturing, and construction that will retain and grow existing agribusinesses, enable the startup and the expansion of manufacturing and construction firms, and increase private venture capital investments in research innovations within the state. The Center strives to produce new higher-skill workplace opportunities for their young educated workers, economically sustainable higher-wage green jobs for the South Dakota economy, and investment opportunities for private venture capitalists.

Activities

The Center provides technical assistance, primarily for the biotechnology and energy industry sectors, to identify ways to increase productivity, to embrace Lean-to-Green manufacturing applications and green construction practices to conserve natural resources, and to leverage existing assets in biofuels,

wind, and solar energy. This assistance focuses on quality management consulting, decision-making and risk assessment, and process assessments. In addition, the Center holds workshops that provide training on management techniques.

The Center also provides assistance to existing businesses for faculty/student teams to perform productivity, energy audit, and supply chain systems



analysis for South Dakota manufacturers and construction companies. In addition, the Center places interns in companies to assist with production quality projects. In many cases, these interns are hired full time. The Center also provides technical assistance to an Indian tribe

University

South Dakota State University

Center Director

Teresa Hall

Center Location

Engineering Technology & Management

Center since 2010

Center Activities

- Risk assessment
- Training
- Applied research grants

Clients

- Existing businesses
- Students
- Researchers

Assessment Techniques

- Feedback from regional workshops
- Client interviews
- Case studies
- Reports

Contact Information

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related to constructing sustainably-built, affordable housing on state reservations.

Finally, the Center directly supports scientific research to promote the transition of innovations from biomaterials research into viable products made in South Dakota. For example, the Center supports research on sunflower cellulosic materials to enable engineering solutions to prevent the plant fires that tend to occur due to the combustibility of the dust produced from the sunflower harvest and to explore the potential of using sunflowers for biofuels.

Leveraging

The Center leverages extensively the network it has built over the years with manufacturing, construction, and agriculture-business sectors. This network provided access, generated requests, and opened doors to provide assistance. In addition, the Center leverages faculty expertise both for direct client consulting and to lead the student teams. The Center also leverages the research capacity of university faculty in funding research projects that strive to solve important problems for its target industries.

Success

Setting the incentives right for faculty and students allows the Center to effectively and quickly serve clients.

One difficulty that may arise when working with university faculty is the multiple pulls on their time during the school year. South Dakota State University's University Center has met this challenge by nurturing strong relationships with faculty. In exchange for summer support through the SDSU University Center, faculty make it a priority during the school year to work on Center projects. Clients appreciate the quick turn around by experts. Faculty, who are only paid by the school for 9 months a year, are more willing to help if they are compensated for that work in the summer when they are not paid by their regular contract.

Through the creative use of rewards for faculty and students' time, SDSU University Center is able to meet the needs of its clients in a timely fashion.

"The project team was of great benefit to a productivity project we needed in our manufacturing facility. The team was dedicated to the reduction of waste and stayed with the project through completion. Changes that were implemented are still in place today and working well."

--Center Client