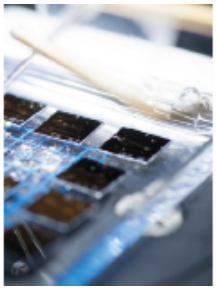
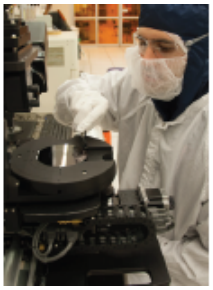
MEP National Network™

GEORGIA

GEORGIA MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (GAMEP)

The Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP) is a program of Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute and is a member of the National MEP network supported by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The GaMEP has been serving Georgia manufacturers since 1960. The Center offers a solution based approach through coaching and education designed to increase top line growth and reduce bottom line cost. GAMEP has ten regions across the state of Georgia. Each region has a dedicated regional manager that specializes in project management and implementation, as well as resources to serve the manufacturing industry. They are ready to meet with you, at your convenience, to understand your needs, and recommend a customized solution that best fits your goals and objectives.

The GaMEP has established partnerships within the economic development, government, industry, and private sectors that have complementary missions. These relationships help ensure that all applicable state and private support services are easily accessed to help improve and grow your organization.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2019

$632.6 Million
Total Increased/Retained Sales

1,381
Total Increased/Retained Jobs

$112 Million
New Client Investments

$128.3 Million
Cost Savings

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GaMEP
GEORGIA MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Georgia Tech

MEP National Network™

GEORGIA SUCCESS STORY

WEIGHT LOSS PRODUCT MANUFACTURER GAINS A HEALTHIER APPROACH TO PROBLEM SOLVING

ABOUT NUTRITIONAL RESOURCES. Twenty-five years ago, Jim Mathews owned weight loss clinics and was buying product from his suppliers. Realizing he could make high quality products himself, he began producing the goods out of his house and today owns Nutritional Resources, a 100,000-square-foot manufacturing and distribution facility in Augusta, GA that provides both company branded and private-label weight loss products to doctors and clinics worldwide.

THE CHALLENGE. Jim Flynn, COO of Nutritional Resources, was looking to focus on two key areas for 2019-– reducing energy spend and creating a culture that supported problem solving and empowering all team members. Up until this point, the company had put processes in place around communication to make improvements in these areas, but Flynn quickly realized they needed a more formal process that would bridge the gap between the support teams, leadership, and the shop floor.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Flynn called Elliot Price, Augusta region manager for the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP), a NIST MEP affiliate, at Georgia Tech. Price knew that Nutritional Resources would be an ideal candidate for the no-cost energy and sustainability assessment, provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) and conducted by GaMEP. The GaMEP team, including students and co-ops, came to the plant to identify areas of excess energy spend and make recommendations for cost-savings improvements. Flynn said, "The team made different recommendations and thus far we've implemented two of the suggestions, resulting in a cost savings of more than $35,000 per year."

Around the same time the team started working with Mike Stonecipher, project manager at GaMEP, on ways to improve their communication. Stonecipher discovered the team had some of the fundamentals, including communication boards, but the company had too many metrics, not enough structure around these interactions, and needed to improve their accountability. Stonecipher began teaching Flynn and the rest of the team about Managing for Daily Improvement (MDI), a structured management walk-through that occurs every morning, at the same time. During this time [8:00 a.m. at Nutritional Resources], the management team walks to each critical area of the plant, talks with the production team, and focuses on problem solving first thing in the morning. Flynn continued, "We have gone from chaotic to a structured, organized process and the MDI walk-throughs have not only opened up our lines of communication but have been a real morale booster for everyone at the organization. The team is communicating more effectively and in doing so, we are now able to get them the resources to support their needs and fix the issues."

"We are looking forward to continuing to bring GaMEP back into our plant to review where we are and provide us with tips to keep improving."

-Jim Flynn, Chief Operating Officer

RESULTS

- Improved production by 10% through implementing 6S into their workspace.
- Installed room monitoring sensors to their lighting, saving an average of $20,000 a year.
- Began implementing electronic MDI boards to report out real-time information
- Added smart thermostats to their air conditioning units, saving $15,000 a year.
- 100% of the operators on seven production lines are now working on same company-wide metrics.

GaMEP GEORGIA MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

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