



MISSISSIPPI MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (MMA-MEP)

MMA-MEP is a non-profit division of MMA that provides services to help Mississippi manufacturers be globally competitive. MMA-MEP is one of 51 state Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers funded by the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP). With our manufacturing experts and network of industry resources, we help manufacturers implement change that makes the significant difference between surviving and thriving. MMA-MEP is a catalyst for strengthening American manufacturing and accelerating its ongoing transformation into a more efficient and powerful engine of innovation driving economic growth and job creation. Our Community College and University based MMA-MEP Mississippi Centers provide small and medium-sized manufacturers the tools to innovate, create and retain jobs, increase profits, and save time and money. MMA-MEP provides a wide array of services to Mississippi manufacturers in the key areas of:

- Growth services
- Lean optimization
- Polymer services
- Quality systems
- Industrial engineering solutions
- Workforce solutions
- Strategic solutions
- Pollution prevention (P2) and sustainability solutions

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2024



\$56.1 Million

Total Increased/Retained Sales



998

Total Increased/Retained Jobs



\$56.3 Million

New Client Investments



\$27.1 Million

Cost Savings

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Mississippi Manufacturers Association



STRENGTHENING SKILLS: JOURNEY WITH RELIABLE MANUFACTURING TRAINING

ABOUT HOOD INDUSTRIES, INC.. Hood Industries, Inc., founded in 1986, is a diversified company in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, specializing in wood manufacturing and distribution across the U.S. The company operates two plywood and four lumber manufacturing plants, along with 15 distribution centers in 13 states. Over the years, Hood Industries has grown through strategic acquisitions, including the purchase of the McEwen and McQuesten Companies. These additions have bolstered its distribution network and driven ongoing growth.

THE CHALLENGE. Hood Industries sought to improve several aspects of their daily plant operations including production efficiency and equipment reliability. They recognized the need to prevent production delays, reduce maintenance costs, and bridge skill gaps among workers. To achieve these goals, Hood Industries sought "Reliable Manufacturing" training in an effort to empower employees to maintain equipment more effectively, improve production flow, and enhance safety.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Pearl River Community College (PRCC), part of the MMA-MEP and the MEP National Network™, was able to help coordinate Hood's participation in an industry-led Essential Reliable Manufacturing Skills Boot Camp which was designed to introduce participants to Reliable Manufacturing and to provide practical techniques that can be applied on the job. Participants learned the key elements of Reliable Manufacturing by completing hands-on activities that focused on developing essential skills needed to implement these techniques. These activities helped participants recognize what "good" performance looks like in practice. By the end of the program, these employees were equipped to return to the plant to assess and address key challenges related to Reliable Manufacturing performance.

"Following this training, Hood Industries reported the retention of 24 jobs and \$75,000 in cost savings which are great indicators of this program's success. Retaining jobs demonstrates that the training positively impacted employee stability and ensured that skilled employees can remain with the company. Additionally, the cost savings prove that the investment in training not only improved safety but also produced measurable financial benefits. "

-Bill Dyer, People Operations Manager



RESULTS



24 created or retained jobs



\$75,000 in cost savings

