



NEW JERSEY MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PROGRAM (NJMEP)

New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, Inc. (NJMEP) is a not-for-profit company that works with New Jersey's small to mid-sized manufacturers to help them become more efficient, profitable and globally competitive. NJMEP's cost saving strategies and growth initiatives such as lean manufacturing and business process improvements have helped hundreds of companies save an average of 20% of the time, effort, or costs associated with their business and manufacturing processes.

NJMEP's training processes and methodologies are designed to specifically meet the needs of manufacturers and provides companies with training and tools to continuously improve productivity, grow, and compete both locally and globally. Backed by National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP), NJMEP has access to a vast number of both public and private resources and certified trainers with 20+ years of experience in business and industry. NJMEP staff experts play an important role in assessing needs and determining a course of action. Located throughout the state, the experts have worked their entire career in manufacturing, and several have owned their own businesses. Their job is to identify opportunities to improve business, or to assist you in implementing solutions you've already identified.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2024



\$351.4 Million

Total Increased/Retained Sales



3,945

Total Increased/Retained Jobs



\$91.6 Million

New Client Investments



\$34 Million

Cost Savings

CONTACT US



2 Ridgedale Avenue
Suite 305
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927-1123



(973) 998-9801



www.njmep.org



info@njmep.org



NJMEP

BLENDING TRADITION WITH MODERN EXPERTISE: GEMCO'S CERTIFICATION JOURNEY

ABOUT GENERAL MACHINE COMPANY OF NJ. GEMCO, short for General Equipment Manufacturing Company, is the embodiment of family legacy and innovation. Founded in 1916 by John Muench Sr.—an inventor who revolutionized blending and drying equipment with the creation of the double cone blender and double cone vacuum dryer—GEMCO's history is one of pioneering breakthroughs. Today, the company remains family-owned, with Casey Muench Bickhardt at the helm as CEO. Headquartered in Middlesex, New Jersey, GEMCO now serves nearly 40 different industries, from pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals to powdered metals, chemicals, cosmetics, and beyond. This commitment to innovation and adaptability has solidified GEMCO as a trusted leader in blending and drying technology.

THE CHALLENGE. GEMCO faced a pressing challenge: meeting the growing demands of its clients while maintaining its reputation for excellence. The PMP® (Project Management Professional) certification emerged as a pivotal requirement, not just as a credential but as a stepping-stone to growth. For GEMCO, achieving this certification was key to maintaining competitiveness and unlocking opportunities across their diverse client base. Recognizing the importance of this investment, CEO Casey Bickhardt set out to find a resource capable of delivering not just training, but a tailored approach that would empower her team to thrive in a demanding industry.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. To tackle the challenge head-on, GEMCO partnered with NJMEP, part of the MEP National Network™ and a trusted resource for manufacturers navigating complex certification processes. NJMEP provided the support and expertise GEMCO needed to streamline the path to PMP® certification, offering their PMP® Certification Exam Prep Course which totaled 48 hours of training over 6 days. The comprehensive training covered essential project management principles, from realistic planning and progress tracking to effectively managing stakeholder expectations and ensuring timely completion of deliverables. "We're not reinventing a wheel, we're leveraging resources from NJMEP who've already done it before," said Bickhardt. "Your instructors were super valuable to us in obtaining the certifications that our clients were asking for." NJMEP's expert instructors broke down complex concepts into actionable strategies, empowering GEMCO to not only secure the certification on their own terms but also maximize its value within their client base. This collaborative approach allowed GEMCO to meet industry demands while continuing to focus on delivering the exceptional service their clients had come to expect.

"If we didn't have the customization of the training that NJMEP provides with the flexibility of NJMEP's instructors and the knowledge and industry intelligence of their instructors, GEMCO wouldn't be as advanced and competitive."

-Casey Muench Bickhardt, CEO



RESULTS



4 jobs created or retained



\$1,000,000 in new or retained sales



\$1,000,000 in cost savings



\$250,000 in new investment



NJMEP