



University of Northern Iowa™
Business & Community Services



UNI EDA University Center

The University of Northern Iowa EDA University Center enhances local economic development business retention, expansion and innovation programming; and directly supports and sparks entrepreneurship, innovation and R&D within plateaued firms, family businesses and supply chains.



Engaging...

- ◆ Economic Development Professionals
- ◆ University & Community College Programs and Resource Providers
- ◆ Businesses, Intrapreneurs and Entrepreneurs

What We Do:

Enhance Business, Retention & Expansion Efforts:

The UNI-UC Team works with economic development professionals to help them ask the right questions in their BRE visits to explore the innovation capacity of their critical businesses.

The UC Team conducts training for economic developers on Industry 4.0 so they can recognize and talk to businesses about I4.0 technologies that can help them compete in today's environment.

During COVID, the UC Team pivoted to conduct multiple business surveys to support state and local business assistance programs.

Bring University Programs and Other Service Providers to the Table to Support Businesses:

The UNI-UC Team helps respond to business needs by connecting university and community college programs with businesses.

The University of Northern Iowa has a renowned Foundry 4.0 Center, and a strong Applied Engineering & Technical Management Department where students and staff engage with area industries in special projects and R&D.

Together with community colleges, the state economic development department, and others, the UC Team plays a leadership role in Iowa's Industry 4.0 Consortium, building awareness among state leaders about Industry 4.0 technologies as enabling business innovation.

Provide Direct Training to Businesses in Innovation Processes:

The UNI-UC Team hosts workshops and webinars in Innovation, coordinates the UNI Innovators Program, and convenes a monthly C-Level peer group to discuss market opportunities and innovative concepts. The team provides one-on-one consulting with businesses in innovation, research & development, and product commercialization.

As part of the Industry 4.0 Consortium, the Team prepares informational technology-specific handouts for businesses to be used and distributed through ED partners.

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