Existing Industry Program

2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2020 MANUFACTURERS’ LABOR MARKET SURVEY

In collaboration with the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, the Existing Industry Program issued its second annual labor survey to create a snapshot of entry-level and average wages for the most common manufacturing positions, benefits, training needs and more. Over 125 companies across 15 counties in the Charlotte region participated. The survey also examined the tolls that COVID-19 took on business during 2020.

The manufacturers surveyed supply key industries in the Charlotte Region. The Automotive industry was the most commonly served industry, followed by Health Care/Medical, Energy, Aerospace and Defense are increasingly important industries that Charlotte Region companies supply.

2021 INITIATIVES

During 2020, economic development partners at the local, regional, and state levels came together to lay the foundation for Stream 2021, an “in your backyard” supply chain tradeshow for manufacturers of the Charlotte region. This initiative, scheduled for February 2021, will focus on helping manufacturers to identify suppliers and customers in near proximity, allowing for reductions in shipping and logistics costs, better access to quality control and more. https://stream2021.pathable.co/

MONTHLY RESOURCE BLASTS

The Existing Industry Program continued to release resource blasts which help businesses to be more aware of resources in the community which can benefit their operations. Some of the topics from 2020 included:

• Zero Waste & Recycling Resources
• Women in Manufacturing
• Employer Healthcare Resources
• Exporting Resources
• UNC Charlotte Senior Design Program
• Veteran & Re-Entry Workforce Resources
• Award Programs: Safety, Air Quality, Water

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In early 2020, the Existing Industry Program worked with Saertex multiCom to support an expansion of a new 100,000+ square foot facility.

During 2020, the Existing Industry Program visited a total of 58 companies, excluding repeat visits to provide industry assistance upon request. These on-site visits are critical to establishing strong relationships and to understanding where resources to support the growth of businesses can be applied. Due to COVID-19, the number to average annual visits was drastically reduced and many took place virtually.

The Existing Industry Program focuses on manufacturing; due to this, the geographic variance of visits is related to the location of these industries.

Launched in 2018, Mecklenburg County’s Existing Industry Program is focused on establishing and maintaining close relationships with key employers in the community. The purpose is to become the “first phone call” when employers are considering growth and expansion and to provide ongoing support for existing industries in Mecklenburg County. Although the primary engagement of the Existing Industry Program currently focuses on manufacturing, the Program looks to encompass distribution, fintech and corporate headquarters located in Mecklenburg County in the coming years.