

Learning Factory at UPRM: Ten Years of Impact

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abstract

In 1994, NSF sponsored the Manufacturing Engineering Education Partnership (MEEP) a coalition of three institutions (University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez, Penn State University and the University of Washington) and Sandia National Laboratories and industry) to develop an undergraduate product realization/manufacturing engineering option the partners called the Learning Factory, an outcomes-based undergraduate curriculum integrated to laboratory facilities and industry partnership. The Learning Factory was successfully institutionalized at the three partner institutions by 1997. The UPRM Faculty team was composed of Dr. José L. Zayas-Castro (now IE Department Chair at University of South Florida; Dr. Jorge I. Vélez-Arocho, now Chancellor of University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Dr. Agustín Rullán, Professor of Industrial Engineering, UPRM; Dr. Miguel Torres, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, UPRM; and Lueny Morell, now Director of University Relations for Latin America for HPLabs, Hewlett Packard Company). This document summarizes the impact the program has had at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez (UPRM), its faculty, students and partners. But its impact has gone far beyond the borders of Mayagüez and of Puerto Rico, examples of which are detailed.