



# Industries of the Future-West Virginia

## Co-Funded By:

West Virginia Development  
Office

## Project Partners:

West Virginia University  
West Virginia Development  
Office  
West Virginia Glass Industry

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## Glass Industry Assistance Program

### Project Summary:

The West Virginia Development Office has contracted the College of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at West Virginia University to deliver a Glass Industry Assistance Program. This activity uses students to provide on-site technical assistance to West Virginia's hand glass industry. The Society for Glass Science and Practices, an industry trade group of the hand glass industry, is used to help disseminate project information industry wide. The principal investigator for this activity has served as a technical advisor to the Society.

Two levels of technical assistance are provided. First, senior level engineering students are assigned industry projects. The projects are identified by plant management. These semester-long projects become part of a senior design initiative within Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Projects typically involve the analysis of a particular piece of equipment or process, and the design of improvements to increase efficiency and/or productivity. Students present both oral and written versions of their work,

including economic justification for their recommendations. Additionally, graduate students work with the hand glass industry on research initiatives that become the basis for thesis or dissertation topics. These problems are typically more difficult and more general in nature than the undergraduate projects.

The undergraduate and graduate projects provide both real world training for engineering students and no-cost technical assistance to industry. All projects undertaken will be consistent with the priorities identified in the Industry of the Future – West Virginia (IOF—WV) program.

Through the U.S. Department of Energy's Industrial Technologies Program, support is provided to the Glass Manufacturer's Industry Council. The Glass Industry Assistance Program works closely in assuring that the services and support of GMIC are available to hand glass society members. Our program also helps the industry participate in glass industry solicitations that are sponsored through the DOE's Office of Industrial Programs.