

The Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Comercio (DDEC) NIST Policy Academy Advisor

Location: Puerto Rico

Status of Country: Distressed

Project Timeframe: February 2018 to October 2018

Type of Assistance: Technical Assistance



Source: Wikipedia

In January 2019, the Georgia Tech Economic Development Administration University Center (EDA UC) was asked by the Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DDEC) to serve as an advisor to a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Policy Academy. The purpose of the academy is to work with the state or territory to attract innovation and technology related manufacturing. The academy's trainings provide guidance on partnerships and policies which will continue to advance their economic development strategies.

The academy members requested an overview of the EDA UC experience in Puerto Rico. The Georgia Tech EDA UC team provided input on a group of topics including:

- Levels of development of key clusters (aerospace, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, food processing, etc.)
- Collaboration between universities and industry on

a group of topics (professional education, access to talent, research engagements, etc.)

- Existing programs which could enhance the clusters such as PRIMEX (the manufacturing extension program for Puerto Rico), the Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC), Export and Trade, and the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust.

Georgia Tech's EDA UC's input was combined with others to recommend a go/ no go decision for a manufacturing academy on the island.

Ultimately, a go decision was decided and in August 2018, Puerto Rico was announced as one of the 4 states selected for a manufacturing policy academy.



Source: Wikipedia