

Central-Eastern Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico's central-eastern region, which encompasses 8 counties, is experiencing a stagnant economy. In the last 25 years, Puerto Rico has experienced only 2.2 percent of real job growth. As a Second Generation WIRED region, the Puerto Rico Central-Eastern region plans to transform their regional economy and establish Puerto Rico as the premier site for high tech innovation and economic opportunity.

In Puerto Rico, manufacturing has experienced more than 27,000 job losses between October 1996 and September 2002. More than 8,000 of these jobs were lost in the central-eastern region. Advanced manufacturing, however, has shown promise. The government of Puerto Rico identified the industry as having strong potential for job growth. The Central-Eastern Technological Initiative known by its Spanish acronym, INTECO, plans to promote high technology manufacturing in the curriculum at various area universities, creating a technologically-savvy culture among young workers and a talent pool for the industry.

The Puerto Rico Central-Eastern region, led by INTECO, a non-profit organization created by law to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the region, has established the following four key objectives to spur job growth, attract high tech companies and foster business expansion:

1. Promote a technically fit workforce and foster the continuous improvement of existing industries by establishing a proactive Global Workforce & Competitiveness Center in coordination with the workforce system.
2. Strengthen the educational pipeline in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to develop a technologically literate workforce and a sufficient flow of qualified students into high-tech industries.
3. Stimulate new venture creation by promoting research and development (R&D) partnerships among federal and local governments, laboratories, industry and academic institutions.
4. Strengthen the innovation cycle by providing hard and soft infrastructure services that support high-tech companies in a global market.

Regional partners are made up of representatives from a variety of economic sectors, including industry partners AIREKO, AMGEN, Centennial and Microsoft Caribbean, education entities such as the University of Puerto Rico in Cayey and Humacao, the University System Ana G. Mendez and the Metropolitan University, and government partners, including the eight mayors offices and several state government agencies such as the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Corporation.



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