

4/6/92

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER

Title: Furniture Manufacturing and Management Center

Objectives and Goals:

- a. To conduct research in a multi-disciplinary fashion to address research prerogatives in furniture manufacturing.
- b. Demonstrate the use of pooled funds to stimulate mutually profitable industry/University research and development.
- c. To provide a focal point for recruiting outstanding students who wish to pursue careers in the furniture industry.
- d. To perform industrial extension and technology transfer activities in support of the furniture industry.

The Furniture Manufacturing and Management program at NCSU is the only one of its kind in the United States. The program has maintained a powerful industrial alliance that has existed since 1947, attracting students on an international basis. The Center will provide a strong mechanism for attracting, developing and encouraging faculty to work together in carrying out a program of research and teaching in the area of furniture manufacturing.

Relationships:

The Center provides an excellent vehicle for communicating with the furniture industry. Since 1948 the Furniture Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, has raised monies from the furniture industry to support the Furniture Manufacturing and Management program in the NCSU Department of Industrial Engineering. The American Furniture Manufacturers Association, located in High Point, NC, is the single largest contributor to the Furniture Foundation and conducts the Foundation's annual solicitation. While the Center focuses on research and extension, an important component of the relationship is the educational program within the Department of Industrial Engineering. The Bachelors of Science in Industrial Engineering -- Furniture Manufacturing Option provides students an opportunity to study products, processes, and

materials used in manufacturing furniture. Graduate students working in Center sponsored research activities will gain in-depth knowledge of problem-solving for issues vitally important to the furniture industry.

The Director and Advisory Committee:

The Center is housed in the Department of Industrial Engineering in the College of Engineering. The Director reports to the Dean of Engineering and is a member of the faculty of the Department of Industrial Engineering. The Board of Directors of the Furniture Foundation along with the Center Director, the Head of Industrial Engineering, and the Dean of Engineering make up the Center Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee advises the Center Director on:

- a. Selection of the research projects.
- b. Budgeting and administration of the Center.
- c. Interaction with Center participants.
- d. Promotion of scientific and instructional affairs of the Center.
- e. Modifications to Center Bylaws.