Fleming College

Continuing Education and Workforce Development

MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

2014 PROGRAM RESULTS

Results Overview

- 100% of participants completed a Continuous Improvement project.
- The average savings achieved per project was in excess of $13,000.
- The median savings achieved were approximately $3,300.
- Thirteen projects were completed across a range of Continuous Improvement and Lean categories. Some projects achieved multiple improvements, both measurable and qualitative.

Improvement Category	Number of Projects
Cycle Time Improvement	3
Downtime Reduction	3
Reduce Wasted Time	3
Waste Reduction	2
Standardize Procedures	2
Reduce Wasted Motion	2
Safety Improvement	1

Broad Range of Industries and Automation Levels

Projects were completed on manufacturing lines that were fully automated, partially automated and manual, across a wide range of industries. Participating companies included manufacturers of structural panels, transformers, coatings, consumer products and metal fittings.

Certificate Projects

Following the Plan-Do-Check-Act model, participants were asked to identify a project with potential cost savings and/or a significant reduction in one of the Lean wastes, and write a problem and goal statement. They were asked to collect data to quantify the total savings opportunity and to use quantitative and root cause analysis tools to drill down to the root of the problem. Various solutions were generated and validated through testing and measurement. Solutions were fully implemented by adapting existing control methods to ensure savings and improvements were sustained over time.

Success Stories

- The most successful project reduced the variability of an applied coating on a product, as well as the overall amount of coating used in the manufacturing process. Using the Continuous Improvement tools taught in this program and following the Plan-Do-Check-Act process, the participant achieved a projected waste reduction of 75% which translated into a projected savings of $78,000 annually.
- By standardizing and tracking the start-up process for the manufacture of structural panels, without any additional financial investment, a 25% reduction in waste and an approximate annualized savings of $20,000 was achieved.
- By automating the transportation of liquid material inside a plant, downtime was reduced and safety was improved. The addition of a pump to the process generated an annualized cost savings of approximately $5,000.
- By standardizing set-up procedures during the production of structural panels, which included training all operators, a cost savings of approximately $2,700 annually was achieved.
- By optimizing the production and delivery of small parts to a process, the need for the operator to walk to pick up parts one at a time was eliminated. This saved wasted motion for the operator and achieved an 83% reduction in time spent on this process, saving approximately $3,300 annually.
- By standardizing cutting procedures, one participant was able to reduce downtime by approximately $3,800 annually.

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