

Companies See Results from 7S Training

Sleep Train, RobbJack Corporation, Harris & Bruno International, Progressive Technology and Lundberg Family Farms® participated in Workplace Organization and Visual Controls training, or 7S methods. The two day training was offered in October by Sierra College CACT for the Continuous Improvement Network (CIN). The 7S principles – sort, set in order, shine, safety, sustainability, standardize and sustain – organize work areas and make it easier for employees to accomplish tasks. Benefits often include increased efficiency, fewer accidents, better quality and improved employee morale. Participants took on small 7S projects at their worksites and then shared the results at the second class.

At the Sleep Train (www.sleeptrain.com) distribution center delivery office, employees gained 98% additional space by applying 7S techniques. The 7S team cleared away boxes, unused equipment and other items unnecessary for the work done in that area of the office, explained Frank Rapolla, Sacramento Distribution Center Warehouse Manager. “Not only does it make it look much more organized, employees can quickly find what they need to do their work,” said Rapolla. Two vice presidents participated in the exercise and were encouraged by the results of using this process improvement tool.

At Progressive Technology (www.prgtech.com), the first step in making engineered ceramics is pressing powder into a solid. The 7S team focused on the pressing area by drawing a diagram that showed the technician’s repeated movements between four different areas explained Gary Broadbent, Production Supervisor. “By tracking the motions, we saw opportunities for improvement by rearranging the work station,” said Broadbent.

Next, they removed everything from the workspace and sorted it. “We cleaned and repainted the floor,” said Broadbent. “The shelf was moved closer to the operator and the powder bags were labeled and organized by diameter so it is easier to find the right size. We also made shadow boxes outlining where tools belong. Now, everything has a place and the space is more ergonomic.”



Lean Training Offered in January

Start off the New Year by training staff in Lean Principles. The one day workshops are offered by Sierra College CACT in partnership with the Continuous Improvement Network (cacinetwork.com) of employers.

- Learn Lean Principles and Concepts
- Practice Tools & Methods
- Participate in a Simulation Exercise

WHEN:
January 17 or January 28

WHERE:
Rex Moore
Electrical Contractors
6001 Outfall Circle
Sacramento, CA 95828

COST:
\$120 per person (includes box lunch)

RESERVATIONS:
Judy Schmidt (916) 747-2162 or
judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu.

Student Tours Encourage Manufacturing Careers

Sierra Pacific, Harris & Bruno International and RobbJack Corporation offered tours of their facilities to increase high school students' awareness of manufacturing careers. As part of National Manufacturing Day on October 5, Sierra College CACT helped coordinate the tours.

After touring Harris & Bruno International, Rocklin High School engineering students saw the connection between what they are learning and future careers. "It was fun to see this crazy big machinery shop," said Samantha Martin, who's looking forward to a career in engineering or medicine. "Seeing the 5-axis CNC machine, water jets and all the equipment was the best part of the tour." Hugo Le Rouzo is planning to pursue an engineering degree, but he'd never seen where engineers work. "It's good to see what you're going to do," said Le Rouzo.

According to Rocklin High School teacher Dan Frank, the students gained a new understanding of the real-life applications of their classroom activities. "Talking with adults in the engineering and machining industry enables students to see themselves in these professions," said Frank.



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CACT Participates in Placer County Manufacturing Forum

The Placer County Economic Development Board brought together over 170 manufacturers and elected officials at the 2012 Manufacturer's Forum in October according to Dave Snyder, Economic Development Director. "There are approximately 270 manufacturers in Placer County, with an annual payroll of \$547 million that employ more than 7,000 residents," said Snyder. Gavin Newsom was the keynote speaker, the Capital Region Prosperity Plan was presented and a panel discussed workers compensation. Sierra College CACT sponsored a booth to share information about training, rapid prototyping and other services.

Businesses Learn from Visit to FAFCO

FAFCO (fafco.com), a solar water heating systems manufacturer in Chico, provided a tour for 16 members of the Continuous Improvement Network. President Bob Leckinger described his Continuous Improvement journey over the past three years. As a result of the efforts, Leckinger reported a significant reduction in safety incidents, a more consistent and higher quality product, a calmer work environment and empowered employees who focus on Continuous Improvement on a daily basis. In addition, 50 employees can now manage the production of a product that used to require 100 employees.

During the tour of the shop floor, participants saw how FAFCO used Problem Resolution Boards, implemented Visual Management through color-coded bin systems and visual assembly mats, and assembled Kanban teams to solve specific problems.

Crews Gain Electrical Skills

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) provided two crews, one composed of veterans, with basic electrical training in conjunction with Sierra College CACT. They started putting the training to use in November, according to Rod Thornhill, center director, CCC Sacramento & Placer. "Twenty crew members are upgrading seven DMV offices to more efficient lighting," said Thornhill. "With this experience and training, they will be on the cutting edge of the energy efficiency industry and prepared for electrical and construction employment."

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