



Future Workers Learn Critical Thinking

The Sierra College STEM Collaborative benefited from employer input to develop teacher training in Applied Critical Thinking for Advanced Technological Education (www.appliedcriticalthinking.com)

College and high school faculty in business, English, engineering, math, mechatronics, media and welding participated. As a result, students are developing applied critical thinking skills sought by businesses.



SME Plans First High School Chapter



The Sacramento Valley Chapter of SME (www.sacvalleysme.org) hopes to establish the first official high school student chapter in the country at Rocklin High School. Mike Bell, President, SME Sacramento Valley Chapter, visited Dan Franks' Engineering Support Technology class.

"I have no doubt that this will be a huge success," said Bell. "The students immediately began brainstorming ideas during and after our meeting. Their eagerness and hunger is exactly the fuel needed for the success of a SME student chapter." The Sierra College STEM Collaborative has provided funding to support this effort.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING - June 4, 18 & 25

Sierra College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) is providing project management training in partnership with the Continuous Improvement Network (CIN) in June. Participants will learn how to:

- Identify resources
- Create schedules
- Produce critical path plans
- Complete evaluation reports

The fee is \$360 for CIN members, \$560 non-members or \$420 government. Register at www.cacinetwork.com.





SMUD Learns Lean Principles

Teams from two business units at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (**SMUD** – www.smud.org) recently completed Lean Fundamentals and Process Mapping training. Lean creates more value for the customer by reducing wasted resources. Process Mapping is a visual tool to increase understanding of current steps and identify opportunities for streamlining.

According to Gabe Lewall in SMUD's Organization and Workforce Development department, the goal of the training was to provide employees with common language, tools and approaches.

"Our participants had different levels of experience with process improvement so the training provided an overarching view of Lean," said Lewall.

"Employees were engaged by the hands-on activities in the workshops that related to their work. Staff also practiced creating process maps to understand a current process and develop an ideal future state map. As a result of training and process maps produced by employees at the training, the teams are motivated to take this further, formalize the maps electronically and work together to reduce redundancies."

"The Sierra College CACT Lean training provided a solid foundation that will enable employees to be more consistent in their approach and work together to deliver quality service," said Lewall.

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CEO's Discuss Process Improvement

At the Continuous Improvement Network's (CIN) Executive Forum on March 26, business leaders discussed Hoshin Planning, a method to capture ideas generated through strategic planning and manage the execution of priority initiatives, explained Jes Vargas, CIN president.

"Everyone assumes that continuous improvement is a bottom-up process," said Vargas. "Participants reinforced the importance of leading from the top to change corporate culture." Learn more at www.cacinetwork.com.

Sierra College Provides Customized Training

Since 1992, Sierra College CACT has customized on-site employee training. Topics include quality, supervision, communication, marketing, computer skills, lean tools, process improvement and business math.

Learn more at sierracollegegetraining.com or contact Carol Pepper-Kittredge at **916-660-7801** or cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu.



Zero Waste Training

In March, more than 50 participants from manufacturing, ski, hospitality, waste management and other industries learned how to achieve Zero Waste Business certification through the U.S. Zero Waste Business Council (**USZWBC** - www.uszwbc.org). The training was offered in partnership with Sierra College CACT at Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

Trista Hamblin, Estimator, Metal Works (www.mtlwks.com), in Oroville, a steel fabrication, erection and sales operation serving the Western United States, attended the training. "Metal Works is already recycling paper, donating scrap metal to schools and sending 'drop' material to recyclers," said Hamblin.

"As a result of the Zero Waste training, I conducted a mini self-audit. More documentation would be needed to apply for certification." In June, the company plans to start recording its efforts, with the support of employees from several departments.

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