

## Surface Manufacturing goes Lean

Surface Manufacturing ([www.surfacemfg.com](http://www.surfacemfg.com)) in Auburn, a manufacturer for precision spindles used in the disk drive industry that are exported to Singapore, England and China, attended a Lean Manufacturing seminar co-sponsored by CACT and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. The company had a window of opportunity to implement Lean processes at the facility. So, within a week of attending the seminar, CACT provided customized employee training in the Concepts and Application of Lean and the Principles and Practices of Visual Controls. General Manager Rolf Rylander said, "The training set us on a path long overdue."



### Upcoming Lean Seminars

SMUD is offering a series of seminars focused on Lean processes:

- Feb. 15 – Value Stream Mapping
- March 15 – Visual Controls
- April 26 – Setup Reduction

To register, go to [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org).

## On-site customized training

Sierra College Training & Development offers employee training at businesses' work-sites that is tailored to the industry and specific needs of the company. Communication, supervision, teambuilding and basic math are just a few of the topics available. There is also a mobile lab for on-site software and soldering training. For information, call (916) 781-6245 or go to [www.sierracollegegetraining.com](http://www.sierracollegegetraining.com).

## Schilling Robotics Provided Tour

Schilling Robotics, in Davis, is a 20 year-old company that designs and delivers robotic equipment that operates in the world's harshest environments to perform functions such as repairing deep sea oil drilling platform equipment underwater as deep as 4000 meters.

Sierra College CACT staff and Mechatronics faculty toured the facility in January to see production first hand and learn more about required employee skills to help guide Mechatronics ([www.realskillsrealjobs.com](http://www.realskillsrealjobs.com)) curriculum, now offered at Sierra College.



## Digital Design and Rapid Prototype Demonstrations



If your business designs products or components, you may benefit from learning more about state-of-the-art digital design tools. The Sierra College CACT offers demonstrations and training that include: Solid Modeling, Rapid Prototyping, Product Data Management (PDM) and Concurrent Engineering. The demonstration 3-D printer and mobile solid modeling training lab can quickly produce usable plastic parts from 3D computer models. The digital design approach is rapidly transforming the marketplace by reducing lead times and development costs while improving customer communication. For a free demonstration at your work site call Sandra Scott at (916) 781-6245.

## Robotics team generates interest in technical careers

High school students, with support from Sierra College, are developing technical skills by competing in the FIRST Robotics competition ([www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)). "The FIRST competition introduces our students to serious engineering," said Ron Severson, principal, Granite Bay High School. Sierra College CACT committed \$3,000 as a challenge grant to get the team to the regional competition in Davis in March. The club is looking for businesses to match this contribution. To be a sponsor, call Sandra Scott at (916) 781-6245.

Stephen Miller, Granite Bay High School, teacher and team coach, explains that the FIRST competition gives students practical experience. "It is a great way to teach physics and engineering through an experience that they'll remember for the rest of their lives," said Miller.



## Roplast Applies Lean To Office Functions

Oroville-based Roplast Industries, ([www.Roplast.com](http://www.Roplast.com)) founded in 1990, manufactures environmentally friendly, high quality, low density polyethylene bags and has successfully implemented Lean principles into the production process. The company serves as a Sierra College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) demonstration site. Roplast recently took another step to fully integrate Lean principles by training administrative employees. A Kaizen event is planned to put Lean concepts into practice in the administrative offices. Roplast is continually making incremental improvements to boost productivity and reduce waste.

*Roplast is a CACT Lean Demonstration site and offers tours.*

## Sierra College Director joins Golden Sierra Workforce Investment Board

Sandra Scott, Sierra College Workforce Development & Continuing Education Division Director, was recently asked to serve on the Golden Sierra Workforce Investment Board. The group sets regional workforce development policy for Placer, Nevada, El Dorado, Alpine and Sierra counties.

According to the Board's new Executive Director, George Hempe, "Employers can benefit from Golden Sierra's ability to work collaboratively with Sierra College and other organizations to address the recruiting and training needs of targeted industry sectors." Hempe explained that the board is committed to meeting the needs of employers. "We must work tenaciously to assure that we are providing access to beneficial resources that support the region's economic growth." For more information about other employer services, go to [www.goldensierra.com](http://www.goldensierra.com).

## IPC Soldering Seminar Held

In response to requests for soldering training to IPC Standard 610, Sierra College Training & Development recently offered a 20 hour soldering class taught by IPC certified instructors. Each participant successfully completed the four part class and earned certification for two years for the IPC 610 Standard. With a mobile classroom, Sierra College can also bring soldering training to businesses' work sites to train employees. For information, call (916) 781-6245 or go to [www.sierracollegegetraining.com](http://www.sierracollegegetraining.com).