



North Valley Lean Group Improves Processes

Chico and Oroville area employers' North Valley Lean Group partnered with Sierra and Butte Colleges to develop nine 8-hour training modules of process improvement curriculum including Lean, Kaizen, Value Stream Mapping and Visual Management.

As many as 45 people from seven companies attend the day long sessions offered twice a month. The training is 30% classroom education and 70% interactive, hands-on activities. Participants apply what they've learned at their worksites and give reports at the following session. Employers benefit from sharing the training cost, learning from each other and coaching on how they are doing as well as next steps. Many senior and executive managers have attended and as a result a new leadership module is being planned.



Participants said: "I learned a lot of information useful to my job," "Learned how to implement Lean & Six Sigma into daily production," and "I can use ideas on how to empower other employees to get involved."

PLACER COUNTY GIVES AWARDS

Sierra College received two awards at the Placer County Economic Development Summit in March.

Sierra College's Sandra Scott, director of grant development and career technical education, received an award for her effectiveness in serving as a liaison between the college, the business community and local government agencies. Her contributions included developing innovative, customized employee training (sierracollegegetraining.com) and technical education programs (sierraschoolworks.com) to meet local employers' demand for qualified staff.



Sandra Scott

The Sierra College Solar Energy Technician Program (www.sierraenergytech.com) was presented an award for developing a skilled workforce in the rapidly growing photovoltaic energy field. Sandra Scott was also instrumental in this program which began offering classes in 2009.



Energy Savings for Manufacturers

To help manufacturers identify and implement energy saving practices and gain a competitive advantage, Sierra College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) recently secured a \$205,000 grant from the California Community College Chancellor's Office, Economic and Workforce Development Program.

The CACT will offer demonstrations to assist manufacturers in implementing in-house energy audits and weatherization techniques to reduce energy consumption without capital investment. Businesses will benefit from using energy efficient practices that align with lean manufacturing and continuous improvement principles. In partnership with the California Conservation Corps in Auburn, CACT will also develop curriculum to train Corps members to fill the need for energy efficiency technicians.

For more information, contact Carol Pepper-Kittredge at (916) 781-6288.

AAR Employees Certified in Soldering

Sierra College CACT recently provided a IPC J-STD soldering certification class to the Sacramento office of AAR (aarcorp.com), a leading provider of diverse products and services to the worldwide commercial aviation and government/defense industries. The program included pre and post assessments of nine employees' skills as well as the eight hour course. As a result of the training, five employees received IPC Application Specialist Certification for J-STD-001.

Sierra Customizes On-site Employee Training

Sierra College Training & Development offers industry training in process improvement, quality, communication, supervision, project management, business math and many other topics, and can bring mobile computer and soldering labs to your business. Instructors are industry experts who make training relevant to your business. Training is customized through an assessment process: performance gaps are identified, measurable goals are set and learner outcomes are defined. The training is at your worksite and scheduled to meet your needs. To learn more, contact Judy Schmidt at (916) 781-6245.

Poolmaster Benefits from Rapid Prototyping Services

Developing products quickly and cost effectively can be accomplished with the help of the Sierra College CACT. Its Rapid Prototyping service uses state-of-the-art Dimension BST and SST 3D printers. Sacramento-based Poolmaster is one enterprise that has used the service. Michael Bell, product engineer for Poolmaster (www.poolmaster.com) explained that Sierra College's Rapid Prototyping services speed production.



"Using rapid prototyping has cut production processing time by a factor of 10," said Bell.

"We can change the design and make a prototype to see how it works before finalizing the design. Because we can hold the product in our hands and test it we are 100% comfortable with the design before sending it to the factory."

Learn more about CACT rapid prototyping service at:
www.sierracollegelearning.com

Ski Industry Technician Training Expands

Sierra College's four year partnership with the California Ski Industry Association (www.californiasnow.com) to deliver ski lift technician training is adding new components. To-date the training has provided 133 ski lift maintenance technicians with specialized skills instruction. The training is based on industry input and research that defines skill sets for four levels of competency. The three 40-hour courses offer beginning, intermediate and advanced Ropeway Mechatronics skills. The training program is underwritten by a grant secured by Sierra College to design this comprehensive and one-of-a-kind program. Training planned for summer 2010 will include more low voltage trouble shooting as well as a segment on "train the trainer" for senior technicians to develop in-house programs.