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Sierra College Helps Lincoln Company Improve Productivity

ROCKLIN – It isn't often that a private employer looks to a community college for help. Lincoln-based manufacturer, RobbJack, has joined forces with the Sierra College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) in an effort to improve productivity, elevate quality and reduce waste.

CACT began training RobbJack staff to identify problems, look at processes and seek solutions and, according to Dave Baker, RobbJack president, the 40-year-old precision cutting tool company is seeing results. "It started on the shop floor where we cut machine change-over time from 90 to 30 minutes, saving 18 hours per day," Baker explained. "Through the CACT training, we learned more effective ways to track occurrences that waste resources and then pinpoint the problem."

Jes Vargas, the Sierra CACT consultant, has increased employee involvement by advising RobbJack to set measurable goals, visually track progress and provide quarterly monetary incentives. RobbJack (www.robjack.com) has seen a 60% reduction in printing by going to electronic sales order tracking. Shipping has benefited by CACT's involvement by consolidating tasks that formerly involved multiple departments.

"We are making significant changes to our business as a direct result of the Sierra College CACT process," said Baker. "Not only does Jes Vargas guide us through examining the way we work but he has a ton of tools, charts and methods to keep us on track."

Sierra College CACT (www.sierracollegegetraining.com) offers on-site customized employee training in a variety of areas. Since 1992, Sierra CACT has worked with numerous Northern California businesses, manufacturers and technology companies. Contact Carol Pepper-Kittredge at 916-660-7517 or cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu for more information.

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