

Rex Moore Restructures Supply Chain

Rex Moore Electrical Contractors & Engineers (www.rexmoore.com), based in Sacramento since 1922, is an electrical and integrated systems engineering and construction company operating throughout seven western states.

Through coaching in process improvement, Jes Vargas, Sierra College CACT consultant, has helped the company restructure its supply chain over the last 12 months. As a result, Rex Moore has saved 7% on raw material costs, increased capacity 20% while retaining the same staffing levels, and reduced the injury rate by 25%, according to president, David Moore.

"We've made a lot of changes in our processes and are definitely seeing benefits," said Moore. "Working with Jes and Sierra College kept us focused on achieving our productivity goals."

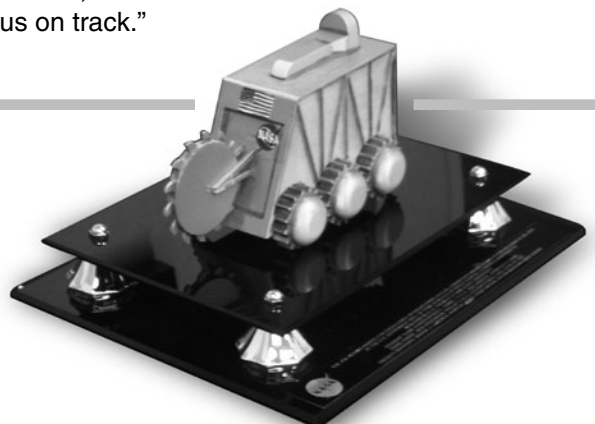


RobbJack Forms Process Improvement Teams

In the enviable position of experiencing an increased demand for specialized cutting tools, RobbJack (www.robjack.com) of Lincoln is relying on employee innovation to increase capacity. Teams are looking at the 40-year-old precision cutting tool company's processes and suggesting ways to improve productivity and quality as well as reduce waste. According to Dave Baker, president, the 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," explained Baker. "Then process improvement spread to other departments."

"Through the CACT training, we learned more effective ways to track occurrences that waste resources and then pinpoint the problem," said Baker. Teams collect data, write a problem statement and set measurable improvement goals. "When teams visually map out every step in the process, and measure the time required for each step, inefficiencies become apparent," said Baker. "Then it is easy to question the current steps and make changes that often yield immediate results."

The company posts progress boards throughout the building tabulating teams' ongoing success. "Boards are visually inspected monthly and employees earn quarterly monetary incentives for making progress," said Baker. "We are making significant changes to our business as a direct result of the Sierra College CACT process improvement training. 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."



Students Design NASA trophy

Students in Rocklin High School's Engineering Support Technology program designed a trophy for NASA's Lunabotics college competition (www.nasa.gov/lunabotics). The 3D design was produced using the Sierra College CACT's Rapid Prototype equipment.



California Conservation Corps Chainsaw Training

In May, California Conservation Corps crew supervisors from 10 centers participated in chainsaw training to earn an "A" Apprentice Sawyer Certification, a nationally approved (U.S. Forest Service) classroom and field training for general saw work. Comments included: "Maintenance tips and proper falling procedures were useful," "I learned new instruction techniques," and "I have a better understanding of how to set the proper pace to teach proper techniques to operate and maintain the chainsaw."



Telefunken Contracts for Mechatronics Training

Sierra College partnered with Telefunken Semiconductors International LLC to enhance the skills of employees who produce integrated circuits for the automotive industry at the plant in Roseville, CA. The company contracted for 22 employees to receive Mechatronics (www.realskillsrealjobs.com) training.

According to director of manufacturing, Matthew Nadeau, the Mechatronics program – a study of mechanics, electronics, pneumatics and hydraulics under computer control – offers a pathway to advancement. "A certificate or AA/AS degree in Mechatronics or Electronics provides our production technicians with knowledge and skills that are needed in order to be considered for promotion," said Nadeau.

The popularity of the Mechatronics program led Telefunken to contract for the training. "More production technicians were able to enroll in a dedicated course," said Nadeau. "The instructor recommended that we offer Mechatronics 4 to start out. This is a hands-on class and that enabled our employees to adjust back to the classroom environment more easily."

Employee feedback has been very positive. "The employees who have taken this class have shown an increased level of interest in their daily tasks," said Nadeau. "They now have a better understanding of 'what's behind' the systems and components."



Increase Capacity without Adding Costs

In April, Sierra College CACT offered a Value Stream Mapping workshop. Participants learned how to visually depict current business activities on a map to see where changes could be made to increase capacity using existing resources.

Resource Recovery Certification Offered

With the California Resource Recovery Association (www.crra.com), Sierra College CACT hosted four resource recovery workshops in June. Topics included zero-waste planning, construction debris management, organics management and composting, and extended producer responsibility.

Society of Manufacturing Engineers

Carol Pepper-Kittredge, Sierra College CACT Director, presented at the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Seattle Conference in June. She shared the results of middle and high school hands-on applied academic projects that engage students in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math.

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