

Tuff Jug uses rapid prototype to test design

For over 20 years, Richard Wallace, CEO, Fair Trails Enterprises Inc., in Roseville, CA has been developing custom high performance motor vehicle parts for firms such as John Deere, Kubota, Bobcat and New Holland. In developing a new product, Tuff Jug (tuffjug.com), Wallace worked with DT Engineering Associates Inc. of Roseville that recommended the Sierra College CACT rapid prototyping services.



Tuff Jug refuels boats, race cars, motorcycles and cars at a speed of five gallons in 45 seconds explained Wallace. "When we were redesigning the adaptor for Tuff Jug, it was easy and convenient to get the prototype done by Sierra College," said Wallace.

"A design might look great on the computer screen but it does not give the feel, look and function of holding it in your hands. We were able to check flow rates of different designs and see how it fit in a wide variety of vehicles. We'll use the services again and would definitely recommend CACT's rapid prototyping for time-saving and cost-efficiency." Wallace said that Tuff Jug is distributed in over 50 countries worldwide.

Mobile Computer Lab for Customized Training

If your company is upgrading software or employees need training, Sierra College Training & Development can conduct skill assessments and design workshops to meet your needs using examples from your business. At a recent Microsoft PowerPoint class, students commented: "Now I'm able to use functions I never knew existed," and "I learned how to pull charts from Microsoft Excel into PowerPoint for budget presentations."

The mobile computer lab makes it convenient to train employees at your worksite. For customized training, contact Judy Schmidt at (916) 747-2162 or judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu.

Make Going Lean Your New Year's Resolution

Learn how a Lean approach can increase productivity and reduce waste from your production and office processes by signing up for the three upcoming 2011 Lean classes in Roseville.



January 26 Lean Principles to Sustainability

- Understand Lean Principles and how they are applied
- Use Lean tools to reduce costs and improve productivity

February 22-23 Business Process Mapping

- Identify the steps and practices for breaking down a process
- Create a System and Relationship Process Map

April 5-6 Value Stream Mapping (VSM)

- See the step-by-step development of value stream maps
- Use VSM with improvement initiatives

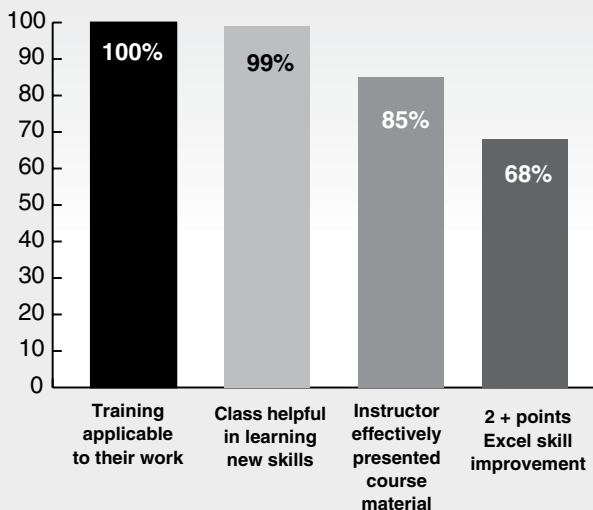
Past participants said, "I liked the demonstrations," "The examples of how Lean principles are applied were valuable," and "I saw immediately how I can apply it to work." For more information or to register, visit www.sierracollegegetraining.com or call Carol Pepper-Kittredge at (916) 660-7801.



Microsoft Excel Training Increases Employee Skills

Sierra College Training & Development conducted four days of customized Microsoft Excel training for Renesas Electronics America Inc. (www.am.renesas.com), a wholly owned subsidiary of Renesas Electronics Corporation, the number one global supplier of microcontrollers. Scott Olsen, Sr. Human Resources Representative, felt that the Sierra College team tailored the training to the company's needs. "I was thoroughly impressed with the efficiency, flexibility and can-do spirit of Judy, Katie and David," said Olsen. "I appreciated their professionalism, enthusiasm, and detailed and timely follow-thru; it was a real pleasure to work with them."

On the evaluations, 100% felt the Microsoft Excel training was applicable to their work, 99% either agreed or strongly agreed that the class was helpful to them in learning new skills, 85% of participants strongly agreed that the instructor effectively presented the course material and 68% of participants indicated that they increased their Excel skill level by two points or more on a seven point scale.



Employees gave additional feedback on the evaluations: "I can't say enough at how impressed I am with the training skills of the instructor," and "I learned a lot about Microsoft Excel that will directly apply to my job." For information, contact Judy Schmidt at (916) 747-2162 or judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu.

Energy Program in the News

The US Dept. of Energy's online Energy Empowers newsletter (energyempowers.gov) featured the Technical Education in Energy Efficiency and Construction (TE3C) program developed by CACT in partnership with the California Conservation Corps (ccc.ca.gov) Placer Energy Center. Read it at <http://www.energyempowers.gov/post/California-Conservation-Corps.aspx>.

On-site Employee Training is Customized

For customized training in process improvement, quality, communication, supervision, project management, business math and many other topics go to www.sierracollegegetraining.com or contact Judy Schmidt at (916) 747-2162 or judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu.

Soldering Certification Offered

Sierra College CACT provided 36 hours of customized solder certification and recertification training for a Sacramento employer. The goal was assure consistency in applying soldering techniques to the product and to provide technicians with training on the IPC solder standards. When asked what was most valuable, participants said: "IPC workmanship standards brush-up," "Solder technique evaluation," and "Percentages of solder on components and tolerances." For information, contact Judy Schmidt at (916) 747-2162 or judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu.

Sustainability plus Lean Results in Savings

Improve your company's financial performance by combining sustainable business practices with Lean and continuous improvement principles. Use CACT's Lean and Sustainability Assessment to review use of paper, energy, lighting, water, recycling and travel as well as manufacturing and business processes.

Employers can use the CACT self-assessment tool or participate in a grant-funded pilot assessment of your business functions. Results are confidential. Participants will be asked to evaluate the experience and report any changes made. CACT also has an infrared camera and other tools firms can borrow to measure energy use and heat loss. To learn more, go to www.sierracollegegetraining.com or call Carol Pepper-Kittredge at (916) 660-7801.

Lean Workshops in Chico

Butte College is offering a series of Lean workshops in partnership with the Sierra College CACT. Contact The Training Place at (530) 895-9015 for information.

- Lean to Green Office
- Organizing Systems – 7S Visual Workplace
- Business Process Mapping for the Office
- Value Stream Mapping
- Lean & Green IT
- Problem Solving & Cycle Improvement Practices