

## Customized On-site Employee Training

Sierra College Training & Development and the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies offer customized on-site 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.

To learn more, go to [sierracollege.training.com](http://sierracollege.training.com) or contact Judy Schmidt at (916) 747-2162 or [judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu](mailto:judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu).

## 2010 Manufacturer's Forum

Presented by

Placer County Economic Development Board

**Renesas Electronics America, Inc.**  
**October 14, 2010 • 8 am - 2 pm**

Through interactive panels, Placer County manufacturers and elected/appointed leadership will discuss ways to retain and attract manufacturing and make it easier to do business in Placer County. Sierra College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) is a forum sponsor.

For information, call Placer County Economic Development at (530) 889-4016.

## RobbJack



## Cuts Set-up Time

RobbJack ([www.robjack.com](http://www.robjack.com)), a Lincoln-based manufacturer of premium rotary cutting tools, reduced machine changeover time from 90 to 30 minutes as a result of Lean Manufacturing training provided by the Sierra College Training & Development.

Results have been dramatic according to president Dave Baker. "If nine CNC milling machines are set-up twice per day on new jobs, we've saved 18 hours per day," said Baker. "This allows RobbJack to expand capacity without capital investment or adding staff. RobbJack is 100% employee owned, so we all benefit from growing the business with existing resources. What we learned from the Sierra College training could completely change our company."

The project started with an initial site visit and assessment. "After the first several hours, our employees began to look at standard procedures with fresh eyes," said Baker. Three employee teams formed to attack the areas that had the greatest potential for savings. The set-up team filmed an operator to record each step in preparing for a new job. "Then we mapped out a flow chart of steps to change operations," said Baker. The team experimented until they cut set-up time by two-thirds.

Trainer Jes Vargas has returned several times to review progress, provide additional coaching and outline next steps. According to Baker, the Sierra College training provided a valuable outside perspective. "Jes is not afraid to ask hard questions," said Baker. "I would highly recommend using Sierra College services so you can see your processes with new eyes. As Lean spreads through our building, I can see amazing opportunities for RobbJack to grow."

The lean training provided to RobbJack was partially supported with Responsive Training Fund (RTF) grant funding. Other employers considering training that would be completed by December 2010 may also qualify. For more information, go to [www.sierracollege.training.com](http://www.sierracollege.training.com) or contact Judy Schmidt at (916) 747-2162 or [judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu](mailto:judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu).

## Manufacturers Assistance Program Guides Lighting Company



Efficient Lighting Solutions (ELS) of Sacramento invented an innovative lighting retrofit device for street lights. It replaces traditional High Press Sodium lamps with Compact Florescent Lamps.

ELS already had 400 prototypes in the field when the business partners consulted the Sierra College Manufacturers Assistance Program (MAP) according to Marquita Alcartado, ELS marketing manager. "The field study showed that the ELS retrofit cut energy use by 63% and reduced maintenance costs by 95% over the life of the CFL's (20,000 hours) and the life of the fixture which has a 100-year life expectancy," said Alcartado. "Energy costs for municipal street lights in the City of Sacramento average around \$1 million per month so with that kind of savings there is a huge potential for transforming communities into leaner and greener energy consumers."

MAP offers a four hour consultation to small manufacturers at no cost. "The MAP consultant validated our simple yet ingenious product in real terms, reviewed licensing options and offered valuable referrals to help with the next steps in bringing our product to market," said Alcartado. "We were impressed with his depth of manufacturing knowledge and definitely benefited from the MAP meeting."

For more information about MAP, contact Carol Pepper-Kittredge at (916) 660-7801 or [cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu](mailto:cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu).

## Technical Math Training Customized

Renesas Electronics America Inc. ([www.am.renesas.com](http://www.am.renesas.com)) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Renesas Electronics Corporation, the number one global supplier of microcontrollers. According to Matthew Nadeau, Director of Manufacturing at the Roseville plant, the company wanted to enhance operators' technical math skills. "Working with Sierra College Training & Development, we conducted a skills assessment," said Nadeau. Based on the gaps identified, the instructor, Katie Lucero, customized the 16 hour course.

"The operators who have completed the math training offered by Sierra College have an increased confidence level when performing technical tasks within our factory," said Nadeau. "Additionally, these employees are preparing themselves for future advancement within Renesas Electronics America."

For more information about employee training, go to [www.sierracollegelearning.com](http://www.sierracollegelearning.com) or contact Judy Schmidt at (916) 747-2162 or [judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu](mailto:judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu).

## Sierra College wins National Science Foundation Grant

Sierra College has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF - [nsf.gov](http://nsf.gov)) to develop and test the impact of integrating mathematics curriculum into building the Tech-Explorer catapult. The goal is to prepare more students for technical careers.

## Placer District Acknowledges STEM Collaborative

Placer Union High School District Board of Trustees recognized the Sierra STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Collaborative ([sierraschoolworks.com](http://sierraschoolworks.com)) on May 4 for "preparing students for a challenging and dynamic 21st century workplace."



Sandra Scott and Carol Pepper-Kittredge, Sierra College

## Use Assessment Tools to Reduce Energy Costs

**PG&E** loans building measurement equipment free for short term energy efficiency projects [www.pge.com/pec/tli](http://www.pge.com/pec/tli).

**SMUD** offers an interactive Business Energy Analysis and other tools to help businesses save energy [www.smud.org/en/business/saving-energy/Pages/online-energy-audit.aspx](http://www.smud.org/en/business/saving-energy/Pages/online-energy-audit.aspx).

**Roseville Electric** started offering business lighting rebates in June 2010 [www.roseville.ca.us/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=2220&TargetID=26](http://www.roseville.ca.us/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=2220&TargetID=26).

**Sierra College CACT** conducts Lean & Green assessments and loans energy measurement tools to help manufacturers reduce energy use. Contact Carol Pepper-Kittredge at (916) 660-7801 or [cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu](mailto:cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu) for more information.