



5 Tips Towards Becoming a Highly Valued Employee

To be highly valued by one's organization might be the best "predictor" of "job security"—if such a thing as "job security" were to exist. While nothing is guaranteed, there are certain knowledge, skills and behaviors that are highly valued by all types of organizations.

Individuals who are trained in Lean Six Sigma can use their skills and knowledge to differentiate themselves in the workplace. Here are a few ways one may choose to differentiate oneself in the workplace with the aid of Lean Six Sigma tools and concepts:

- 1. Know and understand your company's products (services) and customers.** Invest the time to study your organization's portfolio of products and important customer requirements. Customer needs are always changing, but with the aid of powerful techniques, such as the Kano analysis, organizations can effectively specify and prioritize their customer needs.
- 2. Know and understand the value stream for key products or family of products within your organization.** The value stream involves all the activities (i.e. developing, producing and delivering products) necessary to provide a product or service to the customer. It is important to understand how you contribute to this value stream. Are you able to pinpoint where your role exists in the value stream? Are your daily activities considered to be adding value to the customer, adding value to the business or largely non-value adding?
- 3. Be curious and alert!** Ask questions with an eye towards identifying opportunities for waste elimination. Once you have identified opportunities for improvement, you should offer solution and specify the potential business impact.
- 4. Take initiative!** Take the initiative to lead efforts that could enhance your organization's performance or your team's effectiveness. For example, one may opt to lead a workplace organization effort by using approaches such as five S (5S). Five S is a workplace organization approach that can lead to enhanced team effectiveness and productivity.
- 5. Be generous!** Consciously make an effort to contribute to the institutional knowledge by documenting and sharing best practices with your team. Volunteering and assisting others is also a great way to build skills and proficiency with your Lean Six Sigma tools.

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