

Lean Manufacturing Grant

The State of Massachusetts received close to \$4 million in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor for a multi-year program to raise the skill level of workers in support of employers' needs for candidates with advanced manufacturing skills. *The MA More Skilled Workers* program (MSW) provides job seekers with training in the principles of Lean Manufacturing with a certificate from the Florida Institute of Technology. Additionally, manufacturing employers qualify for reimbursement up to \$2,400 for each job seeker hired through this program to offset their own training costs. The MSW program operates as a partnership between the Central and North Central MA Workforce Investment Boards and the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP.)



Mark Drozd

Mark Drozd was a Sr. buyer until mid-January. He completed his Lean manufacturing training in March and was back to work in May as a Production Planner. The grant funding provided Mark with the training to develop new skills and land himself a new position. This includes 5S, one of the fundamentals of Lean methodology, it is a systematic approach to organization of a work area. The 5S system is a lean manufacturing tool that improves workplace efficiency and eliminates waste. The process allows managers and workers to achieve greater organization, standardization, and efficiency all while reducing costs and boosting productivity. The principles of 5S involve creating and maintaining visual order,

organization, cleanliness and standardization.

Mark writes:

“One of my first tasks when I got back into the workforce was to “5S” eight cabinets of inventory. I used a label printer on the plastic bins to make everything look neat and easy to read. The job came out very nice and I received a lot of compliments. If it wasn't for Lean training, I wouldn't have been able to achieve such an accomplishment.”

Kathryn Sargent

Kathryn Sargent left the workforce as an experienced Chemical Engineer. She attributes her successful return to manufacturing in 2015 to the *More Skilled Workers* grant that helped provide Lean training and job search support. “Prior to participating in the Lean training, I was stuck in a part-time job [and] had been seeking full time employment for over a year. I didn't meet the needs of most companies who wanted Lean experience. In addition, my resume



and interviewing skills were rusty from being out of the full time labor market for several years.... I appreciate how fundamental the grant is to my current success.”

*For more information regarding the More Skilled Workers grant please contact Nancy Teasdale
Manufacturing Employment Liaison at 508.373.7685
North Central MA Workforce Investment Board
C/o Workforce Central
340 Main Street
Suite 400
Worcester, MA 01608*

*If interested in learning more about the services available at
Workforce Central, please contact your local Career Center.*

Workforce Central Career Center-Milford
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