

I am reaching out to those (perspective students) that may find themselves in a similar situation to mine. After 20 years of diverse automotive industry experience, I found myself looking for a "second career" in 2008. The economic downturn flooded the job market with experienced job seekers, as companies closed their doors. Periodic contract work bridged the family financial gap but was not a long term solution. I needed to broaden my business skill sets to improve professional marketability but could not afford 2 years for another Master of Science or MBA program. I needed the education NOW and the Center for Professional Studies (CPS) answered that need with a very personalized touch.

I found that State and Federal programs very frustrating and difficult to secure funding through. The CPS staff helped me by providing guidance through the entire application process. I began the CPS Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Program (with Program Management) in the fall of 2009 and started with the Program Management classes by Daryl Patrishkoff. I continued then through Lean Six Sigma (LSS) classes with Dave Patrishkoff. Dave's knowledge and instruction provided an intensive yet comprehensive approach that rivals year-long programs offered in the corporate world. With this new knowledge, a positive attitude and an updated Michigan Talent Bank resume, the job opportunities presented themselves. Now, without actively seeking employment my classmates and I were receiving job offers before completing the training.

I accepted a full-time position in December of 2009 and used my company vacation time to finish my LSS project. I switched to the military industry in the summer of 2010 and transferred to the corporate LSS group to focus on Master Black Belt Certification in 2011. Unfortunately, the military industry is also downsizing and yes, another layoff. I am returning to the automotive industry in a full-time position to begin yet another "career" with great company with plans to enter their LSS Program.

I am sharing my story to express my sincere gratitude to the CPS staff for the accelerated education and the job search guidance. CPS also provided students with mock interviewing, resume critiques and networking assistance. This guidance and networking is not part of the curriculum but is a vital part of landing your next job and another reason to consider CPS. Networking skills opened opportunities to my last 5 position interviews. After successful completion of the CPS program, my unemployment time between positions is about 30 days, due to each corporate hiring process.

CPS offers an excellent education, guidance through the State & Federal funding process and assistance with interviewing skills in a very personalized & professional environment. My story stands as a testament to the accelerated curriculum, excellent staff and persistent dedication to achieve success.

**Michael J. Readwin**

I am a former student of CPS now successfully back in the workforce. I was laid off from Chrysler in April of 2008 and spent nearly two years looking for work. I have a Mechanical Engineering degree and an MBA from Michigan State's executive management program, and I specialize in organizational development and process improvement, yet could spark no interest from any employer though I papered this country with a thousand plus resumes. During the summer of 2009 I was granted TAA eligibility and started CPS training for both Program Management Professional (PMP) and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certifications. I added this fact to my resumes and, even though I was still in training, started getting significant interest from potential employers. Before completing the training I accepted an offer from the Department of Defense, Defense Contract Management Agency and began working again in March of this year.

You could, perhaps, dismiss my good fortune as inevitable, with CPS playing no role in improving my opportunities, but that would be an error. I'm a veteran and had been applying for government jobs for months prior with no interest. It wasn't until I could claim new skill sets desired by DoD and DCMA that I generated any interest.

However, the fact that I'm one of the 90% of CPS students to be back working is not why I've chosen to defend them here. I have a deep educational background, have taught and trained myself, and am concerned with the state of education in this country at all levels. My consternation with DELEG's actions has more to do with the fact that you are putting a highly effective educational organization at risk, rather than just removing an efficient means of re-employing skilled workers. The CPS educational model focuses on providing highly marketable skills, taught by field experts in ways that are relevant to the students, using real world examples that speak to situations faced in the workplace. They also draw on the diverse expertise of the students to help clarify and amplify classroom materials. But the most impressive attribute of CPS, from my perspective, has to do with their willingness to be flexible and work with students through the various challenges presented their circumstances. I personally would not have received my LSSBB certification if they had not been willing to stick with me through the difficulties of finalizing my project while beginning a new job.

I am not certain of the reasons why DELEG has chosen to not approve the TAA waivers of students seeking to enter CPS programs, but I urge you to reconsider. Whatever the issues work them out by other means, do not force an effective and efficient education provider out of business. CPS is providing great value to its students and this country during a most difficult time. They should be held up as examples for other training and education providers to emulate, not choked off by bureaucratic red tape.

**Gilbert C. Quick**

I understand DELEG has recently taken a policy position regarding TAA program approvals that disqualifies many "for profit" programs. Please let me relate my personal experience with the TAA approved program I completed at Center for Professional Studies (CPS).

After a 30 year career in Engineering Management in the automotive industry I found myself, like many others, trying to reposition myself for a brutal job market. After much study I decided completion of the Program Management Professional (PMP) Certification would be most beneficial in my career enhancement. Of the various programs offered; Villanova University on-line, Lawrence Tech University, New Horizons and CPS - I chose CPS.

My reasons for choosing CPS were simple:

- Accelerated timeframe, sooner done, sooner making a paycheck (and paying taxes)
- taught by people that have industry experience
- Program required participation in real projects with real companies that CPS had lined up as partner firms
- Costs, while not cheap were competitive with the other programs

My results;

- Best training I have attended since a few college courses many years ago. I say this having attended hundreds of hours of annual training in my past profession. Focused on what is needed by industry and what is required to complete PMP certification.
- I went into the PMP certification test very confident - came out with a high score, passing first time on a test with a fairly high failure rate.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY; 2 job offers, both said having PMP certification was a key factor. In the end I chose to go my own way starting my own business. That step was in-part due to the confidence and business ownership insight I gained while with CPS.

My concern with DELEG's actions:

While I am sure there are abuses of the TAA program by some schools, my experience is that unilateral actions are generally flawed. They kill the good programs for sake of the few that are a problem. I can only speak for the program I attended but in CPS's case your actions are hurting a program that has helped many people get back into the job market. I know just about all, if not all, of my CPS classmates are now working again.

My suggestion:

Look at the results; reinstate those programs that honestly get people back to work.

**William Cornish, PMP**

I understand that a decision has been made regarding approvals of TAA waivers for students wishing to take classes with the Center for Professional Studies (CPS) and that DELEG will no longer be funding these activities. As an outsider to your decision process I do not have the full information on what may have lead to this decision. However as a graduate of several classes at CPS I can only say that this appears to be a short-sighted decision.

My personal experience with CPS left me greatly impressed with the professionalism of their instructors and the relevance of the subject matter to preparing their students for real world business opportunities in new occupations. CPS works with employers to provide projects for CPS students to work on at the employer's facilities, allowing the students to augment what they learned in class with relevant field practice and to permit students and potential employers to meet and learn how each other can benefit from these relationships.

Personally for me the classes and CPS' practice of working with employers directly lead to my employment here at Quality Metalcraft.

I strongly support a re-evaluation of the current decision and believe that classes at CPS should be funded.

**Tom Stebbins, PMP**

Unfortunately, it is all about cutting costs for many states or what some economists, such as myself call 50 Hoovers contracting. Michigan like many other states has chosen to balance its budget on the backs of children through educational cuts, higher education with less aid to universities, the elderly and the poor with cuts in Medicaid, and the unemployed with cuts to job training.

Rather than take a more progressive view and reorganize it's purchasing for the prisons in Michigan and using the mass economies of scale of purchasing to buy for all of them, it has taken on an approach allowing each of them to be little fiefdoms within the state. Foods, canteen machines within visiting rooms, etc are all contracted separately by each site often times resulting in less than favorable results in cost and quality.

Enough could be saved in this one area to again fund programs such as what The Center for Professional Studies and still allow low cost phone calls by prisoners to their homes. This is only one area of cost improvement for the prison system which would bring relief to the budget. Revamping sentencing guidelines for non-violent prisoners and also restricting parole boards in interpreting the law to keep prisoners longer would cut costs even further.

It is easy to cut programs such as what The Center for Professional Studies and other areas as I mentioned above because each has little political clout with the bureaucrats running each of the departments and the politicians in Lansing. Hopefully there is a change of mind in Lansing.

**Bill Haskell**

I do not know the reasoning behind DELEG's actions of not approving TAA's for training of displaced workers in Michigan. I do know a few things about TAA and the training options available, the poor job market over the last 2 years, the need to improve your skills to re-enter the job market, and the efforts needed from approving authorities.

I am thankful for TAA program as it allowed me to seek training initiatives to update my professional skill set and learn new methods. I am thankful for the great people at 2 Michigan Works Offices (Livingston County and Troy) in advising me to the No Worker Left Behind & TAA programs and the other resources I could leverage. I was without work after leaving Chrysler in late 2008 and not knowing where to turn after initial job inquiries had died up and became non-existent, as our economy and the job market went into "financial meltdown" and millions of people nationally were now displaced and looking for work.

The Center of Professional Studies was the best program for me. It was in-depth, compressed training in various technical and business areas. The training was provided by practicing, seasoned industry professionals and leaders. It provided the benefits of obtaining recognized certification in the fields of program management and lean six sigma black belt. It involved hands-on experiences with local partnering companies to practice the training concurrently as it was being learned. This type of program was very unique from the other institutes as they were strictly classroom experiences. In addition, for some students, this hands-on partnered training and experience led to their employment with these companies. A very, very positive result in the devastated job market here in Michigan! For me, I know the training has had a positive effect in my knowledge and my understanding in the use of these new skills and methods. It has also allowed me to meet some wonderful people who have aided me in my search. One contact led me to the job I have now. Thus, I am thankful to CPS and the people associated with their programs as it has improved my future.

To the leaders at DELEG, I encourage you to again approve these type of requests for funding under TAA and/or No Worker Left Behind programs so as to support the people in need and the excellent organizations (like CPS) trying to help them get back to work here in Michigan.

**Steven Kupa**

Daryl and the CPS team have developed a model that works! Accelerated training, leading to in-demand certifications, aimed at the experienced technical professional and coupled with corporate partnering. The result is a high re-employment rate for unemployed professionals and improved efficiency for corporate partners. Less tangible but equally important is the sense of esprit de corps the CPS team fosters with students and faculty. CPS is extraordinary in its commitment to student success.

**Joe Tori, PMP**

I agree 100% that (DELEG) needs to re-analyze their decision on rejecting the TAA beneficiaries. The TAA program is a way to bail-out the taxpaying professional who had been paying above average tax rates for several decades, and had their jobs eliminated due to careless government agreements. This TAA funding was a way for the effected un-employed professionals to gain the necessary skills to attain another profession.

I am an example of a working professional who worked 50+ hour weeks for 18 years, and had lost my job due to outsourcing due to NAFTA and CAFTA agreements. Fortunately, I had been able to take advantage of the TAA retraining fund and attend CPS. This re-training program funded me to attend CPS and obtain skills that are necessary to meet the requirements in the current job market, and become skilled in other fields that will offer equal or higher salaries than my past position.

I sincerely support the TAA funds importance and ability to offer another option to maintain success, or just another method to prevent financial failure.

**James Brown**

I had the privilege of having Daryl Patrishkoff as the instructor during my recent PMP training at the Center for Professional Studies. Daryl's background in engineering and consulting, along with his knowledge of PMP and PMI practices unquestioningly makes him a subject matter expert. Daryl did an excellent job of facilitating discussions, bringing real world examples to class, and engaging his students with his enthusiasm and his mastery of the subject matter. He also presented complex material in a logical and easy to understand manner, making it quickly and easily understood.

Daryl was responsive to student needs, open minded and very approachable; everything a great instructor should be. Thank you Daryl and CPS, for a great training experience!

**Les Gyori**

I am very disappointed with DELEG or should I say a few members within the organization. This is a critical time in the recovery within the state and DELEG is turning their backs on thousands of people that need assistance now. In the next 90 days or so, there will be thousands of people in the state of Michigan that will lose their unemployment assistance. These people are going to be running out of options quickly. On top of that, excellent schools, like Center of Professional Studies, that provide an amazing service to those that have been displaced are not going to be able to get educational assistance to better themselves.

CPS is a fantastic school that produces results. Their students find work after they graduate, period. More importantly, the students are getting relevant training to make them competitive in this tight market. I love hiring CPS students because they already have the diploma from the university, have 10+ years working experience and now have the current tools from CPS to be marketable.

**Matt Karrandja**

Account Manager, Trialon

I am surprised at the insensitivity and ignorance of the DELEG staff. Ignorance doesn't suggest stupidity - ignorance is defined as a lack of understanding.

1. CPS attracts students of a higher caliber that do not require 24 months of training. Most CPS students are seeking to refresh and rebuild current skills; the quick, intense training provided by CPS is perfectly suited to fulfill this need.
2. CPS is following the TAA directive of providing training that leads directly to re-employment. There is no arguing the placement rate of 93%, proving their programs are timely and relevant.

DELEG's decision to place further constraints upon the recipients of the Federal TAA program, a program specifically designed to assist the unemployed back into the workforce, is bad business for Michigan. By demanding a 24 month retraining schedule DELEG has effectively tied the taxpaying hands of Michigan citizens.

DELEG's inability to appropriate Federally appointed TAA funds to effective, proven training programs, such as those provided by CPS, is a travesty. We need all of our citizens fully employed so they can contribute to society, become active participants in their communities, churches, schools and local government. Being unemployed are not desirable, getting back to work and becoming a contributing member of society is the goal.

Perhaps DELEG has lost sight of the goal.

### **Peggy Pineau**

I was laid off from my job as a product design engineer at Ford Motor Company in January 2009 during the time when the entire auto industry was in a complete meltdown and it appeared that I had no hope of being able to support my family. The best move I made was to enroll at CPS in their design engineering program.

13 months after being laid off, I was able to find a job at Ford SVT. The classes they teach at CPS help to keep your skills fresh as an engineer and get you back to work ASAP. I still have many friends that have been out of work for more than 2.5 years. I already have a bachelors and masters degree in mechanical engineering and in this recession, conventional education does not seem to help. Without the help from CPS, my family and I would have probably lost everything.

Please keep these programs going because it helps to get people back to work. When you don't have a pay check coming in, everyday is an eternity and there are not many places to turn.

### **Larry Parets**

I am writing this letter to explain the success of the educational programs at The Center for Professional Studies (CPS). I had recently become unemployed from Chrysler Corporation and I was looking for training to increase my worth in the job market outside of automotive. I had done some investigation on different educational programs with a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt program only to find that they all required that the student be working for the company that the project would entail.

I came upon CPS and contacted Daryl Patrishkoff to further understand the program that they were offering and that they were using outside companies to provide Six Sigma projects. These projects not only helped the students obtain their desired education but also helped local companies with existing, real world problems that could be solved making them more competitive in a tight market.

I was also pleasantly surprised that it could be funded by the TAA program even though it was not a two year program but an accelerated 4 month program. I applied for my TAA funding immediately and was accepted so I could begin quickly with my education. CPS differs from other programs for quite a few reasons:

- It's educators are real life businessmen, engineering, managers that use recent case studies to teach their courses
- The courses are accelerated so that the students (who are unemployed) can reap the rewards of the programs faster than waiting two years and as a result get back into the workforce quicker.
- They use local companies with their programs at no cost, the companies become more efficient in a very competitive atmosphere while helping in the education process.
- The students are exposed to many different businesses other than automotive which most of us in this area are from.
- The size of the classes encourages networking that would not otherwise happen.

Because of my affiliation with CPS I now work for a food company in the Detroit area, I use all of my previous knowledge base along with the skills I learned and honed through CPS. This company was involved in one of the first Six Sigma Black Belt program and had a need for an Operations Manager; because of my involvement with CPS I was offered the job.

I have also started my own consulting firm, Manufacturing and Process Solutions which has been successful in obtaining contracts because of my education through CPS. I would have never had the opportunities presented, had I not been enrolled with CPS and had the education supported by the TAA program.

**John Willis**



This endorsement will be incomplete without bearing in mind what is happening to the workforce, skilled and unskilled both, around Michigan and in the rest of the country. We very well know that how bad Michigan is hurt due to company closures and employee layoffs, with businesses, especially heavy duty manufacturing moving overseas. In November of 2008 I joined the ranks of those who were actively seeking employment in this market and it was an eye opener to see how many people with years of experience and education were waiting in line! We all had one thing in common – we were lacking, in some way, the skill-sets, either these not being relevant or contemporary to what the employers desired. However, we all had a desire to succeed by elevating our educational and training skills to the next level, to quickly gain valued skills sought by employers trying to make the most in this market.

Two things were critical to make the next leap for people in my situation – one was to find a source of funding; the existing personal savings had dwindled due to the market slumps and there was no real paycheck coming in to fund any future education. The second thing was to find an educational program that would deliver pragmatic skill sets (certifications) that would entice the very few hiring employers out there to consider us for positions they were seeking to fill. The first step was covered by the Federal and the State funding – this really made it possible to think of any future education, especially, when putting food on the table was in question!

When I surveyed the educational programs out there, I found that they mostly focused on a two year program, which wasn't the luxury most of us had. While I was considering various community and university programs, I came across a free educational seminar through Engineering Society of Detroit and got to know about the Center for Professional Studies (CPS); this was a real break for me and various other people in my situation. We had finally found a program that offered highly focused, relevant, and appropriately timed program to gain certifications, which were in demand even during the economic slump; industry, in general, and companies in Michigan in particular, were looking for employees with Program Management and Lean Six Sigma backgrounds. CPS had Program Management and Lean Six Sigma Certifications programs designed for intense four months of in-class training by experienced instructors who knew the industry and its challenges well. Their hands-on industry project to complete the Six Sigma certification requirement was really quite unique which no other programs offered.

With a graduate level engineering background and an MBA from University of Michigan I feel I have had a world class education; keeping this in mind, I whole-heartedly endorse the CPS curriculum, their quality of instructions, level and knowledge of the instructors to stand tall with some of the premium educational institutions in the area. Their success in having 90% plus graduate employment speaks volumes, given the state of economy and the job market we are facing. I would recommend their program to anyone seeking to learn and develop skills greatly valued in this changing marketplace.

**Jatinder Singh**

I am writing to express my experience with the Center for Professional Studies (CPS). As a senior engineer with over 35 years experience in the automotive industry I found myself looking for a new way to support my family as quickly as possible. In my search for new employment I found the employers were looking for professionals with a unique combination of skills and certifications, especially for positions which provided wages in the range I had been making previously. To fill the gaps in my skills base to fill these positions I searched for education opportunities that could provide the skills I felt I needed.

Through my evaluation I found CPS, a school uniquely positioned for professionals, offered a package of certifications I was looking for and no other company did. They were able to combine these certifications providing me with a curriculum which filled all of my needs to compete in a spectrum of new opportunities and industries.

Equally important, CPS was able to complete all of this training in less than half of the time any other institution willing to provide. In less than a year I was able to successfully receive all of the certifications I was looking for, including professional Project Management certification from PMI. More importantly I was offered a job in approximately a year's time and am currently working, directly related to training provided by CPS.

Without TAA funding provided in a timely manner necessary to pay for the accelerated training CPS provides, I would still be taking classes in the process of certification testing preparation through June of 2011. I would be struggling to feed my family, retain my home, educate my children, remove myself from the unemployed support rolls, and would not be in a position to actively help others do the same. Senior professionals are highly trained and experienced, already possessing most skills, and require additional training to compete in new future position or industry. With limited jobs available, CPS is uniquely positioned to help senior professionals fill gaps in their skill sets getting them back to work in a record amount of time.

**Brian Enck, PMP**

After ten months of being unemployed I was directed to CPS. Thanks to the training received at CPS by the great teaching staff especially from Daryl Patrishkoff, it helped me greatly in my engineering profession. Before I was even able to complete the Design Engineer course, I had several calls and a few interviews, even during those rough times throughout 2009

Right away I landed a great Senior Design Analyst job in Puerto Rico and I know it was clinched during the interview process just as I presented one of my certificates, Dimensional Management, the one they were looking for. I'm still aiming to get back to Michigan and I'm sure I'll again find something as this economy continues to make its way back to recovery.

Thank you CPS and Daryl Patrishkoff!

**Mario Bengala**

I was enrolled at CPS for formal training in Lean Manufacturing, Six Sigma and Project Management Professional certifications. The experience was rewarding improved my marketability in employment. Many advantages can be listed:

- Networking with other professionals of the student body
- A “fast track” learning environment to obtain training and get back working.
- Certified teachers that are in touch with student and industry needs.
- Valuable textbooks, software and accessories to use in future work experiences.
- Project experience to obtain practitioner certification.
- Flexibility within the schedule framework to serve student needs.

CPS training is an effective solution for industry professionals that want to rapidly return to the work place with new skills to enhance their chance of finding new employment. The training is intense but rewarding. I would not have gone through the program unless it was a “fast track” solution. I needed to obtain new certifications as quickly as possible, and then return to employment.

Recently I have secured a full time position at a non-automotive company using these tools, techniques and methodologies I was certified in at CPS.

**Dan Resmer, PMP**

The Center for Professional Studies (CPS) was instrumental in my ability to quickly return to the work force. Through CPS I was able to complete Project Management Professional certification, Lean Six Sigma and Black Belt Six Sigma training in less than six months. Upon completion of the accelerated program I applied for a Senior Project Management position at General Electric, via their on-line website. Based on my CPS training and qualifications I received a response to my application the next day. Within one week I had interviewed and received an offer from them at a pay higher than my previous pay at Chrysler.

In addition to education, CPS offered numerous job fairs. They constantly networked with employers in and outside of the Detroit area to ensure that their students had every opportunity available to them to re-enter the job market. Numerous students received employment directly due to CPS' networking efforts. They are committed to offering the right training required to helping the unemployed in the metro Detroit area.

If I was unable to combine multi-year government training funds I would not have been able to return to the job market as quickly as I had. This would have resulted in significant financial struggles for our family. I highly recommend that the government continue this opportunity and recognize that CPS is a tool to improving the economy in Michigan.

**Kelly Shoulders, PMP**

I used CPS for training and updating my skills for getting a job in a tough employment market. The training opened up new doors and opportunities that I wouldn't have if I didn't do the training. The instructors are very professional and experienced in all industries. I would definitely recommend CPS for training and education.

**Athear Salem**

The instructors are first class, with a superb knowledge of the material and always go the extra mile to meet the needs of their students. I have come away from every class with much a deeper knowledge of the material at hand, and I have confidence that I will be a much heavier hitter in the job market

I have never gone to a school that has come close to matching their commitment to satisfy, serve and equip their customer--namely me--the student. Thanks Daryl, Cindy, Dennis, Lee, Steve and all the staff. Your instruction and service has been well worth the long drive I have to your school.

**Roger Williams**

I wanted to inform you that this afternoon I verbally accepted a position at World Technical Services Inc. as the aero-thermal engineer and lead on the overall vehicle build of a Fuel Economy Demonstrator project for the US military. It is a position that I am extremely qualified for and very excited to start. Additionally, my starting salary is a substantial increase from my salary at Chrysler with better benefits.

If not for CPS sending my resume out to several different companies, I would never have heard of WTSI, would not have received an unsolicited interview request, and would have missed out on a great opportunity. Had it not been for my CPS training in Pro/E, Pro/Mechanica, and Project Management, and my attainment of a Designing Engineer certificate, I do not feel that I would have been a top candidate and also able to negotiate a salary increase in the current economic climate.

I want to thank you and all the friends I have made at CPS who helped to keep my confidence up when things were looking bleak, and gave me the additional tools to put me at the top of a very large talent pool.

Thank you and best regards,

**Terry DeKoninck**

It is an honor and a privilege to have graduated in Program Management Certificate Program from Center for Professional Studies in Troy, Michigan. The teaching was professional, practical, interactive and informative. The courses covered skill sets that are being sought after in the industry.

The teaching was unique, in the sense; it exhibited projects that were recently completed for each of the topics covered in the courses. This encouraged my sincere participation in the courses. I have thoroughly enjoyed the learning process at CPS where the student's needs and their individual learning abilities are put first.

I take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank Daryl Patrishkoff and his excellent team of instructors for guiding me through the project work at CPS. I also thank Daryl for his vision, initiative, leadership, sincerity, communication, unwavering support and encouragement.

Without a hesitation, I would recommend CPS and Daryl to people who want to further their learning.

**Sonny Veeramachaneni**

I owe Daryl and the CPS team a debt of gratitude for contributing to my success recently in landing a new position.

The job description, for an interim associate director position in a state university admissions office, called for both knowledge and experience in project management. After completing the CPS program in August, I was able to show evidence of very recent formal training in project management in my cover letter and resume. In the interview that soon followed, I was able to effectively discuss my Program Management knowledge and experience, with the insights I acquired in your program very fresh in my mind. The hiring manager offered me the position a few days later, and I'll start next week, with confidence in my ability to apply professional skills in managing a variety of projects.

I believe my experience clearly shows how Program Management skills acquired in your program can help establish professional credibility, and lead to success in the job market, and high performance on the job. My future plans include investing a portion of my earnings in passing the PMI exam and earning PMP certification, which I believe will serve as very useful additional evidence of professionalism and expertise for future advancement opportunities, since I already know my new employer values expertise in project management.

Thank you for a very practical and effective training experience.

**John Fruner**

I'm happy to report that I have received an offer for contract employment as Project Manager, initially working in Europe (Germany), leading to permanent hire, with KMT Robotic Solutions. I will be starting this Wednesday. This position is initially for six months with a plan for direct hire, unless the global economy takes a dump again. I will be managing a project supporting the manufacture of wind turbine blades so this is a perfect start in an industry that I have been studying for the last 3 years.

I'll let you know how it goes!

Thanks a million, for your help and support during this "very stressful period of drought".

**Dirk Peter**

I am sending a special thanks to all of my "Recommenders" on LinkedIn; I know for certain that the recruiter and hiring manager looked at my LI profile and that your input helped them to make a positive hiring decision about me. So this is official notice to let you all know that I have obtained full time employment as a mechanical engineer again. The job is a 12 to 18 month contract assignment with G-Tech Services to be a Product Quality Engineer at Caterpillar in Peoria, IL. Since it is short term I will be commuting back to Detroit when I can on the weekends.

Caterpillar needs to bring its entire product line into compliance with new tighter EPA regulations. They are going with the urea injection concept to accomplish this so the project team will have to deal with issues such as extra fuel consumption, excess heat, and finding somewhere to put the system on the vehicle. Specifically what I'll be doing is helping their Product / Design engineers with managing the APQP process. APQP is new to Caterpillar so that is why they are bringing people in from the auto industries that have some experience with it. Getting really excited about this because it is a great opportunity at a great company and a chance to build on some new skills, most importantly the company is fully behind our efforts.

Thanks again to all of you for your help, support, encouragement, and I will never forget it.

I have to put in special thank you to Daryl Patrishkoff here for his excellent instruction and assistance, I WOULD NOT BE HERE IF NOT FOR YOU AND YOUR SCHOOL! Thank you for including me in your APQP class when you needed some extra butts in the seats!

Warmest Regards to all and hope to see to see you again very soon,

**Kevin McCutcheon**

The Center for Professional Study's program has been the most rewarding educational experience that I had ever had, because these programs are geared toward teaching the material needed to perform the tasks of a career, and the hands-on experience that is required to sustain the knowledge. I had taken the Lean Six Sigma Black Belt program and would rate this experience as top-notch.

The real life examples of the classroom's case-studies had influenced the actual Lean Six Sigma project that offered the exposure to real-life situations, which are needed to become a successful Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. I am so thankful for the experience to attend this academy and feel like my professional level of experience has grown more in the few months of attendance in the program than in the six years of classroom training it took to complete my MBA.

**James Brown**

I am recommending Daryl both as an instructor and as CEO of Center for Professional Studies. As an instructor for Lean Manufacturing his knowledge of the material was superb. He made the concepts easily understandable and provided all materials needed for a complete hands-on experience. I am thoroughly satisfied with the service provided me in his class, and would advise all my colleagues to take classes from him.

As CEO of Center for Professional Studies he has chosen only the best instructors for the courses they offer. My experience at CPS has been one of growth and I am more equipped than ever for a competitive job market. The staff at CPS truly understands my needs as a customer and how to deliver accordingly. I want to extend many thanks to Daryl and all of the staff at CPS for a truly rewarding educational experience.

**Roger Williams**

I want to thank the Center for Professional Studies (CPS), the Professors and the Administration, where I received my Six Sigma Black Belt Certification. CPS was instrumental in enhancing my skills through the Six Sigma Black Belt curriculum and completing my Projects to gain my certification while I was laid-off. If I had not had the opportunity to receive the TAA benefits and receive my Six Sigma Black Belt Certification thru CPS, I am confident that I would not have the opportunity for the Quality Lab Coordinator, at William Beaumont Hospital, job position, much less an offer.

**Ceena S. Andrades**

"The Center for Professional Studies (CPS) owes the success of its students to a superb curriculum that prepares them for immediate success in their professional careers. A great part of the success is due to its dedicated and knowledgeable team of instructors, who can relate and exemplify their instructional knowledge to their real world successful experiences.

My academic exposure to the principles of Total Quality and Lean Six Sigma through CPS, and a CPS sponsored project for black belt certification at a local manufacturing plant, have greatly helped to build skills towards my current assignment. I would highly recommend CPS to anyone planning to take their next career leap.

### **Jatinder Singh**

I have been hired for full time employment at Paramount Precision Products as "Lean Manufacturing Manager". I will be working on a list of strategic and tactical lean events. One of my top focuses will be the implementation of the "Fixture Organization and Readiness Project"; this should give Dan, Mike and I the opportunity to complete our project. We are fully supported by the President and Owner of PPP. Additionally, we have had very constructive meetings with several employees and are now in the position to implement the project.

I feel fortunate to have been placed in a position to be hired by Paramount; this was a direct result of taking classes at CPS and the onsite training.

### **Bill Hampton**

CPS offers one of the most unique programs available. Instructors have extensive industry experience. The certification classes are created to meet the changing job market. And extra curricular activities are scheduled with a focus on re-entering the workforce. The CPS team fills a need in the community not covered by traditional universities and community colleges.

My experience with CPS is that I not only learned valuable skills but gained confidence in what I could offer an employer. I am working now as an engineer for a non-automotive company. I have kept in contact with many of my fellow students and teachers. This whole experience was a very positive experience.

In conclusion, Michigan should keep the existing benefit structure or expand it. Don't turn your back on the experienced professional workforce. Don't let organizations like CPS become victims of the recession.

### **Deb Meagher**