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Local Companies Get a Lean Lesson from the Unemployed

Troy, MI, February 16 - When Kurt Saldana, President of Livonia-based Quality Metal Craft agreed to help unemployed students at the Center for Professional Studies (CPS) complete their Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification he hadn't counted on reaping so much in return.

"The expertise and input the students from CPS provided to our current programs that we manufacture enabled us to reduce our costs without having to pay for their input," says Saldana. "In a world where we are all trying to reduce costs, CPS provided QMC with a no cost solution to reducing costs and provided QMC management with a fresh set of eyes on how we were doing our business."

Thanks in part to the funding available through Michigan Works Programs, No Worker Left Behind, National Emergency Grant and Trade Adjustment Assistance thousands of out of work technical professionals have returned to school to gain credentials for new careers in such areas as program management, designing engineering, lean six sigma and other industry specific programs.

"The challenge for unemployed people is they need on-the-job experience in order to complete their certification throughout all of the programs," says Daryl Patrishkoff, CEO of CPS. "Through our "Partnering Company" program we're able to give students the job experience they need, so they can graduate, and re-enter the job market at a higher skill level."

(more)



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CPS is one of several state certified training institutions where people can use public funding for education, but CPS is the only school offering students the opportunity for on-the-job experience that the students do not have to organize for themselves. The businesses in the “Partnering Company” program represent different industries ranging from manufacturing, design, engineering, service and food packaging. CPS is continually adding new companies in emerging industries as the opportunities arise.

“What attracted me to CPS was the ability to practice the skills we were taught in the classroom at a real company,” says JP Singh, a recent graduate of CPS and Six Sigma Black Belt.

“When so many companies are struggling to be profitable, getting free improvement ideas from experienced professionals is a means for us to improve our operations while helping people get the certification they need to get back into the workplace,” states Bill Szuch, with Norwegian Jakes, a CPS business partner.

To learn more about partnering with CPS or funding available through Michigan Works! visit <http://www.cpspoly.com> or call (248) 844-9090.

About CPS

The Center for Professional Studies is a Michigan based, licensed training institute founded in 1992 to provide world class industry specific technical education that is developed and facilitated by industry experts. CPS has provided hands-on technical training to more than 7,000 students and 400 corporations.

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