

TAP SUCCESS STORIES



Manufacturing Extension Partnership — *Carla Kimberlin, Kaizen Coordinator OMCO, Pierceton, Ind.*

“Better, faster, cheaper, simpler — the better we get at these ‘Lean’ principles, the more unstoppable we will become. As a team, we are making OMCO the premier roll-form supplier in the world. With the training that OMCO employees received through this Purdue TAP/MEP partnership, and the practice that we put into it, it is achievable. I believe my career also has benefited because Purdue instructor Steve Hornett lit a fire. Steve taught with a passion that is a testament to a personal belief that ‘Lean’ truly does work. Raised on a farm and coming from a blue-collar background, I’m excited about what the future holds for me and for OMCO.”

— **Carla Kimberlin**
Kaizen Coordinator, OMCO

Purdue’s Technical Assistance Program
is a NIST MEP network affiliate

Carla Kimberlin helps lead OMCO’s Lean Manufacturing efforts as Kaizen Coordinator and hopes to return to college to learn the financial side of manufacturing.

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This northern Indiana manufacturer, with roots dating to 1955, has successfully navigated the competitive nature of its global marketplace to become a premier, privately held roll-forming company focused on innovation and expansion. Its 110 full-time and temporary employees, working three shifts, manufacture an array of products — from smaller parts for vending machines and cash registers to framing and other custom products for military applications and tractor-trailer makers.

Purdue TAP/MEP training was instrumental in OMCO's decision to relocate a manufacturing line to Pierceton from Pennsylvania. OMCO increased its in-plant mills to 16 from 12, expanding local production and preserving Indiana jobs. Todd Urig, director of operations at OMCO, says employees have worked to minimize waste, are empowered to make decisions on the production line, and have allowed the manufacturer to remain nimble in responding to customer needs.

"This Purdue TAP/MEP partnership changed the thinking in improvement and to better understand the waste people don't normally see," Urig says. "It helped us tremendously in the changeover as we examined our processing to combine the two plants. As more of our customers become Lean, they want just-in-time delivery on products, and it's difficult to do that offshore. This will help keep us competitive and on the cutting-edge in this global marketplace as a longstanding and viable business to support the community of Pierceton."



The TAP Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) expanded its Lean Manufacturing efforts from January 2009 to January 2010, assisting more than 73 Indiana companies with their workforce training needs. These programs assist Indiana companies with advanced training efforts combining Lean Manufacturing, 5S organizations methods, and continuous improvement principles with core workforce training and production strategies. "Our job is to save and grow jobs for Indiana, helping companies remain competitive by cutting costs, reducing waste, and setting the pace for innovative products and processes," says Steve Hornett, TAP/MEP advanced manufacturing specialist and trainer. "This TAP/MEP success story is about OMCO and Kaizen coordinator Carla Kimberlin."

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