University of Utah MEP Center

The mission of the University of Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership (UUMEP) Center is to enhance the productivity and technological performance of Utah manufacturing.

The UUMEP Center implements this ambitious mission by focusing on the following five key elements.

1. Operational excellence: Maximize profit through manufacturing and business process optimization based on lean, six-sigma, and other operational excellence methods.

2. Workforce Training: Promote technology adoption through workforce training, to retain and grow a highly-skilled workforce.

3. Advanced manufacturing technology: Support product and process innovation through implementation of advanced manufacturing technologies, automation, and robotics.

4. Product and process innovation: Use data-driven business analytics to identify new products and markets that increase revenue, and create new jobs through economic growth.

5. Investment access: Link Utah manufacturing businesses with capital and investment groups to fund growth through implementation of advanced manufacturing technologies.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2016

- $65 Million Total Increased/Retained Sales
- 1,254 Total Increased/Retained Jobs
- $45.3 Million New Client Investments
- $6.1 Million Cost Savings
“Having my team and Brent from BCH Group work creatively together to resolve the requests of our customers, and to come up with solutions to save time and cost was very productive and informative. Together, we were able to implement some new operational guidelines, organize our work flow, brainstorm ideas to cut costs, and get our staff on the same page. Each person was able to input their ideas and issues to troubleshoot, and then make the best decision for the group as a whole. I would definitely do it again!” Jenice Jones, Owner

IMPLEMENTING LEAN PRINCIPLES DELIVERS ANNUAL RESULTS

ABOUT. Jones Shirts & Signs is a family-owned and operated company located in Ogden, Utah which employs eight people and has been in business for 17 years. They offer embroidery, signs, stickers, screen printing, transfers, promotional items, gifts, and banners. You can find their work in small and large companies, and in local sports teams and organizations throughout Utah. They strive to create the best products at competitive prices and provide personal, hands-on assistance to each customer.

THE CHALLENGE. Jones Shirts & Signs wanted to improve product process and flow, work and customer order standardization, and overall operational efficiency. For assistance, they contacted the University of Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership Center (UUMEP) - a NIST MEP affiliate.

MEP’S ROLE. Theresa Drulard, Director of UMEP, met with Jones Shirts & Signs to identify company needs and methods most critical to achieving their goals. The UUMEP Center engaged one of its partners, Brent Huffaker from BCH Group, to implement a lean continuous improvement project, lead the staff training and value stream mapping, and create the visual indicators for improved product and work flow and overall operational efficiency. By improving employee organizational efficiencies, the company will be able to realize cost savings each year.

RESULTS

- Cost savings of $20,000 annually
- 1200% increase in standardized work
- Identified 35 ideas, implemented 16 to increase sales and cash flow