

## LEAN TRAINING LEADS TO IMPROVED EMPLOYEE PRODUCTIVITY

**ABOUT MAPES INDUSTRIES INC.** Mapes Industries is a family owned business engaged in manufacturing specialty architectural panels and architectural canopies. Based in Lincoln, NE, the company was founded by J.S. Mapes in 1952 as a manufacturer of storefront canopies and laminated veneer panels for building entrances and remodeling. The Mapes product line has evolved over the last 60 years to meet the changing needs of both developers and architects.

**THE CHALLENGE.** The company, led by its President, sought to train their associates in the basics of Lean Manufacturing to increase operational efficiency. Based on previous meetings, they reached out to Nebraska MEP for training assistance.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** Nebraska MEP provided on-site Lean 101 training in two sessions for employees on the Principles of Lean Manufacturing in a classroom discussion combined with live simulation sessions that demonstrated the concepts learned in the lectures. Participants learned how to: reduce cycle time, reduce floor space, reduce inventory, improve cash flow, improve productivity, and stimulate teamwork.

This training used a Lego simulation model.

**"I would recommend that manufacturers work with Nebraska MEP as they can provide services that can help one become more competitive and efficient. After receiving the training from Nebraska MEP our associates were more aware of ways to increase productivity and eliminate waste. Additionally, we have used Nebraska MEP to assist in a tooling process that was also impactful to our organization."**

-Luke Prussa, President

## RESULTS



Reduced labor costs, saving approximately **\$50,000**



Investment of **\$2,000** in workforce training

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