

Success Story

Training Within Industry (JI, JM, & JR)



Plastic Products Co. Inc.
100% Employee Owned

Testimonial:

"AKA and their TWI offering enabled our Supervisors to learn the tools of JI, JM and JR in the classroom through interacting with multiple exercises and case studies. Armed with a Standard Process, Documentation Format and 4 Step Pocket Card, the teams were able to find process waste and formally propose positive change.."

Bob Griessel, Director of Manufacturing
Plastic Products, Inc.

Company Profile:

Plastic Products Inc. was originally founded in 1962 in Minnesota and in the 80's added 2 Facilities in Kentucky to better serve the appliance customer base. As a 100% employee owned company, today PPC customer's cover a broad range of industries including automotive and consumer products. Current employment in Kentucky is approximately 160 team members whom mold and assemble products to customer specification.

Situation:

As a KY MEP client PPC, and it's employees, have maintained and grown while providing strong service to an excellent customer base. In an area experiencing a below average unemployment rate, finding and keeping skilled employees and Supervisors becomes tremendously challenging.

Solution:

Recognizing this, PPC engaged the services of the Advantage Kentucky Alliance to specifically provide its Supervisors with a tool set to allow them to become better Managers through learning to be better trainers and Kaizen Leaders.

AKA led a cross-section of PPC's Management staff from 3 facilities through "Training Within Industry" (TWI). Besides gaining the skills of how to train others better they also learned the 4 steps required to improve employee relations.

The biggest bottom line impacts came from the group's Job Methods/Kaizen Proposals. By tracking the Current State of 3 key processes, each of the 3 teams uncovered opportunities for improving current methods that had positive impacts including overhead savings and capacity increases.

Team 1 came up with an improved way to produce one Assembly that also improves Quality. Total annual labor savings of up to \$4000 are projected along with a contribution to a reduction in the plant's annual Worker's Compensation Insurance Premium.

Team 2 was able to implement a reduction in Operator Steps on the Dairy Door Machine Unload and Assembly process. By locating raw and finished goods material closer to the point of use. Machine downtime was reduced significantly enough to create capacity to allow for \$36,000 in additional output off one Machine.

Team 3 had the largest improvement and actually implemented their machine downtime reduction freeing up capacity for an additional \$228,000 in sales. While reducing labor by an anticipated .02% annually.

Contact: Kurt Felten, Marketing Specialist
kurt.felten@wku.edu, (270) 745-3370



Direct Results:



Increased Capacity
Allowing for \$228k in added sales. (and reducing labor costs simultaneously by .02% annually.



Reduced Machine downtime to allow for additional \$36k output off of one machine.



Created annual labor savings of \$4k along with a reduction in annual Workers Compensation Insurance Premium.

Advantage Kentucky Alliance Headquarters
WKU Center for Research and Development
2413 Nashville Rd, B8, Suite 310
Bowling Green, KY 42101