

Howard G. Nelson

+1-847-477-9316 | howard@hnelson.com

Objective

Leadership of a manufacturing organization; with the opportunity to add value through team development, project management, and continuous process improvement.

Experience

Operations Manager | RavenBrick LLC 12/13-10/14

- led start-up operations team (16 people) including engineering, production, quality, and maintenance
- managed installation of automated production line (increased production capacity by 50x)
- implemented operations database for production planning, product tracking, and quality control

Project / Quality Manager | Diamond Wire Material Technologies 3/12-10/13

- led design and business case development for prospective Asian manufacturing plant
- managed transfer and start-up of SmartWire (PV interconnect wire) production from acquisition
- managed quality department (receiving, WIP and final inspection, document control, ISO 9001 certification)
- created end-to-end material and process tracking database and non-conforming / corrective action systems

Operations Manager | Micro-Poise Measurement Systems 7/07-5/11

- managed the start-up and operations of an equipment manufacturing facility in Beijing, China
 - developed project business case, new plant design, process layout and procedures
 - hired, trained, and managed staff (30 people) for engineering, supply chain, quality, and production
 - transferred assembly of high-speed balancing machine and accessories from the US
- developed supply chain for parts and sub-assemblies supporting US assembly resulting in 64% savings
- created and managed spare parts distribution warehouse for Asia/Pacific region
- led product design, assembly process, and project management improvement activities

Value Stream Manager | Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company 5/06-7/07

- managed 3-shift tire assembly department with 7 supervisors and 120 production and maintenance techs
- maintained production through 3-month USW strike utilizing salaried and temporary labor
- led lean activities including program to reduce labor cost by 13% while increasing throughput

Production Supervisor | Elgin Sweeper Company 1/97-8/04

- supervised 36-person, 2-shift materials / service parts / shipping department – led kaizen and 5S events; improved service parts on-time delivery by 54%
- supervised 15-person welding department including scheduling and capacity planning – implemented kanban system and product-focused cells; perfect safety record
- managed 3-year project to transform all finishing to powder coating – improved EH&S, product performance
- University of Tennessee Lean Manufacturing training / certification

Manufacturing Engineer | Navistar International Transportation Corp. 2/95-1/97

- member of team that created a medium and heavy duty truck assembly plant in Monterrey, Mexico
- conducted site evaluations, process simulations, and developed layouts for existing and prospective plants

Education

Master of Business Administration | Purdue University – Krannert School of Management 8/04-5/06

- areas of focus included Logistics, Strategy, and Organizational Behavior; Six Sigma green belt certification
- coordinated Leadership and Ethics Series of speakers and events
- internship at **American Axle & Manufacturing** – developed process simulation and plan to increase assembly capacity (+34%) and reduce labor cost (-27%); supervised production on 3rd shift
- Krannert Scholar (top 5% of class), graduate assistantship and DCMME scholarships

Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Mechanical Engineering | Duke University 8/90-5/94

- summer studies in law and politics at King's College London and the University of Cambridge
- worked part-time in video production studio and as a strolling violinist