

LEANSIGMA® INSTITUTE EXPANDS LEAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

New Courses Offer Immediately Applicable Knowledge to Help Streamline Manufacturing Operations

Durham, N.C. – March 24, 2009 – The LeanSigma® Institute announced today the expansion of its “Lean Certification Training” program with two new certificate curricula: “Kaizen Leader” and “Program Leader.”

The focus of the new curriculum is to provide companies with an accelerated platform to develop lean experts that drive immediate internal improvements and create a rapid return on investment in these challenging economic times. The industry-recognized courses are structured to give students a maximum level of flexibility in scheduling their class work.

The “Kaizen Leader” curriculum is designed to teach ‘Lean Certification’ candidates to lead a kaizen event and the ability to apply lean techniques for driving quick, measurable results. Students will graduate with hands-on experience and knowledge in the following areas:

- Basic Lean Tool Kit, including fundamentals of the Toyota Production System
- Kaizen instructor training
- Kaizen event experience that achieves minimum 3-5x return on training investment

“Program Leader” is the next level for “Kaizen Leader” graduates and is for senior lean practitioners and program managers interested in learning to lead the integration of a lean culture. Participants learn how to develop and implement a lean transformation program, guide daily continuous improvement activities, and align kaizen events with the strategic goals of the company. The curriculum also teaches candidates to track and sustain key metrics effectively against daily production targets.

“The expanded program gives manufacturers flexibility to increase their cadre of in-house lean experts,” said Mike Serena, Managing Director of the LeanSigma Institute. “Keeping in mind that the downturn dictates that many companies do more with less, we provide employees the opportunity to balance their demanding work schedules with the course dates and project timelines that best fit their needs.”

TBM has already graduated several classes of lean-certified practitioners, all of whom have been able to facilitate kaizen events successfully, conduct lean training, jump start improvement initiatives, and reduce costs.

Each lean certification course includes approximately 15 days of coursework with some additional time required for homework, report-outs, and final exams. The program includes a combination of online and classroom learning as well as hands-on and experiential workshops conducted at actual manufacturing facilities. Each individual is assigned a TBM “Lean Mentor” to guide them through the process.

Companies interested in Lean Certification training for Kaizen Leader or Program Leader should contact Bill Swisher at the LeanSigma Institute. He can be reached at 800-438-5535 or bswisher@tbmco.com.

About The LeanSigma® Institute

The LeanSigma® Institute offers a range of interactive workshops, online training, user conferences and customized training solutions to give organizations the necessary tools to launch their own lean initiative. TBM Consulting's LeanSigma® approach integrates Lean principles for responsiveness and Six Sigma's focus on quality. More details available at www.tbmcg.com/leancertification