

Stefan Higgins

Operational Excellence Engineer

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SUMMARY

Dedicated Operational Excellence Engineer with over five years of experience steering process improvements in manufacturing. Highly adept at Lean and Six Sigma methodologies, I thrive on analyzing data to enhance operational efficiency. Known for fostering collaborative environments, I've successfully led teams in various continuous improvement initiatives that have bolstered safety, quality, and productivity. Eager to contribute my expertise to drive organizational success while learning new skills in a dynamic team environment at Deceuninck Solutions.

EXPERIENCE

Continuous Improvement Engineer

Innovative Solutions Inc. 📅 June 2022 - Present 📍 Naperville, IL

Responsible for spearheading process improvement initiatives, optimizing operations with Lean principles, and coaching staff on continuous improvement strategies. Demonstrated leadership in driving sustainable changes to production processes and enhancing overall performance across the organization.

- Led continuous improvement projects that improved operational efficiency by significantly streamlining manufacturing processes.
- Analyzed cycle time data and developed solutions that reduced downtime, ensuring smoother workflow throughout production lines.
- Established key performance indicators (KPIs) and monitored outcomes to assess project impact and generate accountability within teams.
- Trained personnel on Lean practices, contributing to heightened engagement and proactive participation in continuous improvement activities.
- Created standard work documentation, visual controls, and established 5S practices, enhancing workplace productivity and commitment to quality.
- Facilitated workshops that encouraged innovative problem-solving techniques, resulting in lasting improvements in processing times.

Process Improvement Analyst

Efficient Processes Corp. 📅 January 2020 - May 2022 📍 Aurora, IL

Focused on identifying inefficiencies in daily operations and initiating Lean practices to drive transformation in process flows. Effectively utilized analytical skills to quantify improvements and recommend strategic actions affecting productivity.

- Implemented Lean methodologies which led to a marked reduction in waste in various production departments, achieving cost savings.
- Supported operations through the identification of practical solutions that collectively elevated overall productivity metrics.
- Presented detailed performance data analyses to management, framing insights and laying out recommendations for sustained enhancements.
- Conducted educational sessions for team members on Lean concepts and tools, nurturing a culture rooted in continuous improvement.
- Collaborated effectively with engineering teams to optimize workflows, translating analysis into actionable procedural improvements.
- Regularly monitored compliance with established safety and quality standards, fostering a safer workplace environment.

Junior Process Engineer

Tech Innovations Ltd. 📅 August 2018 - December 2019 📍 Schaumburg, IL

Assisted senior engineers with developing and implementing process optimization strategies. Contributed to various projects focused on operational improvements and efficiency gains.

- Participated in several process enhancement projects targeting waste reduction and efficiency improvements in production.
- Gathered and analyzed process performance data, playing an integral part in formulating effective improvement plans.
- Engaged in team discussions addressing performance hurdles, collaborating to develop viable solutions addressing key issues.
- Cumulatively worked on creating training resources on Lean principles, supporting onboarding efforts for consecutive team cohorts.
- Contributed to documenting best practices through visual controls and procedures that underpinned consistency and clarity in execution.
- Worked alongside engineers implementing innovative methods that elevated product quality while decreasing defect rates.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification, 2020
- Excellence in Leadership Award at Efficient Processes Corp., 2021

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering

University of Illinois 🎓 GPA: 3.8 📅 2018 📍 Champaign, IL

Coursework: Operations Management, Quality Control, Project Management, Data Analysis

CERTIFICATIONS

- Lean Six Sigma Green Belt 📅 2020
- Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) 📅 2021

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Process Improvement Tools:** Lean, Six Sigma, Kaizen
- **Data Analysis Software:** Minitab, Excel, Tableau
- **Collaboration Tools:** Microsoft Teams, Slack, Miro
- **Documentation Standards:** 5S, Standard Operating Procedures, Visual Controls
- **Project Management Methodologies:** Agile, Waterfall, Scrum
- **KPI Measurement Approaches:** SWOT Analysis, Pareto Analysis, Dashboards
- **Safety Compliance Tools:** OSHA Standards, Safety Audits, Risk Assessments
- **Performance Improvement Strategies:** Value Stream Mapping, Root Cause Analysis, Benchmarking
- **Manufacturing Systems:** ERP, MES, CAD
- **Training Resources:** Workshop Facilitation, Mentorship Programs, E-Learning Modules

SKILLS

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Lean Manufacturing | • Microsoft Office Suite | • Visual Controls | • Performance Metrics |
| • Six Sigma | • Team Collaboration | • Workflow Optimization | • Problem-Solving |
| • Data Analysis | • KPI Monitoring | • Change Management | • Compliance Standards |
| • Process Improvement | • Training and Mentoring | • Cycle Time Reduction | • Quality Assurance |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Society of Automotive Engineers
- Active Volunteer, Local Nonprofit Focusing on STEM Education

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST