

Edwin Rice

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SUMMARY

Operations excellence leader with 10 years of manufacturing experience improving safety, quality, service, cost, engagement, and **operating performance** through Lean Manufacturing, Six Sigma, TPM, and **structured problem solving**. Leads integrated improvement programs, governance routines, performance standards, audits, and improvement roadmaps with plant leadership. Uses SAP S/4, Power BI, and advanced Excel analysis to identify trends, guide decisions, and clarify operational priorities. Builds capability through coaching, leader development, **digital work processes**, **connected manufacturing tools**, and practical change management. Career progression from Process Improvement Engineer through Continuous Improvement Manager to Senior Operations Excellence Manager reflects growing ownership across manufacturing systems and cross functional teams. Brings a thoughtful, hands on approach that makes quiet process gains visible and helps manufacturing teams sustain better results.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Operations Excellence Manager

February 2021 - Present

Midwest Consumer Manufacturing

Springfield, IL

Leads enterprise manufacturing improvement across plant operations, guiding Lean Manufacturing, TPM, Six Sigma, governance, digital work processes, analytics, and **frontline capability development**. Partners with plant leaders and senior stakeholders to connect improvement priorities with safety, quality, service, cost, and operating performance.

- Directed **Lean Manufacturing**, TPM, and Six Sigma programs across **manufacturing operations**, strengthening improvement discipline.
- Established governance routines, audits, **performance standards**, and roadmaps with **plant leadership** for consistent execution.
- Coached managers and improvement teams through structured problem solving, helping practical changes hold on production floors.
- Used **SAP S/4**, Power BI, and Excel analysis to surface trends and guide operating decisions.
- Deployed digital work processes and connected manufacturing tools, supporting frontline adoption through clear coaching.
- Presented performance insights, risks, and progress to senior stakeholders, keeping improvement priorities visible.

Continuous Improvement Manager

May 2018 - January 2021

Prairie Industrial Foods

Peoria, IL

Managed plant improvement programs focused on safety, quality, productivity, operating consistency, capability development, change management, value stream analysis, and equipment reliability. Connected production, maintenance, and leadership teams around practical improvements and clearer business outcomes.

- Managed **safety, quality**, productivity, and consistency initiatives across production areas, improving daily operating focus.
- Built Lean capability plans and training sessions that gave teams practical methods for process reviews.
- Facilitated **value stream analysis** workshops, helping production groups see delays and select focused improvements.
- Supported operational transformation through **change management** activities, keeping adoption grounded in frontline realities.
- Partnered with maintenance and operations **teams** to address **reliability** challenges through focused problem solving.
- Tracked improvement initiatives and communicated business outcomes, giving leaders a clearer view of progress.

Process Improvement Engineer

July 2016 - April 2018

Central Manufacturing Solutions

Bloomington, IL

Supported manufacturing improvement projects through production analysis, process mapping, standard work, Excel reporting, implementation planning, training, and review meetings. Provided dependable analysis that helped teams translate process observations into practical operating changes.

- Analyzed production processes and identified improvement opportunities through structured review of operating data.
- Supported Lean projects with **process mapping**, data analysis, and implementation planning for production teams.
- Prepared **Excel** reports that clarified production trends during **manufacturing improvement** reviews and project meetings.
- Assisted **standard work** development and documentation, giving operators clearer process guidance.
- Participated in improvement reviews, connecting observations from production areas with project decisions.
- Supported **continuous improvement** training activities, helping teams apply practical methods with greater confidence.

PROJECTS

Digital Manufacturing Work Process Rollout 📅 2024

Shared goals matter on a production floor. Led a distinct digital work process effort that connected frontline routines, connected manufacturing tools, and practical adoption support without repeating employment projects.

Enterprise Performance Analytics Framework 📅 2022

Clear information builds trust between plants and leaders. Created a distinct analytics framework using SAP S/4, Power BI, and Excel to organize operating insights for improvement decisions.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Recognized by senior stakeholders for clear manufacturing performance reporting and practical improvement governance.
- Selected to lead cross functional coaching efforts supporting Lean Manufacturing, TPM, and structured problem solving adoption.
- Entrusted with enterprise improvement initiatives spanning safety, quality, service, cost, and operating performance.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering

2016

Illinois State University GPA: 4.0

Normal, IL

Coursework: Lean Manufacturing, Six Sigma, Operations Research, Process Design

CERTIFICATIONS

- Six Sigma Green Belt 📅 2019
- Lean Manufacturing Practitioner 📅 2019

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Continuous Improvement:** Lean Manufacturing, Six Sigma, TPM
- **Analytics Tools:** Advanced Excel, Power BI, SAP S/4
- **Manufacturing Methods:** Value Stream Mapping, Standard Work, Process Mapping
- **Problem Solving:** Structured Problem Solving, Root Cause Analysis, Improvement Workshops
- **Digital Work Systems:** Digital Work Processes, Connected Worker, Augmentir
- **Performance Management:** Performance Standards, Governance Routines, Operational Reviews
- **Plant Operations:** Manufacturing Operations, Production Systems, Operating Performance
- **Change Leadership:** Change Management, Leader Development, Capability Building
- **Quality And Safety:** Safety Improvement, Quality Improvement, Compliance Audits
- **Reliability Improvement:** Maintenance Partnership, Reliability Reviews, Equipment Improvement

SKILLS

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| • Operations Excellence | • Change Management | • Leader Development | • Process Mapping |
| • Lean Manufacturing | • Continuous Improvement | • Manufacturing Operations | • Standard Work |
| • Six Sigma | • Structured Problem Solving | • Digital Work Processes | • Frontline Coaching |
| • TPM | • Performance Analytics | • Value Stream Analysis | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Association for Manufacturing Excellence participant, sharing practical improvement ideas with operations peers.
- Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers member, connecting engineering analysis with manufacturing performance.

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST