
JAMES NELSON AKERS

1010 GREGLYNN STREET • MACHESNEY PARK, ILLINOIS 61115 • (815) 877-1636 • E-MAIL JNAKERS@HOTMAIL.COM

A Quality Systems Engineer with over 12 years of professional experience in the; aerospace, telecommunications, and retail industries leading and improving quality systems globally.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CUSTOMER QUALITY ENGINEER (SEPTEMBER 2005 – PRESENT) REPORTING TO THE QUALITY MANAGER AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITY SYSTEM METHODS TO ENSURE PRODUCTS CONTINUALLY MEET AND EXCEED SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS.

ADVANCED QUALITY SYSTEMS ENGINEER– SIX SIGMA BLACK BELT (JUNE 1999 – SEPTEMBER 2005) REPORTING TO THE GLOBAL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER IMPLEMENTING SIX SIGMA AND LEAN ENTERPRISE CONCEPTS THROUGH ALL BUSINESS FUNCTIONS.

Woodward, Inc. - Rockford, Illinois

JUNE 1999 - PRESENT

Key Accomplishments

- Investigated and recommended alternatives to product designs and manufacturing methods through capability studies as part of the DFSS process.
- Lead corrective and preventive action committees.
- Lead a team to a 73% scrap and rework reduction resulting in a hard savings of \$120,000 annually and increased first pass yield from 60% to greater than 95% through the use of design of experiments.
- Reduced finished goods inventory in an assembly area ~30% and doubled inventory turns through Value Stream Mapping techniques.
- Reduced field returns on one product from an average of six per month to only two in two years. Internal rejections dropped from a high of 2% per quarter to near zero.
- Highly active in Black Belt and Kaizen activities at domestic and international Woodward and supplier sites.
- Designed, implemented, mentored, and provided Six Sigma Champions, Black Belt, Green Belt, Variation Reduction and Lean Enterprise training to hundreds of Woodward members and suppliers globally.
- Project leader for the implementation of an internal electronic statistical process control system for key processes and the Design for Six Sigma strategy.

VISITING INSTRUCTOR FOR THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM COVERING COURSES IN; LEAN ENTERPRISE, SIX SIGMA GREEN BELT, SIX SIGMA BLACK BELT, AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale - Carbondale, Illinois

APRIL 2008 - PRESENT

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR IN THE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT COVERING COURSES IN; PRINCIPLES OF QUALITY ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH TQM, FUNDAMENTALS OF STATISTICAL PROCESS CONTROL, SIX SIGMA, AND APPLIED STATISTICS.

Rock Valley College - Rockford, Illinois

JANUARY 2002 - PRESENT

Key Accomplishments

- Special topics course provided three students with the ability to obtain employment in a depressed economy and one student received a promotion to department leader.
- Enhanced many courses by incorporating valuable employment skills into the curriculum to help students increase their learning ability and obtain employment.

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR IN THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT.

Concordia University Wisconsin – Beloit Center, Wisconsin

JUNE 2009 - PRESENT

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT FOR THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM COVERING COURSES IN; DIGITAL FUNDAMENTALS, AC/DC CIRCUIT THEORY, MICROPROCESSOR PROGRAMMING, AND CIRCUIT DESIGN.

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale - Carbondale, Illinois AUGUST 1997 - MAY 1999

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PROCESS PERFORMANCE TEAM INTERN REPORTING TO THE DIRECTOR OF QUALITY. TRAINED EMPLOYEES IN QUALITY TOPICS, FACILITATED IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES AND ENHANCED AN ASSEMBLY LINE DESIGN WITH THE USE OF COMPUTER PROCESS SIMULATION SOFTWARE.

Honeywell Sensing and Controls - Freeport, Illinois

MAY 1998 - AUGUST 1998

Key Accomplishments

-- Responsible for improving cycle time on a new assembly line that resulted in a 13 percent production increase through process simulation techniques.

SERVICE TECHNICIAN AND SALES ASSOCIATE REPORTING TO THE SITE MANAGER. CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE BY PERFORMING INSTALLATION, BENCH TOP REPAIR SERVICE, AND DIAGNOSING EQUIPMENT CONCERNS.

United States Cellular - Rockford, Illinois

April 1994 - December 1997

SUPERVISOR FOR A HIGH VOLUME RETAIL LOCATION WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIRING, TRAINING, SEASONAL ORDERING, OPENING AND CLOSING THE STORE, AND SCHEDULING 10+ EMPLOYEES NIGHTLY.

OSCO DRUG - AMERICAN DRUG STORES - LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 1989 - JULY 1994

EDUCATION

Master of Science Manufacturing Systems

May 1999

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale- Carbondale, Illinois

Thesis – Adaptation of Cost Modeling to a Manufacturing Environment Through the Use of Computer Simulation

Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering Technology

May 1997

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale- Carbondale, Illinois

Level I Certificate Electrical Engineering Technology

July 1995

Rock Valley College- Rockford, Illinois

Associate of Arts

December 1994

Rock Valley College- Rockford, Illinois

CERTIFICATIONS / AWARDS/ INVOLVEMENTS

- Awarded Quality Progresses “QP’s New Voices of Quality – 40 New Voices of Quality,” November 2011
- American Society for Quality Rockford Section #1205; Chair- 2008, 2011, Vice Chair- 2007, 2009, 2010, Secretary- 2006
- Senior Member, American Society for Quality holding certifications in Certified Quality Engineer (CQE #42227), Six Sigma Black Belt (SSBB #77), Certified Reliability Engineer (CRE #5903)
- Completed Air Academy Associates Six Sigma Black Belt Train-the-Trainer, February 2004
- Completed Woodward Leadership Training Series, October 2001
- Received Woodward Six Sigma Black Belt Certification in August 2000
- Completed Supervisor Training Program for American Drug Stores, May 1991
- Chair of Industrial Advisory Board for Industrial Technology at Southern Illinois University
- Rock Valley College Engineering Technology Advisory Committee member

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SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Rockford Section 1205 Spring Conference April 2011
“Planning for a Successful Design of Experiment”
- Quality Expo Detroit - 2008, Detroit, MI. June 2008
“Six Sigma for Small Business” and “Lean for the Quality Profession”
- SIU ASQ Chapter Spring Conference 2007, Carbondale, IL. April 2007
“Six Sigma Tools Applied” and “Lean for the Quality Profession”
- Rockford ASQ Chapter February 2006 dinner meeting, Rockford, IL. February 2006
“Six Sigma for Small Companies”
- MTEC - Manufacturing Technology Expo and Conference, Rockford, IL. May 2005
“Six Sigma for Small Business”
- SIU ASQ Chapter Spring Conference 2005, Carbondale, IL. April 2005
“Six Sigma Basics and the Future”
- Rockford ASQ Chapter September dinner meeting, Rockford, IL. September 2004
“Six Sigma Past, Present, and the Future”

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