President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Automotive Lean/Six Sigma Training Project

Grantee: TechSolve, Inc.

Key Partners: Honda of America Mfg., Inc., Cincinnati State Community College, Columbus State Community College, Lorain County Community College, CompeteColumbus, Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network, Manufacturing Performance Institute, Governor's Ohio Workforce Policy Board, Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Manufacturers' Association, and the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Grant Amount: $1,464,470

Leveraged Amount: $3,160,580

Location of Grant Activities: Ohio (statewide)

Challenge: Honda of America and other auto manufacturers are requiring small Ohio auto parts manufacturers along their supply chains to implement Lean/Six Sigma productivity and quality practices. These small businesses are severely challenged to provide incumbent workers the training necessary to successfully implement Lean/Six Sigma. Moreover, on-site and distance learning Lean/Six Sigma training delivered by Ohio training providers does not result in a certificate recognized by Ohio community colleges. As a consequence, employees may not apply their certificate toward Industrial Engineering Associate Degree requirements and, thereby, accelerate their careers.

Addressing the Challenge: The project will modify existing, classroom-based Lean/Six Sigma programs to develop an innovative, blended classroom/distance-learning program. This new program will be piloted with automotive suppliers in Ohio. In addition, the curriculum will be integrated with the requirements for an Industrial Engineering and Quality Assurance Associate Degree at participating community colleges, so that student workers may earn credit toward their degrees. Moreover, the project will be led by a partnership of industry leaders, the workforce investment system, and training providers who will work to integrate Ohio's workforce and economic development strategies.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 1,000 individuals
- Increase job retention by 428 individuals
- 150 individuals advance in position or wage scale
- Develop on-site and distance learning of Lean/Six Sigma curricula
- Modify and adopt a Lean/Six Sigma Certificate that can be applied toward Industrial Engineering and Quality Assurance Degree requirements
- Adapt the Industrial Engineering and Quality Assurance Associate Degree programs to align with the Lean/Six Sigma Certificate program
- Integrate and standardize the Ohio MEP and community college Lean/Six Sigma curricula