

Central MN APICS November PDM Alexandria Extrusion QROCS Presentation and Tour

Central MN APICS thanks Alexandria Extrusion for hosting our December PDM, with special thanks to Peggy Angell, who served as our hostess, and to the many tour guides. Prior to the tour, Peggy explained (see picture below) how Alexandria Extrusion has diversified its product line and has been continuing to improve with their Quick Response Manufacturing (QRM) strategy. One of the projects Peggy highlighted was how they improved their order process which had been taking as long as two weeks or more. They decided this had to change and started toward implementing Quick Response Order Cells (QROCs) to focus on the problem. The result was smaller groups that handle the entire process. This required some physical changes in where people worked as well as what they did. Now an order is completed in a day or less. QROCs have been very successful and continue to serve as a means to further improve their processes.

After Peggy's QROC and Company Overview, we were all treated to an excellent tour. It was amazing to see how an aluminum bar stock was extruded into various forms and then converted into product for their customers. The tour guides explained how they have concentrated on providing more value added processes after the extrusion process, which has helped improve revenue and increase customer satisfaction.



Peggy Angell, Director of Materials for Alexandria Extrusion, addresses the PDM crowd.

Demographic and Economic Trends in Minnesota

After the tour and meal, the featured speaker for the evening was Cameron Macht from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Cameron gave attendees a fact-filled presentation on demographic and economic trends in Minnesota. Cameron's presentation was timely given the current turmoil in the national economy. He identified various slow and high growth areas throughout the state and pointed out that Central Minnesota was looking stronger than most areas. Cameron and four other analysts are stationed across Minnesota to conduct research to serve business and industry with their research findings. DEED updates this information on a regular basis and Cameron encouraged companies to visit the DEED website for further information: www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/ In addition, Cameron [gave us his presentation to share](#) with all of you, which includes his contact information. We thank Cameron very much for weathering the road conditions to share his information with us.



Cameron Macht, Labor Market Analyst, Department of Employment and Economic Development, explains Statewide Economic Changes.