

Local Industries Benefit from Partnerships with S.C.S.U. Student Chapter

Since Spring Semester 2009, teams of Operations and Supply Chain students have worked on projects related to materials, supply chain, productivity, quality, and cost reduction for local industries. The symbiotic relationship has been mutually beneficial to both the students and the companies. The companies have gained from the students' theoretical and problem-solving skills, and the students have gained valuable real-world experience in applying their knowledge.

Miller Manufacturing of Glencoe, MN hosted three student teams last Spring. The students were awed by the size and complexity of the operations, but welcomed the opportunity to advance their learning. Company Buyer Supervisor Bernie Venske was very satisfied with the student teams' results and commented:

We really enjoyed these students and all the ideas they had for us. We like what we saw and would like to have students come back this Fall. This was a great experience for Miller manufacturing and it wouldn't have happened if not for the APICS newsletter asking for companies to invite the St Cloud students in.

Park Industries hosted six student teams during the 2009 Fall Semester. Although coordination of meeting times and tracking the various projects presented a challenge, Quality Manager Donna Larsen reported, "Working with the students was a great learning experience for all of us involved, and we did enjoy the enthusiasm they brought with the project. Thank you for allowing us to be part of their learning." Some student teams will continue to work on projects at Park Industries in Spring Semester 2010. Many other teams are in need of projects and would welcome learning opportunities in other companies. Central Minnesota APICS would request its members to explore project opportunities for student teams in their companies. Please contact Alex Polacco at FacultyAdvisor@apicscmn.org for more information.

On a related note...some of the students who had worked on the projects this past year have recently graduated; others are slated to graduate at the end of the Spring. Please consider these students for any internships or job opportunities that your company may have. Their resumes are in the resume book posted on the Central MN APICS website at www.apicscmn.org.