

Deloitte 2017 Study - How Manufacturers Can Create Positive Perceptions with the US Public

written by Lauri Moon | November 30, 2017

In Deloitte's recent study on the perception of manufacturing, the vast majority of Americans surveyed continue to view manufacturing vital to economic prosperity. However, less than 5 in 10 believe manufacturing jobs are interesting, rewarding, clean, safe, stable, secure. Less than 3 in 10 are likely to encourage their children to pursue a manufacturing career. Yet, when asked what future jobs in manufacturing will look like, those surveyed have overwhelmingly optimistic views - future manufacturing jobs will require high-tech skills (88 percent) and will be clean and safe (81 percent), as well as more innovative (77 percent). Given these findings, manufacturers could benefit from uplifting current perceptions in order to attract talent. Click to read how manufacturers can help change the perception of manufacturing.

[Click here for the full study and supporting information.](#)

Collaborative Robots and Lean/Continuous Improvement

written by admin | November 30, 2017

I attended a collaborative robots (cobots) event yesterday that IMC cosponsored with the PA CareerLink for Columbia/Montour Counties and thought it worth a few observations within the context of lean/ continuous improvement.

[The Perfect Process](#)

Let's ask ourselves... What is the perfect production process? Well, a process that's being performed the "current one best way" (standard work) in a way that is 100% repeatable and predictable with no variation AND that can adapt if there are changes required AND can be continually improved.

We'd all love to have that, right? As we say, Lean/CI is about aiming for perfect yet knowing it isn't achievable (a golf score of 18). It's in the CI efforts that we keep getting closer and succeed as a result.

How Cobots Might Help

Cobots are a developing technology that can be an important part of our CI efforts. They're designed to work alongside people and to be able to do specialized tasks that may be mundane (lower value work) or unsafe (repetitive motion) or need to be very precise. They're small enough that they can be picked up and moved around easily and safe enough that they don't usually need guarding.

So if you think about Problem - Causes - Solutions (PDCA or DMAIC). Cobots can be a solution ***in the right situation***. But the key to successful application is to start by doing a great job of identifying the right problem, getting to root cause and then considering and prioritizing solutions. Not jumping to an assumed solution that a robot will save the day (oh yeah, we never do that).

Lean/CI More Than Ever

Like anything new, these technologies have the potential to separate winners from losers. And the winners will be the ones who have that CI operational culture and practices first and then apply cobots and other technologies as solutions to effective Lean/CI efforts.

Consider Getting to Know Cobots

My advice would be to identify an internal resource to stay attuned to this continually emerging and developing technology. Below is a link to an organization and a book called "*Lean Robotics*" that was mentioned yesterday by the presenter from Universal Robotics. I haven't read it but plan to check it out.
<https://leanrobotics.org/>.

How Teams Can Overcome Hesitancy about Lean

written by Lauri Moon | November 30, 2017

A manager tasked with introducing a lean approach should not downplay the challenge, writes Peter Anthony, CEO of UGN. Face-to-face communication is valuable, as is developing ambassadors for lean among the staff.

[Read more](#)

Cybersecurity Requirements for DoD Contractors

written by Lauri Moon | November 30, 2017

Today, more than ever, the Department of Defense (DoD) relies upon external contractors to carry out a wide range of missions and shares sensitive data with these entities. Under an interim rule issued in 2015 by the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), **DoD contractors (including small businesses) must adhere to two basic cybersecurity requirements:**

- (1) They must provide adequate security to safeguard covered defense information that resides in or transits through their internal unclassified information systems from unauthorized access and disclosure; and
- (2) They must rapidly report cyber incidents and cooperate with DoD to respond to these security incidents.

Failure to comply with the above requirements may prevent you from being able to conduct business with the DoD as of January 1, 2018!

Read DoD Article

NIST Interagency Report 7621 Rev. 1

If you are a supplier to DoD and have questions regarding compliance, contact IMC at info@imcpa.com or call 570-329-3200x8074.

Keystone Wood Products Association Releases Video Featuring Products Made with PA Hardwoods

written by Lauri Moon | November 30, 2017

Check out this great video released by the Keystone Wood Products Association featuring a number of IMC clients and the products they make using Pennsylvania hardwoods.

WEDnetPA FY 17-18 Application

Deadline Extended

written by Lauri Moon | November 30, 2017

WEDnetPA FY 17-18 Application Deadline Extended to August 11th. WEDnetPA brings training funds to qualified companies across PA. If you are planning to send staff members to any of IMC's upcoming Lean Manufacturing programs in September, be sure to get your application submitted.

To learn more and to apply visit <http://wednetpa.com/> or call IMC at 570-329-3200x8085 and we'll get you connected to your local rep.

Millennials, Hiring & Retention

written by admin | November 30, 2017

Dear Manufacturing Leaders - Much talk about millennials these days and in particular as relates to manufacturing. Below is a link to a pretty good article about attracting and retaining people and millennials in particular - the fastest growing generation in the workplace. Jeff Kopenitz mentioned this fellow Jason Dorsey as the guru of workplace generational considerations. Other good stuff related to the subject on this site.

Click here to read "Unlocking Millennial Talent."

Two thoughts having just read it.

1. Millennials are clearly less willing to accept a "just do your job" type of workplace experience. Good for them.
2. The "key organizational capabilities" for business success in today's more complex, competitive and fast-changing world - *system-wide continuous improvement and innovation* - are exactly aligned with what millennials are looking for. So in getting really good at systematic process improvement

(Lean/CI) and product & service reinvention (innovation), you also create a workplace that attracts and retains the most talented young people. That's winning.

Also FYI, we recently developed a *template of a selection and retention improvement strategy*. It's something that I think any company could work from to develop a company-specific selection and retention improvement strategy. Let me know if you'd like a copy.

Survey on the Value of Manufacturing Credentials

written by Lauri Moon | November 30, 2017

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), through the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is conducting a study to determine the use and value of manufacturing credentials.

There are many choices of credentials, but a significant lack of independent research regarding the quality, market value and effectiveness of manufacturing specific credentials. This research will provide information to U.S. manufacturers, career counselors and job seekers in reducing training costs and narrowing the skills gap.

On behalf of NIST MEP and IMC, we are asking you to participate in this important initiative. Please use the link below to access the survey before June 30th. Thank you for your time.

[Click here to access the survey.](#)

IRCs Generate \$14-to-\$1 Return on Investment!

written by Lauri Moon | November 30, 2017

A recent study performed by the Regional Economic Studies Institute of Towson University indicates a treasury return on investment of \$14.42:\$1, indicating that for each \$1 of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania funding received the IRC Program generated \$14.42 of incremental or retained treasury revenue. Click on the link below to read the full report.

Impacting PA Manufacturing's Economy Study 2017

2017 National Manufacturing Outlook and Insights: Strategies to Overcome the Headwinds

written by Lauri Moon | November 30, 2017

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the value of manufacturing was \$2.17 trillion, or 11.9% of annual GDP, in Q2 2016. This represents more than the agriculture, construction, information, and mining industries combined. The 2017 National Manufacturing Outlook and Insights survey takes a deeper dive into the latest manufacturing metrics: exports, new orders, revenue growth, R&D investment, capital expenditures, costs, workforce, and technology.

Download the report here.