

## LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP



### **University of Akron Students Learned About Lean Improvements in Their Tour of Our Mogadore Facility**

We had a great time last month when students from the University of Akron's Bachelor of Organizational Supervision program visited our Mogadore facility. The courses are taught by Dr. Georgia Pinis, a professor at the College of Applied Science and Technology. KEP has partnered with the University of Akron and Dr. Pinis since 2011 providing tours of the Mogadore facility each semester for these students. They toured the facility with Greg Graham (Director, Extrusion Operations) and Beverly Kiglics (Director, Quality Assurance) to learn firsthand about our Lean Process Improvement journey.

The University of Akron students learned about our Kaizen events, which bring teams of our employees together to address specific efficiencies and processes. Students saw our Lean Process Improvements in action, learning how they save us time, money and resources. While touring the facility the students also learned about DMAIC, an improvement cycle which includes steps to Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control processes. This is one of the core tools used to drive Six Sigma projects, the data-driven projects intended to optimize processes and product designs which the students are learning about as part of their courses. From making small changes to cut our energy use, to saving time with streamlined organization solutions, the students learned about the ways KEP identifies areas for improvement and then how we implement and sustain those improvements.

As part of their Bachelor of Organizational Supervision program, this type of learning is essential for these students. They graduate knowledgeable in the foundational elements of the Lean Six Sigma Methodology. Their coursework along with hands-on, applied knowledge make them Six Sigma Yellow Belts. The tours of our facility provide students with actual success stories and real-life examples.

"How great KEP is for doing this each semester," said Dr. Georgia Pinis. "Our students gain a lot from the experience and bring it back with them to the classroom and even job interviews."

We love being able to give back to the community and providing these tours for University of Akron students is just one of the many ways we do this in the communities where we work.



## KEP Chosen as 2017 Business Longevity Award Honoree

KEP has been selected as a 2017 Business Longevity Award Honoree! The awards luncheon on August 3rd at The Western Reserve Historical Society is presented by Smart Business Cleveland and recognizes organizations with at least 50 years in business that demonstrate their ability to adapt and evolve with the changing times. We are excited to be recognized alongside so many other great area businesses. This honor will be featured in a special editorial report in Smart Business Cleveland that comes out in August—get your copy!

### THIS MONTH'S KEP CHALLENGE

#### Got Problems? We've Got Solutions.

At KEP we want to be your partner, even if that means assessing and changing our systems to meet special demands. When our customers requested labels with everything from format changes and specific layouts to customer logos and different barcode types, we knew we had to upgrade our labeling software. After choosing the best software to get the job done, we found an affordable supplier for custom logos. Now we can make any customer-requested modifications and provide customers with several options and formats, plus we have the processes in place to make sure all barcodes are functional on customers' equipment.

KEP makes and tests the label. You approve the proofs. It's that simple.

[Learn more, then contact us about custom labeling for your project.](#)

### TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

#### We Love to See Our Team Members Move Up the Ladder!

A team member since 2002, April Butcher works at our Mogadore facility as a supervisor. When she started working in assembly, April had her mind set on climbing the ladder—and she's done just that. April has worn many hats at KEP, moving from assembly, to custom dipping operator, then extrusion operator, then lead person, all the way up to her current position as supervisor. April is currently attending Kent State University for a business degree. When she's not working hard on the job or in class, April loves spending time with her two children, her pets, and also enjoys weekend trips around Ohio with her mom.



### PRODUCT FEATURE



## Contributing to Wellness with Non-Latex Products

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