

LEADERVIEWS



How Lean Manufacturing and Continuous Improvement Benefits Our Employees, Our Customers and Led Us to Industry Leadership

Excerpted from an article by KEP President Bob Oborn:

I'm not sure where KEP would be today if we hadn't adopted Lean Manufacturing practices, eliminating waste and practicing continuous improvement.

I say this because I have witnessed suppliers who, for many reasons, were unwilling or unable to adopt processes that made them more efficient. They lost business. Laid off lots of people. Even went out of business.

However, because KEP adopted the Lean process and culture – and stuck with it (that's the key!) – we have a totally different way of doing business, externally and internally. In the past twelve years, our employees' morale is higher, turnover is lower, and we have three facilities that are pristine showcases which sell confidence to our customers. Best of all, we have the means to keep prices competitive and consistent without killing our margin. Our customers know the value that KEP brings, so even in the rare occurrence when our prices go up, they can trust that we have done the work to keep waste out of their cost.

Want to read more about our Lean journey? Part 1 is coming soon—“How Lean Manufacturing and Continuous Improvement Benefits Both Our Employees, Our Customers and Led Us to Industry Leadership” by Bob Oborn, KEP President. Part 1 will help you gain insight about how we got Lean, our mentors and missteps along the way, and the transformation we saw in our facilities once they were fully committed to Lean initiatives.

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP



Women Breaking the Mold

Renee Onesti



Congratulations to Renee Onesti, Director of Engineering and Maintenance at KEP, for her nomination to be profiled in Plastics News' July 23, 2018 Women in Plastics issue for this year's report of Women Breaking the Mold.

At KEP, Renee Onesti's team reengineers, improves and maintains equipment, facilities and processes at all three of our locations. She leads them in initiatives to maximize safety, productivity, efficiency and reliability. Read in our [Leader Views Blog](#) about how Renee is "Breaking the Mold" by using continuous education and professional development practices to help our company advance and to push the boundaries of new plastics technologies.

BACK TO KEP



Back-to-KEP / 2018-19



The kids are probably dreading it, but you might actually be looking forward to the freedom of kids going back to school! When back-to-school supplies arrive in stores (which seems earlier and earlier every year) and when student athletes hit the field, KEP products go back to school this year too! [Read more](#)

THIS MONTH'S KEP CHALLENGE



Adding Value for Customers



A few years ago, one of our longtime customers wanted value added assembly for all their products. KEP recognized this as an opportunity to improve our services. We introduced assembly to our Winesburg facility. To meet our customers' needs, KEP thoroughly designed what the process would look like, purchased an assembly machine, and perfected the hand assembly.

This case study illustrates the challenges we faced and problems we solved that helped us provide value to our customers and increase our own capabilities. See the obstacles we ran into along the way and how we overcame them to add value for customers. You can read more in our [Leader Views Blog](#).

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Keith Wengerd directs our Winesburg operations which processes, inspects, packages and assembles our products. He offers customers assistance with building and improving their assembled products processes and leads the lean initiative at the Winesburg facility. A team member since 1995, and KEP's Assembly and Packing expert, Keith helps to offer cost-effective packing methods or to simplify assembly of customers' products that use KEP components. Find out more about Keith in our [Leader Views Blog](#).

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