

Manufacturing the Future Lesson Plan #3
Women in Manufacturing & LEAN Thinking in Manufacturing
CD time is 5 minutes + 10-15 minutes for discussion

Lesson Objectives:

1. To understand careers for women in manufacturing.
2. To increase awareness of LEAN.
3. To understand the importance of LEAN in the manufacturing environment.

Key Points:

1. The important role women play in the manufacturing industry.
2. LEAN or the elimination of waste has value to the manufacturer and the consumer.

Vocabulary: (List of words with definitions to share with students prior to viewing video; ask students to listen for these words in this segment.)

1. Career qualifications
The skills and education needed in order to obtain a job.
2. LEAN
A continuous improvement process within a company. The goal is to find better ways to manufacturer a product by the elimination of waste by being more efficient, improved quality and safety. The outcome is to better serve the customer with the least amount of cost, while having the best quality. LEAN was developed by Toyota.
3. Elimination of waste
The process of removing any activity or material that does not add value to the product being manufactured. For example: moving tools closer to where people are using the tools, so they are not “wasting” time by walking away from their work area.
4. Collaborate or collaboration
Working together on a common goal.

Activity and/or Discussion Questions: (Select one activity or 2 discussion questions)

Activity ideas (Pick the activity of interest to your students)

1. Skype (or use another type of electronic media) or have an in-person speaker to discuss woman in manufacturing; Q & A based on video clip.
2. Using LEAN, what waste could you eliminate from the school? Home? What value would this elimination of waste have on the school? Home? YOU?

Discussion Questions (Pick the discussion questions of interest to your students)

1. Discuss the important role both men and women play in the manufacturing industry. What positive tendencies and skills do both men and woman bring to a collaborative work team?
Answer: Both men and women have unique skills that by working together enhances the work team.
2. What is LEAN Work? (See activity 2).
Answer: The elimination of waste by team based on continuous improvement in efficiency, quality, safety, and customer satisfaction.
3. How has the role of women in manufacturing changed in the past 50 years?
Answer: Very few women were in leadership roles within a manufacturing company 50 years ago. Now, women are increasingly being hired in leadership roles within manufacturing companies. Kim Bassett of Bassett Mechanical is just one example of a women being a president of a manufacturing company in our area. A National Association of Manufacturing study found 19% of all manufacturing companies are owned by women. Fifty years ago there were fewer women employed in manufacturing, but that has changed whereas you will find women in all manufacturing occupation.
4. How does the role of women in manufacturing compare to the role of men in manufacturing? Are these roles different or the same; please explain.
Answer: There are no differences between the roles of women and men in manufacturing.

Follow-up for students (and parents):

1. NEW Manufacturing Alliance All Star magazine (direct students to Alliance's website for future reference) and/or bookmark
2. Career Cruising
3. WISCareers
4. School counselor
5. PIE/Chamber of Commerce
6. Boys & Girls Club
7. After School Programs
8. Job Shadow
9. Youth Apprenticeship
10. Technical college in your area

Contact for more information:

Ann Franz at 920-498-5587 or ann.franz@nwtc.edu

Bobbi Miller at 920-720-5600 or bmiller@fvwdb.com