

Summary of Experience

David Athon has spent most of his career introducing Lean Enterprise principles into manufacturing and transactional environments. He has developed a unique method of integrating Six Sigma and Lean into a single, balanced system. As a certified instructor in both Six Sigma and Lean, David has been educating and consulting since 1996, starting with Lean Enterprise and Continuous Improvement methodologies, adding Six Sigma to his abilities in 2000. A Master Black Belt, David combines practical knowledge with excellent communication/coaching skills to enhance students' understanding and retention of the Six Sigma / Lean Methodologies. He has been responsible for providing training and mentoring to all levels of organizations in both Six Sigma and Lean methodologies including Steering Committees, Champions, Master Black Belts, Black Belts, Green Belts and Lean Practitioners/Experts. He has held full time positions in Apparel, Metal Office Furniture, Sheet Metal, Aerospace and Commercial Air Refrigeration. David has worked with a wide range of different industries including Consumer Products, Manufacturing, Medical, Chemical, Insurance, Finance and Telecommunications helping his clients deliver tens of millions of dollars of economic benefit.

Selected Accomplishments

- Trained Lean Leaders/Experts & helped facilitate Kaizen events with a major lighting company resulting in 20% reduction in logistics costs (number of trailers shipped / year at constant volume), 21% reduction in their average lead-time to customers, 80% reduction in lost time due to changeovers, and 60% overall inventory reduction.
- Led series of lean projects for an aerospace cargo systems firm including kanban sizing, demand flow, workplace layout & development of Operational Method Sheets to achieve demand-based production realizing throughput time reductions from 60 to 8 hours, inventory reductions of 60% and productivity improvements of 30%.
- Established pull systems for top 20% of raw material SKUs (80% of inventory) in two chemical plants that resulted in a raw material reduction of over \$1.3 million; included rail cars, tank wagons and trucks.
- Led a series of education and kaizen events for a major steel company that achieved a 45% reduction in floor space, 70% reduction of in-process inventory, an 80% increase in the revenue per labor hour and a decrease in lead-time from 6 to 2 weeks in a short six-month period.
- Trained and coached 30 Champions, 25 Six Sigma Black Belts and 40 Lean Experts for a major global chemical company whose projects surpassed the total savings of the previous 3 years' continuous improvement efforts.
- Led compounding operation lean supply chain design that significantly reduced cycle time & increased throughput.
- Led the lean supply chain design for a global chemical manufacturer's major new plant expansion (\$500 million investment) including vendors, 3rd party logistics providers and the manufacturing floor.
- Trained, coached and certified 40 Black Belts and 80 Green Belts for one of the world's top 3 energy suppliers.
- Trained and coached 3 Waves (40+) of Lean Sigma Black Belts for a major US Garden and Pet Supplier.
- Led a series of education and project efforts for a refrigeration products company that increased on time shipping to from 70% to 99%, decreased warranty claims by 50% and decreased internal defects by 60%; this encouraged *Industry Week Magazine* to name the facility as one of the Top 25 Best Plants in America of 2001.
- Led a series of educational/kaizen events at a healthcare facility that netted a 46% reduction in operating room turnover, 15.5% reduction in surgical procedure time and a 50% reduction in patient recovery time.
- Led a series of kaizen events for a major financial institution attacking wastes in their Sarbanes-Oxley process; events resulted in a reduction of 31% in NVA activities and an 85% reduction of manual information flows into and out of their information systems.
- Implemented a visual TPM program at a concrete facility that resulted in a 57% reduction in unplanned downtime netting \$380k per year.
- Led a SMED event at a chemical company that resulted in a 53% reduction in changeover time and 20% increase in product line Overall Equipment Effectiveness.
- Led multiple Six Sigma (Kaizen) projects at a refrigeration company that included a reduction in "quality hold" inventory of 100% and identification and resolution of root causes of refrigeration leaks that ultimately reduced this type of error by 60%.

Educational Background

BS, Industrial Engineering Technology, Southern College of Technology (Marietta, Georgia)