

ROBERT CHAMP

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Continuous Improvement Manager

Inspiring and highly-accomplished professional with a proven track record of implementing successful foundational, continuous improvement through transformational initiatives. Possesses exceptional skill in leading cross-functional teams, fostering collaboration, and realizing process improvements to streamline operations through modernization and a relentless focus on ease of doing business. Oversees all aspects of process-driven operations, including production management, quality control, cost management, personnel coordination, and health and safety compliance to ensure operational excellence in fast-paced and challenging manufacturing environments. Currently pursuing an MBA, leveraging advanced business knowledge to inform decision-making and drive value creation.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Strategic Planning
- Process Optimization
- Team Leadership
- Supply Chain Management
- Continuous Improvement
- Cost Control
- Quality Assurance
- Risk Management
- Resource Allocation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Continuous Improvement Manager | [Lowe Boats](#) | Lebanon, MO

Sept. 2023 – Present

Drives transformative change as a Continuous Improvement Manager, spearheading process and product quality enhancements. Implements Six Sigma methodologies and tools across the organization's divisions and supply chain. Manages risks, establishes strategic direction, and leads breakthrough product and process quality improvements.

- ✓ Collaborated closely with other senior plant leadership to successfully develop and optimize a 400,000 sqft facility for a Fortune 500 capital company, overseeing a workforce of 300+ employees.
- ✓ Helped drive the total plant cost savings to exceed the budgeted \$3.1 million in cost savings to \$3.4 million in cost savings through identifying issues in daily management by developing and utilizing LSS Belts and high performance teams. Increased the cost savings from \$2.2 million in September to \$3.4 million in December.
- ✓ Successfully developed an innovative project with a high performance team in October 2023 that was submitted and won the prestigious CEO Award of Continuous Improvement in January 2024. 27 projects were submitted for the Brunswick Boat Group division, including this project, which ultimately competed against 9 finalist projects from 3 other divisions to win the top award. This project created \$800k in cost savings.

Plant Continuous Improvement Leader | [Vitro Architectural Glass](#) | Wichita Falls, TX

June 2021 – Aug. 2023

Led the promotion and completion of value-generating projects while improving process performance. Applied Operational Excellence principles, Six Sigma, DMAIC, DFSS, Lean Manufacturing principles, and other techniques to address process opportunities. Worked with plant leadership to lead and develop a 44-acre facility with a workforce of 600+ employees.

- ✓ Successfully directed the deployment of the Vitro Operational Excellence Model (VEM), achieving a prestigious Silver Award for outstanding achievement, with only three out of 33 plants in the entire company being recognized. The plant emerged as one of two in the US to receive this esteemed honor.
- ✓ Established an effective 5S auditing schedule for the plant, growing the number of auditors from 5 to 100, resulting in an impressive improvement in the plant's 5S score, increasing from 61% to 86% in 2022. Additionally, developed comprehensive 5S employee training programs with over 400 attendees in 2022.
- ✓ Successfully deployed the EASE auditing application in February 2022, which was recognized as a pioneering best practice and adopted as the company standard. Expanded EASE deployment to seven plants in 2022 (architectural business), and as of May 2023, it has been implemented in all divisions (four) across a total of 24 locations.
- ✓ Established a partnership with Fastenal to establish an on-site hub, resulting in cost savings of \$500k+ in 2022.
- ✓ Led the construction of a 1000 sqft Competency Center designed to provide training and qualification for all production staff. Developed a simulation program to enhance employees' confidence and teach them effective glass stacking techniques, resulting in a decrease in Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) and near-miss incidents, reducing glass breakage by 800k units.

Quality Engineer / Continuous Improvement Manager | [Henniges Automotive](#)

April 2018 – March 2021

Joined as a quality engineer and rapidly promoted to senior leadership role, spearheading the development of a lean manufacturing culture, continuous improvement initiatives, and systematic problem-solving methodologies focused on waste elimination. Oversaw

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

operations in a 300,000 sqft facility with a workforce of 325+ employees. Played a key role in benchmarking trips to four different plants and contributed to major projects for facilities worldwide.

- ✓ Conducted visits to four plants in 2019 for benchmarking purposes and quarterly cost-saving projects, resulting in savings of \$2.5M+ and the reclamation of 3,700 sqft of floor space.
- ✓ Successfully completed over 20 plant projects in 2020, generating savings of \$500,000 and carrying savings over into 2021, totaling \$180k+. Developed a comprehensive plan for 2021 cost-saving projects, with estimated savings of \$900k.+
- ✓ Contributed to identifying a project to reduce headcount (30 persons) by automating end-of-line production on one extrusion line. Successfully reallocated the affected workforce to fill vacant roles within the plant.
- ✓ Led SMED (Single-Minute Exchange of Die) training initiatives for production and maintenance employees. Implemented KPI tracking for die change-overs in the extrusion department, resulting in a remarkable 63% reduction in time for a specific project focused on an ADC machine (automatic drill and clip).

AREAS OF PROVEN PERFORMANCE

- **Continuous Improvement:** Identify and capitalize on opportunities for process optimization, driving continuous improvement initiatives to enhance operational efficiency. Challenge conventional wisdom through the application of new methodologies to improve products, reduce costs, and improve process quality.
- **Strategic Initiatives Development:** Develop and execute strategic plans for base operations support services, ensuring alignment with production goals, quality standards, and financial objectives. Assist senior management in developing plans to achieve Six Sigma goals, including project identification and Belt selection.
- **Training & Development:** Deliver comprehensive training classes on Black Belt, Green Belt, Lean Belt, DFSS, and Champion methodologies. Transfer best practices, procedures, and tools to peers and other process improvement teams, fostering a culture of continuous improvement throughout the organization.
- **Operational Oversight:** Guarantee a seamless workflow and optimal resource utilization by employing effective daily operations management techniques. Strategically plan, organize, and execute departmental activities with meticulous attention to detail, ensuring rigorous control and flawless execution.
- **Lean Manufacturing Excellence:** Cultivate and maintain a lean manufacturing culture by integrating best practices that enhance efficiency and minimize waste across all processes. Foster a continuous improvement mindset and drive the adoption of lean methodologies to achieve optimal operational efficiency.
- **Safety & Compliance:** Uphold rigorous compliance with contractual obligations, regulations, policies, and procedures. Maintain a strong focus on safety and environmental standards, overseeing maintenance, safety, and logistics to guarantee the functionality and safety of base facilities.
- **Fiscal Oversight:** Develop and manage annual operating budgets, meticulously allocating resources across labor, materials, and equipment costs to achieve optimal cost-effectiveness and resource optimization.
- **Stakeholder Relationships:** Collaborate closely with cross-functional departments and stakeholders to align production schedules with sales forecasts, new product launches, and customer requirements. Build and nurture strong relationships with suppliers, contractors, and external partners to drive operational excellence.
- **Operational Governance:** Assume accountability for managing various interdepartmental functions and orchestrating key tasks such as scheduling, operations services, operations management, material coordination, and financial forecasting. Ensure seamless coordination and optimal performance across all divisions.

EARLIER NOTEWORTHY EXPERIENCE

Executive Director | [Ten Oaks Place](#) | Lawton, OK
 Supervisor, Paint Shop and Quality Assurance | [ServaGroup](#)
 Owner & Operator | [Robert Champ Construction](#)

April 2021 – June 2021
 Aug. 2011 – April 2015
 Jan. 2006 – Aug. 2011

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Business Administration in Management | [Cameron University](#)
 Certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma | [Villanova University](#)
 Certification in Lean Six Sigma Black Belt | [Purdue University](#)
 Certification in Lean Six Sigma Green Belt | [Purdue University](#)