Rick Valois MBA, Six Sigma Black Belt Linkedin.com/in/richard-valois

[Rick@Sigmasmith.com](mailto:Rick@Sigmasmith.com)

267-221-9976

My immediate skill set will bring light to the areas of highest cost, measure the process for value and nonvalue, and realign resources and steps to achieve higher efficiency and departmental impact. This is done through my education and 25+ years of experience in Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma. My personal and professional experience has not only put me to the right of the bell curve amongst my peers, but I am often with one foot in the chart and the other off the chart creating new processes to take us further into Continuous Improvement. Cutting costs is the beginning. The truly skilled in efficiency creation challenge beyond the immediate need. Reduce staffing, define department or cross-departmental needs, then allocate and cross train to expand the area’s performance. When this is possible, your efficiency impact goes beyond just monthly savings. It takes your area to higher optimization. Along with experience and grit, I bring clear focus and disciplined execution while simultaneously driving results to achieve a higher standard of efficiency in Continuous Improvement.

**Professional Key Achievements**

* Restructured process areas, which increased production efficiency by 49% through strategies such as cell designs.
* Developed and implemented new batch record review and product release process that resulted in **53%** reduction in documentation turnaround.
* Introduced scheduling tool to optimize future staffing needs based on production target of **100%** completion of order que by end of each work week.
* Leading the Right First Time team with improvements such as a **61%** decrease in documentation errors within 3 months.
* Created Sigmasmith for business process coaching through individual and team sessions and app deployment using AI as a support agent.

**Personal Key Achievements**

* President of a non-profit corporation, Supply Hubs. Commenced with my son to challenge the current aid systems through our focus pillars of executive pay and process help. No one on the team is paid. We are all volunteers. This allows 100% of donations to go directly to the cause. Our process is more on the fishing pole instead of the fish. We believe that true impact is through self sufficiency. Our services focus on providing resources to help those in need begin to help themselves.
* Completed over a dozen 24, 12, and 8-hour races. This has sharpened my self awareness and allows me to not only push through our illusion of limitations but lead others through extreme challenges as well.
* 4th Degree Black Belt in Tang Soo Do. It’s funny how your desire to fight outside lowers as you advance in the actual skill of fighting. The self discipline of this degree and then ability to instruct others within this art has allowed my leadership to grow in a way that has increased my impact on my personal and professional life.

**Education & Certifications**

Master’s Degree in Business Management & Leadership | Capella university | Online

Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management | desales university | Allentown, PA

Lean DFSS | Six Sigma Black Beltcertified

**Additional Information**

Martial Arts Instructor | Blogger | Professional Strategy Coach | Obstacle Race Expert | Inventor

President/Executive Director to Supply Hubs (non-profit corporation), [www.supplyhubs.org](http://www.supplyhubs.org)

**Areas of Expertise**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Project Management | * Agile / Scrum Methodologies | * Lean Six Sigma | * Training |
| * Quality Management | * SAP Inventory Management | * cGMP Regulations | * Quality Assurance |
| * Process Improvement | * Leadership & Development | * Key Performance Indicators | * Vendor Relations |

**Professional Experience**

**American Bath Group** · Warminster, PA · Mar 2021 – Present

**Regional Continuous Improvement Manager (scheduled promotion to Director on 01JAN2025)**

Identify improvement opportunities within designated sites. Facilitate Kaizen events for waste identification.

***Accomplishments***

* Implemented Leadership Standard Work with an emphasis on Lean. Redesigned the current work to align their focus to only three KPIs of Cost, Quality, and Speed. Increased touch points overburden leadership and discourage repeatable results.
* Implemented beyond efficiency practices. This takes the efficiency opportunities of staffing reductions and implements reallocation strategies for market share gain.
* Redesigned Returns area with 25% increase in repackaged returns post Kaizen event and $4,500/month ROI immediately post event prior to return increase addition.

**Regional Continuous Improvement Manager (promoted within 6 months of hire)**

Manage the Regional Continuous Improvement team to identify, guide, and improve processes across the US and Canada.

***Accomplishments***

* Restructured process areas, Custom Fabrication and 1ZL, which increased production efficiency by 49% through strategies such as cell designs. Redesigned press change process through Kaizen with the use of an “On Deck” strategy and resulted in an immediate ROI of over $88,000 per month through travel reduction during press changes.

**Catalent Pharma Solutions** · Philadelphia, PA · Aug 2020 – Mar 2021

**Production Supervisor**

Supervising and training the clinical packaging of pharmaceutical material in a cGMP environment. Management of Clinical Specialists, union Line Leads, Mechanics, and Operators. Utilizing resources to ensure production timelines are met through personnel and process management. Connecting with other departments to better understand constraints, and to develop leaner application of current systems and assets through project management. Currently working with production SDI/GEMBA team on process start up improvements such as project management checks for production readiness prior to schedule placement. Reviewing batch records prior to scheduling to ensure social distancing guidelines are followed per room-specific staffing limits. Currently updating this process to allow an automated review to give scheduling immediate feedback for room selection with a time involvement reduction by 40 hours per month.

**The Almac Group** · Audubon, PA · Mar 2019 – Jul 2020

**Production Supervisor**

Leading and training of process improvement projects. Management of 3 Coordinators, 4 Line Leads, and 64 Production Operators. Overseeing the packaging of pharmaceutical material in a cGMP environment. This involves the movement of material under strict time constraints to allow processing, then the reconciliation and return of the material into its controlled temperature storage. Supervising Coordinators, Line Leads, and Operators to ensure accuracy and the accomplishment of required production targets. Determining staffing needs and optimization utilizing full-time and temporary employment. Maximizing output while also managing under a committed schedule.

***Accomplishments***

* + Leading the Right First Time team with improvements such as a decrease of 61% in documentation errors within 3 months.

**Lyophilization Technology Inc** · Ivyland, PA · Jan 2017 – Nov 2018

**Clinical Manufacturing Manager**

Oversee clinical manufacturing area including driving results by meeting complex process needs of clients. Balance facility management responsibilities with batch preparation, employee work schedules, talent development, and vision planning. Collaborate between clients, project directors, & department technicians.

**Accomplishments:**

* + Develop and apply rotating task system allowing for diversified work force to accomplish daily tasks.

**Merck & Co** · Lansdale, PA · Oct 2012 – Dec 2016

**Operations Manager**

Supervised manufacturing of Varicella vaccine including monitoring the aseptic environment and 25 union bio-technicians. Regularly implemented Six Sigma Leading Measures to track inventory through SAP and avoid missing targets, even in rapid paced, ever changing environment.

***Accomplishments***

* + Developed and applied new process of measuring ergonomic impact of tasks during each shift.

**Cigna Home Delivery Pharmacy** · Horsham, PA · Nov 2006 – Sept 2012

**Production Floor Lead**

Managed diverse team of 26 pharmacy technicians on the second shift production floor. Improved processes by performing cost analysis experiences, implementing morale improvement metrics for staff, utilizing projection algorithms, and making turnkey disciplined decisions. Coached staff to seek out opportunities for growth and create goals to strive for. Demonstrated ethical judgement in various Human Resource responsibilities involving sensitive matters of employee relations.

***Accomplishments***

* + Drove results in high-volume output without the need for additional staff by using workflow predictions to alternate stop times.
  + Continuously met shipping schedule deadlines and daily company volume goals.