



impact!

Volume 7, Number 5

May 2009

Two Kansas City Companies Launch TWI Projects

Although in two very different industries, serving two different customer bases and with different processes, two Kansas City area companies, **Branaman Cabinet, Inc.**, and **Clay and Bailey Manufacturing Company**, have launched Training Within Industry (TWI) supervisory training projects to support and sustain gains made in their ongoing continuous improvement programs.

Branaman Cabinet, of Peculiar, is a full service designer and manufacturer of high quality custom wood and laminate cabinetry for both residential kitchens and baths and for commercial projects including physicians' offices, financial institutions, retail and convenience stores and offices throughout the Kansas City area.

The company was founded in 1965 and employs 32 people in its modern 55,000 square foot facility.

Company President Vincent Branaman said he is attracted to TWI because it complements and leverages the investment that the company has made in state-of-the-art equipment and its highly trained and creative workforce.

Clay and Bailey Manufacturing was founded in 1913 to cast plumbing fixtures and hardware. The company has grown to be a nationally recognized foundry that supplies a wide variety of storage tank, service station and oil field equipment, corrosion control and

pneumatic conveying accessories, construction castings, manhole and venting systems and customer designed specialty items.

In addition to standard materials, Clay and Bailey Manufacturing has consistently stayed current with industry advancements in materials including ultra high molecular weight polyethylene. In fact, Clay and Bailey is licensed to "pour" Meehanite, an

improved cast iron that is more uniform, consistent and dependable than regular cast iron.

The company also has well equipped fabrication and machine shops that enable them to control costs, maintain high quality and reduce delivery time.

Ron Borst, president of the company, said that Clay and Bailey Manufacturing

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On April 16, Missouri Enterprise President and CEO Mary Davis presented the Missouri *impact!* Award for Continuous Improvement in Manufacturing Excellence to Brunson Instrument Company, represented by President Deighton Brunson (second from left) and Vice President/General Manager Richard Powell (second from right). Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser (far right) also participated in the award ceremony. The company, founded more than 80 years ago, is a nationally recognized leader in metrology equipment.

TWI To Support Continuous Improvement Gains

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has made TWI part of its continuous improvement program to help them achieve their long term goals "of building a staff of people who work together in harmony, enjoy their jobs and achieve their personal goals while becoming a World Class Manufacturer that is a leader in quality, service and product innovation."

TWI is a dynamic program of interactive learning and practice that teaches essential supervisory skills, supports continuous process improvement and provides an immediate return on investment by helping companies realize the productive potential of their employees.

TWI consists of three standardized modules, Job Instruction, Job Methods and Job Relations, that cover the essential skills needed by all supervisors and team leaders, regardless of their industries. These skills are giving instruction, improving methods and leading.

Job Instruction (JI) training teaches supervisors how to quickly train employees to do the job correctly, safely and consistently. Participants learn to prepare employees to learn, give a proper demonstration, identify the key points in the job, observe the employees in trial runs and gradually reduce coaching while continuing to follow up.



Part of Branaman Cabinet's 55,000 square foot facility.

In **Job Methods (JM)** supervisors learn to break down jobs into their constituent operations and to develop new methods by eliminating, combining and rearranging these operations.

Job Relations (JR) training teaches supervisors that people must be treated as individuals and how to build positive employee relationships, increase cooperation and motivation as well as effectively resolve conflicts to make the best use of each person's abilities and to earn loyalty

and cooperation.

TWI was developed in the United States in the early 1940's to boost World War II industrial production and it was an unqualified success.

It is now being used by manufacturing companies worldwide to sustain the gains made through Lean Enterprise and Six Sigma Continuous Process Improvement programs and to create true continuous improvement cultures.

Stroco Manufacturing, Inc., Earns AS9100 Certification

Since its establishment in 1963 by the late Ray Strother, St. Louis based Stroco Manufacturing Inc. has provided excellent customer service, on-time delivery and the highest quality products to its customers.

Company President, Keri D. Welhart, said about AS9100, "When I see everyone in our shop paying attention to the quality of their product, I know that we have implemented a quality system that works from start to finish. We all have an increased sense of pride about what we produce every day."

To maintain that record of excellence, in early 2008 the company launched a program to earn its AS9100 quality management certification. Last month the company was notified that it had passed its third party audit and is now AS9100 Certified.

AS9100 is the most current quality

management system certification for the aerospace industry.

Welhart also said, "Earning AS9100 Certification will mean several million dollars in increased/retained sales and, as a result, the creation of approximately 20 new jobs. AS9100 will allow us, as company, to be that much stronger."

Stroco Manufacturing produces a wide range of high precision machined and fabricated parts including shims, brackets, nut plates, terminal board, cover plates and receptacle strips for the aerospace industry

During the process, Missouri Enterprise Quality Management System specialists provided the company with development of a quality manual, training, documentation preparation and implementation assistance, auditing and on-site support.

Six Sigma Test Drive



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