

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Intern Case Study: Brendan Larrabee, Continuous Improvement



Figure 1: Brendan Larrabee and Alec Jarvie

Several interns successfully completed summer projects and Optimax is thrilled at their progress and potential. Optimax works with local high schools and colleges to place students in a work environment that exposes them to their field of interest while providing the company with fresh ideas. This year's summer interns came from Williamson High School, McQuaid High School, Monroe Community College (MCC), Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, SUNY Oswego and the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

Brendan Larrabee, an RIT student in Industrial and Systems Engineering undergraduate studies and Master of Engineering (MEng) graduate studies, worked in Optimax's Continuous Improvement department performing time studies and recommending improvements our lean manufacturing cells.

When asked about his work, Larrabee said, "I chose this field of study because it allows me to work on the systems level of manufacturing and regularly interact with people, which I like. I enjoy defining the steps that make the product and ensuring flow throughout the process, reducing variability as much as possible in this environment."

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His time with Optimax reaffirmed that he's pursuing the right career for his interests and gave him an appreciation for his undergraduate studies. He wants to focus on applying the principles of industrial engineering to reduce waste in the short term and concentrate on applying his graduate studies in the future.

Alec Jarvie, Continuous Improvement Engineer, coached Larrabee and is excited to see the results of the time study take effect. "Many small improvement build up to a large reduction in waste and enable significant increases in output, quality, on-time delivery and team members' talents", says Jarvie. In the short term, this summer's continuous improvement projects reduces work-in-process inventory to improve flow. In the long term, the positioning of production cells in the new building, scheduled to be completed later this fall, will be based on the analysis for a high efficiency layout.

Jarvie also started at Optimax as an intern through the RIT program. Optimax is pleased with the success of this program and looks forward to receiving more interns in the future. For more information about the RIT intern program, please visit <http://www.rit.edu/emcs/oce/>.

About Optimax: Optimax is an EEO manufacturing company that provides rapid prototyping of precision optical components in sizes up to 300mm. Optimax specializes in Asphere, Cylinder, Sphere, and Plano/Flat optics. All parts are manufactured to customer-supplied specifications. Final inspection data is included with the optics.

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