

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Jan. 8, 2021

Last summer, 20 staff members took classes in Lean Six Sigma, a system designed to solve problems through collaboration.

In Ohio, students can earn nine industry credentials toward their graduation requirements by completing yellow and green belt certifications, Principal Josh Younge said.

"This serves a dual purpose," he said. "First and foremost, (the industry credentials) qualify them to graduate. But certain employers, if they see on the resume that they've succeeded in this training, it may make them stick out and get the opportunity for a job that maybe another applicant would not get."

Josh Kinnison, RAMTEC instructor and who has a master black belt in Lean Six Sigma, worked with Sports Medicine instructor Matt Wilson to certify all of the Chillicothe campus juniors and seniors in yellow belt in October. Next week, seniors will begin the green belt certification.

"This is hands-on," Kinnison said. "They go through a scenario using the principles in Six Sigma to solve problems."

Younge and Kinnison say the system is a valuable tool for anybody going in to the work force.

"It's going to help them but I think their parents understand a lot more than they do because a lot of (the kids) make comments about their parents being kind of amazed that they're getting this in high school," Kinnison said.

Younge said for a single person to train for the yellow and green belt certificates can cost be-



ABOVE: Kristi Tway (left), Tea McCaulla and Josh Kinnison continued their training in September to be able to teach students Lean Six Sigma.

BELOW LEFT: Kristi and Tea work with seniors who were earning their yellow belts.

tween \$500 and \$1,000. Through a grant secured by Dana Anderson, after upfront costs, Pickaway-Ross is able to certify through Maximum Potential as many students as it can in a year for \$3,000.

Kristi Tway and Tea McCaulla also earned their certificates to teach students the program. Eleven seniors on main campus took the yellow belt training before winter break and will pursue the green belt training later this month.

The goal, said Younge, is to have students earn their yellow belts their junior year and their green belts their senior year.

"This is so valuable in manufacturing that these students will definitely benefit from that knowledge," said Kinnison, who used a version of Six Sigma when working at Stanley Electric.

"As an engineer solving issues with a production line that's how we would do it, using the principles. It's called continuous improvement so you never stop improving because nothing is ever perfect so you always have a reason to improve."

Kinnison and Younge said the principles have been adapted for use in other industries.

"This is great opportunity for our school to have another certification to offer students, as a student in any lab can benefit," Kinnison said.



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