

As a member of the Arizona Quality Alliance (AQA), ACI applied and was approved for participation in a mentorship program with the Intel Corporation that began in January 2010. The Intel Corporate Quality group has established a “Skills-based Volunteering” Program comprised of Intel Quality employees who were matched with our organization based upon their experience, skill sets, and certifications. These volunteers provide mentoring and assist with training in quality skills and accomplishment of quality objectives. The Intel/AQA Mentoring Project endeavors to improve ACI’s Requests for Costs of Manufacture (RCOM) by reducing the time required to provide quotes for non-standard products and reduce processing time for Returned Material Authorizations (RMA).

Additionally, Intel has provided training on Lean Principles, RAPID (Recommenders, Agreers, Performer, Inputs, Decider) decision making model a service mark of Bain & Company and OSIR (Objective-Status-Issues-Recommendations) project/problem solving tool. In the coming fiscal year, ACI Executive Team will attend an Intel facilitated Lean workshop focusing on uniformly administering the philosophy/culture throughout our organization.

Green Initiatives

It is becoming more and more important that businesses make environmentalism a part of their brand. ACI is making it a priority to strive to use environmentally friendly techniques to impact the environment and lessen harm while giving consumers and business owners what they need. In 2009, ACI attended the Greenbuild International Expo in Phoenix, AZ. Greenbuild 2009 was billed as a cutting edge exhibition on learning how green technology can grow your business. It showcased the latest in innovative products and services for all areas of green building.

Another step in ACI’s going green was to partner with companies that hold the highest distinction in lean manufacturing, such as 3M, Affordable Interior Systems (AIS), Bonded Logic, Environ biocomposite and CAF. ACI products are manufactured with recycled materials wherever possible. Greening the supply chain and educating suppliers are just two of the things that help to impact the world we live in.

ACI’s partnership with Bonded Logic, a leader in the manufacturing of thermal and acoustical products has resulted in a new line of environmentally friendly dormitory and institutional mattresses. The cotton cores of these mattresses are made from denim jeans and are fire retardant, cost effective, and comfortable. ASU and the Department of Corrections are currently using these new green products.

Reducing waste and material inventory management are both examples of cost cutting achieved through reuse or recycling rather than buying new. ACI works with agencies to refurbish chairs and wood furniture and to recycle items such as pallets, paper and even scrap materials. These “green” approaches to manufacturing are yet further samples of effectively limiting waste.

Regardless of the economic situation, agencies and political subdivisions that partner with ACI provide a mutually beneficial venture that helps us achieve our mission of public safety and reduced recidivism through successful collaborative efforts. The more creative and innovative measures that ACI can use to sustain ourselves during an economic downturn are in part dependent upon the continued positive relationships between ACI and our customers.