

Why Should I Consider Lean?

Indian Hills Community College

In this competitive world, no one can stand still, because even if you try, you will still slip backward. Many believe that even if a process is standardized and everyone is doing it according to the standard, it will still erode over time. So, the decision is to either improve processes or watch them slowly deteriorate.

Lean as a total business system and philosophy is aggressive about helping people become expert problem solvers. This means everyone becomes capable of dealing with problems and improving their work every day. According to Mike Rother in his book, *Toyota Kata*, in order to get from where you are to where you want to be, you must develop the capability of the organization to keep improving, adapting and satisfying dynamic customer requirements. He says that continuous, incremental evolution and improvement is the best assurance of durable competitive advantage and company survival.

Implementation of Lean by many companies, healthcare providers, colleges and others has resulted in:

- Improved quality
- Fewer defects
- Reduced inventory
- Shorter lead time
- Reduced cost
- Improved cash flow
- Increased capacity to do more value added work
- Less turnover
- Improved morale