

Faces of Quality



Jay Marino
Cedar Rapids Community School District

Job Title: Associate Superintendent for Organizational Effectiveness and Accountability

Primary Industry: Education

Impact of Quality Tools in My Organization: In my position, quality tools and the Plan Do Study Act process are vital to making data-driven decisions. In order to effectively improve aspects of the school district, I rely on the use of quality tools to collect and analyze meaningful data, identify root cause and try out improvement theories. By taking a quality approach to continuous improvement, I've been able to improve "systems thinking".

Impact of Quality Tools in my Community and World: Part of my work involves training teachers, principals and other administrators in the theory, process and tools of continuous improvement. By focusing on improving the educational opportunities for students in the Cedar Rapids Community School District, I believe I'm impacting the world in which these students will one day be em-

ployed and contributing citizens.

Impact of Quality Tools and Processes in my Personal Life: In my personal life, I'm always needing to make decisions that impact me and my family. Since learning about quality tools and processes, I've noticed the application into personal and family situations. Continuous improvement is just as effective at home as at work.

How has ASQ assisted me in my career? ASQ has provided me many resources to learn more about continuous improvement. Through conferences, workshops, publications and the web site, I've been able to stay current with quality issues.

How or why did you become interested in and involved with quality? I originally became interested in quality as a classroom teacher, looking for ways to increase student achievement in the classroom. I found quality tools and processes easy to implement and quick to bring about positive results.

What was your first job (inside or outside of quality)?
2nd grade teacher

What did it teach you? It taught me that every child is unique and has diverse learning needs.

What lessons did you learn at that job that you still use today? I learned that every child has great potential and enthusiasm for learning. It is up to us as educators and parents to cultivate their enthusiasm and thirst for continuous learning.

What path did you take to get where you are today? I continued my education. I went to graduate school to become a school principal. I completed an Educational Specialist degree to become a certified superintendent. I'm currently working on a Doctorate in Educational Administration.