



Derek Sherman

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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Derek Sherman brings industrial engineering skills to the team. He also brings first-hand experience in the formation and management of a two flexible manufacturing networks in Illinois. In that role, he personally cataloged the capabilities of about 300 small and medium sized manufacturing firms. He has the background to talk their language and credibility won through first-hand experience. As a consultant, Derek has successfully led organizations through strategic decision-making and implementation process.

As an Adjunct instructor for Upper Iowa University, Derek is skilled in the art of transferring skills to business executives. In the Business Administration program, Derek teaches upper-level courses in Production and Operations Management, Strategic Management, Economics, and International Business.

Derek also served as a Trade Officer with the U.S. Department of Commerce where he helped create opportunities for firms by promoting export trade and opening foreign markets. He earned recognition for his "Outstanding Contribution to U.S. Department of Commerce". The following are a representation of Derek's non-confidential assignments.

Experience

- Consulted Amcore Bank through strategy and execution of the Business Community Network initiatives designed to improve the competitive advantages of SME and microenterprise firms
- Directed the Sweden Connection grant project to promote export trade to the Rockford Metropolitan Area
- Directed training process, continuous improvement, work plan staffing and logistics in manufacturing environments
- Planned and implemented general and custom economic development retention, expansion program via Synchronist, established trade development programs for manufacturers and entrepreneurs to create new growth opportunities. Included industrial competitiveness, technology transfer, workforce training matchmaking, international trade and manufacturing cluster collaborations
- Engaged manufacturers in workforce training proposals with Rock Valley College
- Pioneered and championed a regional industrial value chain development model of business networks collaborations within manufacturing groups
- Directed the Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce's International Business Council and the Manufacturers Council which provided forums for industry, education and government to develop export promotion tools as well as technology innovation
- Delivered testimony to the US Congress and US Department of Commerce Secretary for advocacy of national manufacturing training initiatives

Education

- Master of Science Degree, Industrial Management: Colleges of Engineering and Technology, and Business MBA with Project Management Certification, Northern Illinois University
- Automated Manufacturing Technology Certificate, Rock Valley College
- Bachelor of Science Degree, Political Science, Economics and Business, Northern Illinois University