



THE ERGONOMICS CENTER
OF NORTH CAROLINA
Advancing the Science of Ergonomics in the WorkplaceSM

Mirtha I. Perazza, MS, CPE
Senior Ergonomist

EDUCATION

Master of Engineering (Magna cum Laude), **Ergonomics** (December, 1995)
Texas A & M University, College Station, TX

B.S. (Magna cum Laude), **Industrial Engineering** (June, 1994)
University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

SPECIAL SKILLS

Bilingual (Spanish-English), knowledge of Microsoft applications, Visio, AutoCAD
Project Management, DOE, Design for Ergonomics and Manufacturing
Familiar with cGMP's, QSR, CAPA, Lean Manufacturing & Six Sigma yellow belt

EXPERIENCE

Senior Ergonomist

The Ergonomics Center of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC (2009 - present)

- Provide comprehensive ergonomics services (i.e. program development and auditing, risk assessment, job analysis/design recommendations, training, team development, guideline development) to clients and member companies/organizations in a broad range of business and industry environments
- Create, design, and deliver training and education to Center members and other clients

Senior Quality Assurance Engineer

Boston Scientific CRM, St. Paul, MN (2006 – 2009)

- Prepared strategic plans for the department, and generated and reported metrics of the Corrective Action and Preventive Action groups to Manufacturing and Quality directors and vice-presidents
- Served as site lead and subject matter expert in a global effort to standardize and improve the CAPA processes across sites
- Facilitated management quality reviews as well as improvement projects and quality initiatives
- Identified opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Corrective Action and Preventive Action (CAPA) systems and designed and implemented new processes
- Performed quality audits as ISO 9001:2000 Certified Lead Auditor (medical devices)

Ergonomics Program Manager and Operations Improvement Engineer

Hewlett Packard, Ink Supplies Business, Aguadilla, PR (2000 - 2005)

- Designed, implemented, documented and served as the site's ergonomics program manager and expert in process improvements and new process and products introductions
- Created annual program plans, schedules and budget, reported progress to upper management, presented program metrics against plan of record and performed necessary actions to resolve issues

- Managed five safety engineers in order to attain program goal of reducing injury/illness rate from 3.4 to 0.5 through ergonomic assessments in office and manufacturing areas and training
- Managed facilities resources in the implementation of office ergonomic solutions
- Served in the Center of Expertise for the deployment of HP's Global Office Ergonomics self-assessment tool and conducted pilot study with local sample population
- Redesigned local ergonomics trainings (Basic Ergo, Office Ergo/VDT, Manual Material handling) and served as trainer for ergonomics and safety in new employee orientations
- Worked with R&D engineers in the design of new processes for the life sciences program and served as their ergo/safety support
- Performed work sampling studies, designed layouts, and improved manufacturing processes in terms of quality, capacity, space utilization, safety, 5S and lean manufacturing

Human Factors Professor (part-time)

University of PR, Mayaguez, PR (October – December 1998, January – May 2000)

- Served as professor of Human Factors and Ergonomics at the graduate program of the Industrial Engineering department

Distribution/Industrial Engineer

Hewlett Packard, Printed Circuit Assemblies, Aguadilla, PR (1999 – 2000)

- Designed and implemented a major layout of the distribution areas in order to increase storage capacity by 40% and to improve processes for the introduction of new heavier/complex products
- Supervised facilities resources in layout implementations
- Introduced new handling technologies that eliminated ergonomic risks associated with the operations of handling and transporting heavy products
- Provided engineering support to all distribution areas: receiving, warehousing and shipping
- Performed internal audits as ISO 9002 Quality System Auditor

Ergonomics Engineer & Program Manager

Hewlett Packard, Aguadilla, PR (1996 - 1999)

- Designed, implemented, documented and served as the site's ergonomics expert and focal point in process improvements and new process and products introductions achieving a significant decrease in the Injury Illness Rate (IRR) from >5.0 to <0.5 in five years
- Carried out all ergo assessments of current processes (200 workstations), documented findings, designed solutions with process and NPI engineers, justified and implemented feasible solutions
- Supervised engineer in the implementation of ergonomic solutions
- Managed a program budget of approximately \$1M for purchases and improvement projects
- Worked with proto lab in product development lifecycles of new product platforms providing inputs to change components and simplify manual processes before manufacturing release.
- Defined criteria, planned strategy and performed implementation of a rotation program as a tool to further reduce ergonomic risks
- Designed a stretching exercise program for office / production areas with a physical therapist
- Developed and provided a "Design for ergonomics" training to enable the engineering community to incorporate ergo design guidelines in new processes and products.
- Performed internal audits as ISO 9002 Quality System Auditor

Process Engineer (Summer Internship)

Hewlett Packard, Aguadilla, PR (May - August 1995)

- Performed work sampling study to identify areas for improvement in an effort to reduce lead time in an SMT manufacturing line
- Designed sequencing rules to reduce lead time and improve utilization of areas performing manual operations

Other Hewlett Packard Employment Experience

Process Engineer, Summer Internship – Work Sampling & Process Improvement of SMT line
Group Leader, Final Design Project – Ergonomics & Facilities Design
Group Leader, Layout Project - Facilities Design
Group Leader, Operations Research Project

CERTIFICATIONS Certificant, Board of Certified Professional Ergonomists (CPE), 2010

HONORS

GEM Fellowship Recipient at Texas A & M University (1994-1995)
Member (1992), Tau Beta Pi (National Engineering Honor Society)
Member (1992), Alpha Pi Mu (Industrial Engineering Honor Society)
National Dean's List (1991-1992, 1992-1993, 1993-1994)
National Collegiate Engineering Awards Winner (1992)
All-American Scholar (1992)
University of Puerto Rico Dean's List (1990-1994)

INTERESTS

Travel, food, F1 racing, classical and contemporary music