



Press Release
For Immediate Release

Circle Graphics Gains Competitive Edge Through State Grant

New funding will expand lean manufacturing training for Colorado company.

Longmont, Colo. (March. 12, 2015) – Circle Graphics was selected as a competitive grant recipient as part of the Colorado Existing Industry Customized Job Training program. Awarded \$86,950 by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, the Existing Industry grant focuses on helping established Colorado companies remain competitive within their industry and adapt to new technology. With the award, Circle Graphics will provide an expansive training program for its employees.

With continued growth in the out-of-home advertising and consumer digital printing industries, Circle Graphics is striving to increase output while still producing high quality prints. The goal of the advanced training is to ensure employees have adequate tools for keeping up with rising demand through lean manufacturing techniques, operational excellence and problem-solving skills.

The State program focuses on increasing transferable job skills that support Colorado companies' economic competitiveness, enhance worker's resumes and create long-term employment opportunities. Circle Graphics' grant application was approved in whole and will cover expenses for hiring an outside facilitator to lead manufacturing-focused training, including 5S Workshops, Lean Kaizen Events, Value Stream Mapping, Six Sigma Process Improvement Kaizens and Tools of Quality and Project Management.

"This training program illustrates the state's support of industry and its employees, and we appreciate the opportunity to participate," explains Paul Stals, General Manager – Out of Home Division. "The grant will be instrumental in helping retain, develop and motivate our employees, while building a strong focus on problem solving and lean manufacturing skills needed to remain competitive and grow the Circle Graphics business."

Training for the out-of-home printing division will have a greater focus on continuous improvement and project management as well as empowering employees to be problem solvers. A total of 75 Circle Graphics employees will benefit directly from this program.

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The grant program is part of a national network of Department of Commerce programs, and Colorado's Office of Economic Development has been awarding grant funding to manufacturing companies for training purposes for the past ten years. The grant is a highly utilized program in the state, with about one in fifty Colorado manufacturing companies receiving funds.

"We are thrilled that such an innovative company like Circle Graphics can take advantage of Colorado's job training programs," said Simon Fox, Finance and Programs Manager at the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. "These programs invest in the state's labor force and incentivize business growth. They also increase transferable job skills that support both the company's competitiveness and enhance worker's resumes and long-term employment opportunities. Circle Graphics is committed to their employees, and we congratulate them and wish them continued success."

Last year, Circle Graphics was awarded a Colorado FIRST grant to help support training of new employees. The Existing Industry grant in 2014 marks a significant growth in funding compared to last year and will impact a significantly greater percentage of the Circle Graphics staff.

About Circle Graphics:

Circle Graphics is an industry leader and the world's largest producer of grand format digital graphics including outdoor advertising, wall décor, art reproduction, and the professional photography and art communities. With experienced senior leadership, a dedicated sales and account management team, and world-class production facilities, Circle Graphics continually innovates to bring the highest quality, competitive, creative solutions to volume customers. Partnering with leading global and national brands to provide extraordinary customer service, Circle Graphics is equipped to handle high volume needs with around-the-clock production.

To discuss strategic partnerships or request additional information, please contact Judy Toran Cousin, Chief Strategy Officer, at 303-951-1395, or jcousin@circlegraphicsonline.com.

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