

Brandon Koida at GE Security Industrial: A MECOP Intern Success Story  
By David Adams, Manufacturing Engineer, GE

To start off we had selected Brandon differently than the normal process of Intern selection. Our company had just gone through some extensive reorganization and we had to change our Intern requirements at the last minute. We switched from needing an EE student to needing an IME. We were given only a handful of resumes from which to pick our Intern that we would be employing for 6 months. Normally, I would have been a bit apprehensive, but after being involved with the MECOP program for the last 7 years I knew the interns were all screened so well through the program that there was little chance of getting a “Bad” Intern. What did surprise me was I did not expect to receive an intern of such high quality as Brandon! Normally there is a bit of a learning curve with their skill sets as well as with their maturity in dealing with peers, superiors, vendors, and customers. We gave Brandon a fairly standard project to “Get his feet wet” and he had it completed well in advance of his time line.

The next project we assigned him was a very involved consolidation of our shipping department. He was assigned as the Lead Coordinator for redesigning the shipping layout. We needed to accomplish two main objectives:

1. Open up 1120 sq feet that would be needed by manufacturing teams for a new Product introduction.
2. Dismantle our ADT Virtual warehouse in all GE Locations. This is a project that had been started and abandoned several times in the past. It involved Brandon working with Personnel from IT, Customer Service, Finance, Pricing, ADT relations, Shipping and Credit. He had to bring his People skills and management of resources up to a new level.

After just 4 months Brandon redesigned the shipping area and opened up **2690** sq feet, and completed the dismantling of the Virtual warehouse which saves GE **\$130,000** annually in labor!

Halfway through Brandon’s internship we were assigned the task of transferring a newly acquired video recording manufacturing company from Costa Mesa Ca. to our facility in Tualatin Or. This company had over 400 different SKU’s that needed to be transferred. There was little documentation so the assigned team who Brandon was a very important part of had to spend numerous hours both in Tualatin as well as in Costa Mesa documenting the current processes as well as setting up the assembly, test, audit, packing stations, and the local computer network in our facility. Brandon was a large part of this process but his internship was completed before the project was concluded. So, he was not able to fully see the fruits of his labor. If not for the work he performed on the front end we would have been very challenged in completing the project on time with the resources we had available. With the work and leadership that Brandon added to the team we were able to successfully complete the transfer one month early!

The following is a breakdown of accomplishments Brandon was able to complete during his six-month internship:

1. Involved in two separate Lean manufacturing Workouts:	\$66,000.
2. ADT warehouse labor savings.	\$130,000.
3. Integral part of team transferring product from Ca. facility	\$885,000
TOTAL ASSISTED SAVINGS:	\$1,081,000
Manufacturing floor space opened up:	2,690 sq.ft.

Brandon quickly went from being an Intern learning about his potential in Corporate America to a highly valued Engineer in a very large Corporate environment. To this day he is very missed! It was like losing a key team member, no I take that back...It was not *like* that, it was *exactly* that, we lost a Key Engineer on our team!