

Valerie Kobialka

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About Me

A passionate continuous improvement professional, Certified Reliability Leader (CRL), Black Belt in Uptime Elements motivated to apply their 5+ years of experience leading cross-functional teams focused on driving reliability improvements, root cause analysis, defect eliminations, asset management, downtime reductions, capital project management, lean process improvements and overall equipment effectiveness (OEE) data collection/analyzation into a role where process optimizations is the primary responsibility. My unique background in mechanical/electrical and engineering, partnering with my military experience exemplify my qualifications for any role in continuous improvement.

Education

Arizona State University (MAPS) **05/2022 - Present**

- Mechanical Engineering

Central Connecticut State University **08/2016 – 12/2021**

- Mechanical Engineering

JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX **04/2015 – 02/2016**

Medical Education and Training Campus

- Biomedical Equipment Specialist (BMET)
- Dean's List – 94.6 GPA

Training

U.S. Army Biomedical Equipment Technician Training **04/2015 – 02/2016**

- Performing preventative maintenance checks on medical equipment
- Documentation of all inspections, PM's, calibrations, and component isolations
- Perform calibrations ensuring manufacturer's specifications are met while following safety policies
- Troubleshoot and repair medical equipment down to component level
- Trained on the proper use of Test Measurement & Diagnostic Equipment
- Performed electrical safety checks after completing each repair
- Installed and removed components on printed circuit boards using soldering techniques
- Trained in determining replacement options for medical equipment and components

Work Experience

Engineering Technician IV – Medtronic **01/2021 – Present**

- Performed multiple validations on manufacturing equipment
- Created/updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for Manufacturing
- Led cross-functional teams to perform extensive root cause analysis's utilizing the DMAIC A3 and 6M methodologies
- Nonconformance investigations leading to multiple defect eliminations
- Led EH&S cost-savings projects resulting in significant business cost-savings
- Led downtime reduction resulting in 34.5% downtime reduction in a bottleneck process
- Led process improvement initiative resulting in a 2% annual capacity increase or \$595-689K annual profit increase
- Trained manufacturing operators and engineers
- Utilized Agile, Minitab, BPCS, Maximo (CMMS), Microsoft applications, etc.
- Project leader for Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) implementation/monitoring/tracking
- Job plan/preventative maintenance creation & maintenance support
- MRO spares stock management and support
- Advanced training in continuous improvement total productive maintenance principles through Reliability Web – ref. (<https://reliabilityweb.com/>)

- Certified Reliability Leader Uptime Elements Black Belt recipient (2020 – 9th in the world) through Reliability Web (see reference link above)
- Vendor management/collaboration for re-designs and equipment fabrications
- Optimized manufacturing processes to include autonomous maintenance activities reducing downtime and increasing production quantities
- Appointed as the chemical plant, extrusion, braiding, stretching, coating, and all other departments directly involved in the suture manufacturing process for finished product, building Safety Ambassador to assist in the implementation of the Hazard Observation Program, while also managing all observations submitted. This includes submitting service requests for all work requests to the correct department, creating plans/timelines for any labor needed, and maintain tracking that the submitted requests are completed within a reasonable time frame minimizing the occurrence of any additional downtime.

Equipment Maintenance Technician II – Medtronic

07/2019 – 01/2021

- Work independently performing preventative maintenance, rebuilds, and mechanical/electrical repairs
- Utilize Certified Reliability Leader (CRL) knowledge to participate in cross-functional team projects aimed at increasing equipment reliability/uptime
- Led defect eliminations, process optimizations, root cause analysis's, and additional total productive maintenance initiatives
- Led Maintenance Excellence initiative in a bottle-neck operation resulting in 34.5% reduction in downtime
- Led a Preventative Maintenance (PM) Optimization project that resulted in a 2.22% capacity increase in the Suture Post Treatment Department allowing an additional 48 oven runs a year totaling an annual production increase of ~\$548K of Polysorb
- Led a Preventative Maintenance (PM) Optimization project that resulted in the ability to provide an additional 2% annual capacity increase for the Annealing Department, which equates to an additional \$595K – \$689K in revenue annually from the production increase (will depend on what material type is being produced)
- Ensure assigned preventative maintenance tasks are completed within scheduled date ranges
- Trained technicians, engineers and production operators on new process improvements and maintenance activities
- Expanded focus from performing preventative maintenance optimizations (PMO's) to also documenting detailed standard work instructions (SWI's) and specialized job plans for technicians
- Acted as maintenance Supervisor when required. Responsibilities include attending necessary meetings, creating PM schedules / coordinate with production, reporting to leadership the maintenance priorities for the day, including statuses of current open work orders, newly submitted requests, and coordinate any unexpected support needed from maintenance for that day – developing a work plan for the team to address all priorities given / PM work that needs to be completed in order of importance.

Equipment Maintenance Technician I - Medtronic

03/2018 – 07/2019

- Worked independently performing preventative maintenance, rebuilds, and mechanical/electrical repairs
- Utilized technical writing abilities to perform preventative maintenance optimizations (PMO's)
- Ensure 100% of labor hours and work performed is documented in CMMS (Maximo)

Braiding Maintenance Technician I - Medtronic

06/2017 – 03/2018

- Worked independently on 2nd shift performing preventative maintenance on 1,200 braiding machines
- Responded to any service requests that occurred on shift diagnosing and repairing all braiding machines

WISE (Woman in Science and Engineering) Internship - Medtronic

06/2019 – 10/2019

- Assisted in Installation Qualifications, Performance Qualifications, Operational Qualifications and Spreadsheet Validations
- Performed a Defect Elimination on the NSA and SARM machines for high failure rates on wind pin nests

U.S Army National Guard (Biomedical Equipment Technician)

11/2014 – 06/2021

- Performed preventative maintenance, electrical checks, and repairs on medical equipment
- Worked with vendors to determine replacement options for medical equipment and components

Specialized Training

- Basic Electricity for the Non-Electrician Certification (TPC Training) – 2018
- Machinery Lubrication/Oil Analysis (Noria Corporation) – 2018
- Pump Repair and Maintenance Certification (TPC Training) – 2019
- DMAIC A3 Training (Medtronic) – 2020
- Process Safety Management (PSM) Certification – 2022
- Certified Maintenance Management (CMM) Course – 2022

Certifications / Awards

- Certified Reliability Leader Certification for Uptime Elements (Reliability Web) – 2018
- Best Work Execution Management Program (Reliability Web) – 2019
- Best Leadership for Reliability Program (Reliability Web) – 2020
- Best Overall Reliability Program (Reliability Web) – 2022
- MITG Star of Excellence Award for Maintenance Excellence (Medtronic) – 2020
- Black Belt / Domain Mastery Belt Program for Uptime Elements (Reliability Web) – 2020
 - Asset Management Domain Mastery Belt (Reliability Web) – June 2020
 - Work Execution Management Domain Mastery Belt (Reliability Web) – April 2020
 - Leadership for Reliability Domain Mastery Belt (Reliability Web) – January 2020
 - Asset Condition Management Domain Mastery Belt (Reliability Web) – January 2020
 - Reliability Engineering for Maintenance Domain Mastery Belt (Reliability Web) – March 2019

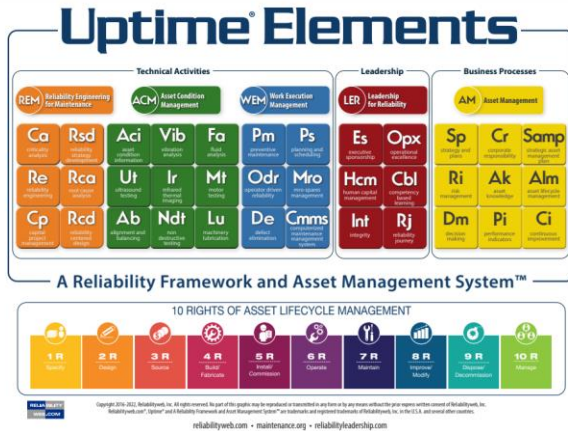
Reference

- Kenneth Hunt
Global Maintenance Excellence Leader (Medtronic)
kenneth.j.hunt@medtronic.com
203-410-2294

Website References

Training

- Reliability Web (About Company)
<https://reliabilityweb.com/en/about-us>
- Reliability Web (Uptime Elements Framework – ref. framework breakdown image)
<https://roar-assets-auto.rbl.ms/documents/13177/Uptime%20Element%20Chart%20Poster%20With%2010%20Rights%20Sec%20ure.pdf>



- Asset Management Professionals (Certified Reliability Leader – CRL Info)
<https://www.maintenance.org/g/certifications/pages/about-crl>
- Reliability Web (Reliability Leader Certification CRL & Domain Mastery and Black Belt Program FAQ)
<https://www.maintenance.org/pages/black-belt#faq>

Awards

- 2019 - Best Work Execution Management Program (Reliability Web)
<https://reliabilityweb.com/news/article/reliabilityweb.com-announces-2019-uptime-awards-winners>
- 2020 - Best Leadership for Reliability Program (Reliability Web)
https://reliabilityweb.com/news/article/reliabilityweb.com-announces-2020-uptime-awards-winners?fbclid=IwAR2jNDKycEBUZc1QIXUouurvjE55BMkzPe6aQatSnfVdfziWkTw_MingKuY
- 2022 - Best Overall Reliability Program (Reliability Web)
<https://reliabilityweb.com/en/press-release/uptime-awards-winners-at-the-36th-international-maintenance-conference-imc-2022>

*Partial List of Reliability Projects

List of Maintenance Excellence Achievements (partial)		
Maintenance Excellence Category	Project Name	Summary of Actions
Defect Elimination	Stripped screws in Postreat	*Maximo w/o history reviewed *Gemba walks *Root cause identified *Training performed

		<p>*Replacement tools ordered w/ spares</p>
	Coat and Fill applicator cleaning	<p>*High # of NCR's associated w/ Low Coating *Investigation performed *Identified SOP not being followed properly *Identified ultrasonic cleaners used to clean applicators defective *Purchased replacements w/ two (2) spares *Completed equipment verification</p>
	Flat Suture (SIMA Communication)	<p>Problem Statement: On August 20th, 2021, SIMA sent the first of twenty (20) supplier communication notifications regarding flat suture. SIMA has found cases of flat suture at both their incoming inspection and during their manufacturing process. They have sent samples from each of the twenty (20) flat suture cases back to North Haven to aid in our investigation</p> <hr/> <p>*Investigation performed *Process optimization *Root causes identified *Updated SOP w/ corrected parameters in viable range (MLS-055W) *Implemented the use of support table when packaging *Created SWI for how to properly seal suture</p>
	Wind Pins (Syneture)	<p>*WISE Engineering Internship *Identified high failure rate with current wind pins -Evaluated possibility for new wind pin material -Currently using SS 304 --- > Changed to SS 17-4 material</p>

		Maximo - Job Plan #	
Preventative Maintenance Optimization (PMO)	ABBE Rotary Union Lubrication Service Route		*Worked with experienced maintenance technicians *Documented correct procedure steps with clarity and explanations when needed *Revised each PM adding more details, pictures, materials, etc.
	Postreat Vacuum Oven - Quarterly Service Ovens		
	Postreat Vacuum Oven - 2 Year PM		
	B-64 Pelletizer Annual Service		
	T-206 Pelletizer Annual Service		
	Veriset PEG Coater Die Change PM		
	Assist Metrology with Merritt Extruder Calibrations		
	Annealing Grieve Oven Monthly PM		
	Compound Room Vessel		
	10CV Helicoil Replacement		
	Quench Tube Change		
	Vascufil Sample Winder		
	Sample Winder Job Plan		
	WINDER (LEESONA), QUARTERLY SERVICE		
Veriset Toogle clamps			
Water Trough, Semi-Annual PM			
New - Preventative Maintenance (PM) Created	Melt Blown Extruder Annual		*Worked with experienced maintenance technicians, R&D, Quality, Engineering, etc. documenting the correct procedure steps for each "new" piece of equipment entering our process
	Melt Blown, Winder PM		
	Calendaring Unit		
	Air Heating Unit		
	MELT BLOWN, CONVEYOR PM		
	BRAIDING PARTS WASHER SEMI-ANNUAL PM		
	12 MONTH LEVEL SWITCH TESTING - CRYSTALLIZATION/SOLVENT RECOVERY		*Worked with experienced maintenance technicians, R&D, Quality, Engineering, etc. documenting the correct procedure steps for each "new" PM identified during PSM audit
	24 MONTH LEVEL SWITCH TESTING - CRYSTALLIZATION/SOLVENT RECOVERY		

	60 MONTH LEVEL SWITCH TESTING - CRYSTALLIZATION/SOLVENT RECOVERY		
	120 MONTH LEVEL SWITCH TESTING - CRYSTALLIZATION/SOLVENT RECOVERY		
New - Job Plans Created			
	HOA Annual Calibrations		*Worked with experienced maintenance technicians documenting correct procedure steps and recording pictures for each job task that did not have a documented procedure (Do not exist in Maximo at this point)
	HOC		
	HOD		
	Cracking Annual Calibrations		
	Wilden Diaphragm Pump Rebuild		
	Abbe 3200		
	Hena Vacuum Pump Rebuild		
	Flaker Blade		
	ASSIST METROLOGY WITH REMOVING/INSTALLING PROBES FOR HARRELL A CALIBRATION		
PGA ANNUAL CALIBRATIONS			
Operator Driven Reliability (Odr)			
	Braiding Dept. cart castors w/ suture		*Maximo w/o history reviewed - overabundance of w/o's for removing suture from castor wheels *Job task reviewed with cross-functional team - identified as an autonomous maintenance activity *New carts purchased w/ tool sets *SWI written for performing task and added to SOP (MLB-059W)
	Ink cartridge replacement		*Maximo w/o history reviewed - overabundance of w/o's for replacing ink cartridge for chart recorders *Job task reviewed with cross-functional team - identified as an autonomous maintenance activity *SWI written for performing task and added to SOP (MLB

<p>Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE)</p>	<p>Monofilament OEE Investigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tier 1 tracker created *Gemba walks *Longest steps in process identified *Assisted die changeover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Created list of potential corrections *Researched extrusion process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Created document with research collected *Pulled maint. records from Maximo for last six (6) months of w/o's in Monoline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Logged notes for each -Identified root cause for each work order and problem area *Using data collected from Tier 1 and w/o's created list of most common problems in area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Currently creating spreadsheet of identified issues and our current correction practices vs. what is suggested from research -- > Working with lead technician to create document
<p>Downtime Reduction</p>	<p>Coat and Fill (Bottleneck Operation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Re-designed the Dancer Arms *Cleaning procedure added to the vessel in the Compound Room *Changing the guide wheels in the Braiding Area *Changing the filter on in the Vessel Piping *Changing the filter on the Manual Filtration System *KANBAN added to the Braiding Area *Awareness training on continuous flow of solution while pumps are not in use

	(Posttreat) Trillium/Stokes Vacuum Blower Failures		<p>*High failure rate identified with vacuum blowers in Posttreat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sent blowers out to Trillium for repair (current practice) <p>*New vendor found</p> <p>*Worked closely with vendor to identify what was seen on inside on blower - Failure Analysis Reports created for each blower</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Root cause identified as malpractice from Trillium vendor repairs -Examples of glued parts, etc. on blowers <p>*Added ADVACO to purchasing system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ADVACO performing repairs now <p>*VERY few failures identified during process now</p>
MRO Spares Management	Spare part creation / working closely with Central Stores		<p>*Within Maximo - ordered and created spare parts and added to inventory</p>
Environmental (EH&S)	Braider Maint. Parts Washer - Aqueous Waste Reduction A3		<p>*Created A3 for the braiding maint. parts washer</p> <p>*Identified root causes</p> <p>*Did some exploring to understand current practices with washer</p> <p>*Identified that the main function of the washer was not and has not been utilized for 10+ years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Turbulation not working on washer -Replaced pump -There was no PM for cleaning/replacing filters <p>*Ordered and installed OR6 oil skimmer in connection with washer</p> <p>*Created PM's for replacing filter and properly cleaning the parts washer</p> <p>*Cost reduction of 77%</p>

	<p>All-Brite grounding project - adding flexible conduit to do new Level Switch PM's</p>		<p>*PSM audit identified gaps in preventative maintenance for level switches *Evaluated equipment and identified it would not be possible to perform PMs in current state *Worked with vendor to add flexible conduit for easier and faster testing during chem plant shutdowns</p>
	<p>Tagging of equipment in Crystallization - Physical Location Tags</p>		<p>*PSM audit identified gaps in preventative maintenance for level switches *These switches locations were not known - this led to the idea of tagging equipment identified -Tags ordered -Worked with vendor coordinating the tagging of equipment</p>