

## **WHAT IS A GEMBA WALK AND HOW CAN IT HELP MY SAFETY PROGRAM?**

This session will provide you with details on what it takes to lead a lean manufacturing program with a special emphasis on a key activity called gemba walks. You will also get an in-depth look at how a properly integrated lean management system provides significant improvements to your health and safety program. Employee involvement is the foundation for success and drives ownership of your site. You will leave with tangible ways to continuously improve your processes.

**Presenter:** CHRISTIAN M. SIMMERS, GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, GLOBAL HEALTH, SAFETY, SECURITY & ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER, EMERSON MACHINE AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS AND DUSTIN KNIGHT, GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

Christian has 20 years of EHS experience in different industries across the country. He worked at the vertically integrated Cargill business in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia for twelve years where he held multiple roles increasing in responsibility including EHS Director for the regional operations. He served on the Virginia Pure Water Forum operating committee and worked closely with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and local poultry growers to implement best practices to help protect the watersheds of the Commonwealth through a partnership approach. Christian led several sites to OSHA VPP star status at Cargill, including the first feed mill and hatchery in the U.S. to receive STAR status. He also led a major initiative over a 5-year span to improve Cargill's environmental performance for the beef, poultry and pork businesses in North America. Christian is currently the Global EHS Leader for Emerson Electric Company's Machine Automation Solutions business with employees in 22 countries. This business was previously owned by GE. Before the divestiture, he was a regional EHS leader for General Electric leading sites located in Charlottesville and Salem, VA. While at GE, Christian led EHS improvements across GE Power and Energy businesses to include ergonomics, lean manufacturing and electrical safety while helping the Charlottesville and Salem, VA sites maintain VPP certifications. He has been a Special Government Employee for OSHA for over 10 years, a Registered Environmental Manager, and serves as VP of Bridgewater Little League. Christian graduated from Virginia Tech in 2001 where he lettered four years and was a two-year captain for the Hokies baseball team. Christian lives in Bridgewater, VA with his wife Teresa, 13-year-old daughter Kendall and 11-year-old son Caden.

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