

Contact: Mandy Gross | FAPC Communications | 405-744-0442 | [mandy.gross@okstate.edu](mailto:mandy.gross@okstate.edu)

## ***Young named ASQ-Certified Six Sigma Black Belt***

By Mandy Gross, FAPC Manager of Communications Services

***(Stillwater, Okla. – Dec. 21, 2009)*** Jason Young, quality management specialist for Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center, has been named a black belt ... an American Society for Quality-Certified Six Sigma Black Belt that is.

According to the Certification Board of ASQ, Young has completed the requirements to earn this certification, which includes reaching a significant level of professional recognition and indicating a proficiency in and a comprehension of Six Sigma principles and practices.

"The Six Sigma Black Belt Certification is definitely a highlight in my profession," Young said. "Now I begin a new journey, as I am better prepared to help Oklahoma food processors meet the needs of their ever-changing environments."

A Certified Six Sigma Black Belt is a professional who applies Six Sigma philosophies and principles, including supporting systems and tools in a variety of business situations. A Black Belt demonstrates team leadership; manages team dynamics in all aspects of the DMAIC (define, measure, analyze, improve, control) model; understands lean enterprise concepts; and uses tools to identify non-value-added activities.

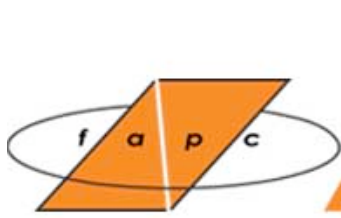
"Mr. Young is now a certified authority in quality management and continuous improvement and is available to the food industry in Oklahoma," said Roy Escoubas, FAPC director. "We are very proud of his accomplishment."

More than 163,000 individuals have taken the path to reach their goal of becoming ASQ-Certified in their field or profession, since the first ASQ certification examinations was given in 1968.

"The Six Sigma methodology covers every aspect of continuous improvement and quality management," Young said. "This was a great challenge, and I recommend the Six Sigma journey for everyone interested in building their continuous improvement skills."

ASQ has been the world's leading authority on quality for more than 60 years. With more than 85,000 individual and organizational members, the professional association advances learning, quality improvement and knowledge exchange to improve business results and to create better workplaces and communities worldwide.

"ASQ provides certification as a way to provide formal recognition to professionals who have demonstrated an understanding of, and a commitment to, quality techniques and practices in



their job and career,” said Peter Andres, ASQ president. “This is a great accomplishment and, although not a formal registration or licensure, it represents a high level of peer recognition.”

- ### -

Oklahoma State University is a modern land-grant system that cuts across disciplines to better prepare students for a new world. Oklahoma’s only university with a statewide presence, OSU improves the lives of people in Oklahoma, the nation, and the world through integrated, high-quality teaching, research and outreach. OSU has more than 32,000 students across its five-campus system and more than 19,000 on its Stillwater campus; with students from all 50 states and about 110 nations. Established in 1890, OSU has graduated more than 200,000 students who have made a lasting impact on Oklahoma and the world. CREATE - INNOVATE - EDUCATE - GO STATE!