



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MARIA ELENA STOPHER

Maria Elena Stopher is a highly qualified expert who serves as a senior advisor to the Deputy Chief Management Officer and Office of Business Transformation, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C. Ms Stopher assists the Deputy Chief Management Officer to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Air Force business operations. Ms. Stopher advises Air Force senior leadership on establishing strategic performance goals, managing Air Force-wide cross-functional activities to meet those goals, and implementing continuous process improvement initiatives throughout the Air Force.



Ms Stopher is a leading expert on Lean Enterprise. She has led numerous business process reengineering engagements for a wide variety of federal government and private sector clients. She began her Lean journey in the commercial sector as a shop floor supervisor and a manufacturing engineer with Xerox Corporation and later as an engineering manager at American Precision Industries (now Danaher Motion).

Ms Stopher joined federal service as a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce; serving as Director, National Lean Initiative, she established the first nation-wide, U.S. government-sponsored program to make U.S. manufacturers more competitive globally by introducing and implementing Lean principles.

As Vice President, Product Development, Lean Enterprise Institute, Ms Stopher led her team to create flagship workshops, workbooks, and training curricula. As Manager, National Lean Initiative, National Institute of Standards and Technology, she developed the strategy to provide national Lean training resulting in establishment of an outreach program that trained over 2000 field engineers in 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Ms Stopher began her own consulting company, Ultimate Lean Incorporated, in 2005; her clients include United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Standards and Technology, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Astra Zeneca, Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, Boeing, and Purdue Farms.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. 1987-1991 Manufacturing Engineer, Supervisor, Xerox Corporation, Webster, N.Y.
2. 1991-1994 Engineering Manager, Danaher Motion (formerly, American Precision Industries), Buffalo, N.Y.
3. 1994-2001 Director, National Lean Initiative, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.
4. 2001-2002 Vice President, Product Development, Lean Enterprise Institute, Cambridge Mass. and Washington D.C.
5. 2002-2005 Manager, National Lean Initiative, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Gaithersburg, Md.
6. 2005-Present President, Ultimate Lean Incorporated, Rockville, Md.

7. 2008-Present Senior Advisor, Deputy Chief Management Officer and Office of Business Transformation, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C.

EDUCATION

1987 Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y.

1993 Master of Science, Operations Management, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y.

LANGUAGES

Spanish

AWARDS AND HONORS

United States Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award

(Current as of February 2010)