Maria Leonard

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015-Present University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Edinburg, TX

Lecturer- College of Business and Entrepreneurship

- Instructor for Business and Society Course (Mgmt. 4364): An Ethics, Sustainability, and Stakeholder Management course for senior level, undergraduate students. This class is offered for students graduating with a bachelors degree in Business Management. As part of the curriculum for this class, students are encouraged to engage in different aspects of service learning. Volunteer work and community outreach are emphasized and expected. Every semester, students taking this course log over 1000 volunteer service hours, reaching a wide-spread range of activities in different communities of the Rio Grande Valley.
- Instructor for Organizational Behavior Course (Mgmt. 4361): Class required for graduating seniors seeking a bachelors degree in Business Management. This course analyzes the impact of individuals, groups, and structure behavior within organizations. It offers perspective on how knowledge in the areas of leadership, job satisfaction, team work, and organizational culture can be applied to improve effectiveness within an organization. We also analyze how personality, values, leadership abilities, perception, and individual decision making skills can impact the effectiveness of a group.
- Corporate trainer Fortem Consulting, LLC
- Co-Facilitator for BizFest Youth Entrepreneurship Program United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and UTPA
- Facilitator for COBA Business Leadership & Entrepreneurship Summer Camps for IDEA Schools
- Member of Proyecto Sin Fronteras (Sustainability Workshop Series) first year cohort, sponsored by the UTPA Office of Sustainability
- Member of the Experiential Learning Workshop first year cohort, sponsored by the UTPA Office of Undergraduate Research and
 Service Learning
- Certified to teach online courses by the UTPA Center for Online Learning, Teaching and Technology.

2010-2015

Adjunct Lecturer - College of Business Adminstration UTPA

1998-2013 Gerber Outerwear Co. Edinburg, TX

Plant Manager

- Achieved and maintained ISO 9001 registration for the company, as well as other compliance certifications needed for manufacturing
- Successfully established and implemented lean manufacturing at the Edinburg, TX facility
- Established a very successful worker safety program and reduced work accidents to zero.
- Managed the quality, logistics and transportation for the shipping and distribution of goods manufactured in Asia and United States.
- Supervised human resources programs and policies, recruitment and terminations, payroll matters, and community relations
- Responsible for setting and implementing capital and operations budgets for the manufacturing site.
- · Performed all materials and components planning and purchasing for domestic manufacturing of military products

1997-1998 Fruit of the Loom Inc. Bowling Green, KY

Regional Contract Manager

- Oversaw three manufacturing contract facilities throughout Mexico
- Responsible for developing successful production programs
- Supervised labor law compliance for these facilities

1993–1997 Fruit of the Loom Inc. Mexico Miguel Aleman, MEXICO

Plant Manager

- Oversaw manufacturing operations in a plant of 1200 employees
- Supervised logistics and transportation matters, as well as import-export issues
- Handled labor union negotiations and company compliance with Mexican labor law
- Supervised human resources issues and community relations
- Responsible for setting and implementing annual operating and capital budgets

EDUCATION

1998-2000 Master of Business Administration

University of Texas – Pan American Edinburg, TX

1985–1989 **B.A. Marketing**

University of Texas - Pan American Edinburg, TX

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

South Texas Juvenile Diabetes Association Board Member
Casa Hogar MAMi Orphanage – Reynosa Mexico Advisory Board
Court Appointed Special Advocates - Hidalgo County Former Board P
League of Women Voters – Hidalgo County Former Board Pr
Mission FD Ladies Auxilary – Mission TX Former Member

Advisory Board Director and Advocate Former Board President and Volunteer Former Board President and Member Former Member