

## 6 Sigma in Healthcare



Kelly Jefferson, of OSF St. Francis Hospital and Master Black Belt, presented an overview of 6 Sigma in the healthcare industry to Upper Peninsula Healthcare Roundtable (UPHCRT) members.

6 Sigma is a quality improvement process measurement that uses a problem solv-

ing methodology to identify and eliminate waste and re-work in any business process.

This quality initiative has been mainly associated with manufacturing. Caterpillar introduced the process to OSF St. Francis Medical Center in 2002 with all of its facilities adopting the quality initiative by 2005.

"We adopted 6 Sigma because it was the right thing to do. The pursuit of perfection is imperative. 6 Sigma is helping us to work towards that goal," stated OSF Administrator and CEO, Peter Jennings.

Ms. Jefferson sited, "The 6 Sigma success factors include: business process; in-

centives and accountability; custom market and network; quantifiable measures and results; strategy integration; and committed leadership. All of these factors need to be integrated consistently to fit each business; however, the most powerful success factor is committed leadership."

The UPHCRT is planning a Quality in Healthcare Conference tentatively scheduled for late summer of 2008.



## 25-010108-01 Manufacturing Reps Speak to Copper Country Area Schools about Job Opportunities in the UP

On Wednesday, December 5th and Thursday, December 6th, a manufacturing representative from REL Machine visited with students at Lake Linden, Calumet, Chassell, and Ontonagon Area Schools to share the future opportunities available to them in manufacturing here in the UP, and to convey to the public that manufacturing is more technical than in the past with areas of automation, CAD, and engineering to name a few.

Featured in the presentation were skilled and professional manufacturing workers from the area. The initiative is just one function of our Upper Peninsula Regional Industrial Manufacturing Skills Alliances (UP-RIMSA).

Recent industry surveys of manufacturers indicate that, with projected growth and 40% retirement of the current workforce by 2012, there is a pressing need to have nearly 9,000 new skilled

current level of manufacturing in the UP today. Based on projected enrollments in educational institutions and skilled trades, there will be a shortfall of more than 3,000 skilled workers in that time frame. Additionally, only 10% of UP high school students exploring career options through the Michigan Career Pathways system listed Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology as their career choice.

The mission of the UP-RIMSA is "to develop a highly qualified labor pool to meet the current and future needs of the UP's industrial manufacturers and develop industry specific solutions through partnerships with education, legislators, other industries and current and future members of the workforce."

For more information on UP-RIMSA, contact Holly Peoples at 906-789-0558 ext 215 or by email at hpeoples@job-



Representatives from manufacturing business throughout the UP speak to students about job opportunities.

