

Early Achievement Award

Kristin Petaski, P.Eng.



Kristin Petaski is a principal at Workplace Engineering Solutions, a company she co-founded four years ago. The company focuses on technical solutions to safety, including machine safeguarding assessments, guarding design and installation on machinery, and equipment lockout. Recent projects she has worked on include safeguarding a new production line at the Royal Canadian Mint, equipment review and risk assessment at Magellan Aerospace, and assembly line re-design for Kitchen Craft. Kristen's responsibilities cover all aspects of running the business with a focus on marketing, research and project scheduling in addition to technical solutions development. She has honed her skills to include those normally outside her specialty to improve her business daily.

Kristin obtained her B.Sc. in Manufacturing Engineering in 2006 and began working full time at Kitchen Craft. She focused on process improvements, using lean manufacturing techniques to improve efficiencies, quality, and safety. Kristin quickly learned the value of going down to the shop floor and engaging with operations. Kristin moved to Calgary in 2008 and worked as an environmental consulting engineer at EHS Partnerships. There she worked on a variety of health and safety projects including air quality testing, mould inspections, and health and safety policies and procedures.

In 2009 Kristin returned to Kitchen Craft as the Engineering Services Supervisor where she purchased and installed new equipment and supervised a small technical department. In 2011 she co-founded Workplace Engineering Solutions. Kristin has since helped to grow the company from a start-up business into an established and well-respected consulting firm providing machine safety solutions for Manitobans. The risk she took to start this company, one that helps ensure workers go home safely every day, is one that Kristin counts as her proudest professional accomplishment. Prior to starting Workplace Engineering Solutions there were no engineering firms in the province focusing on machine safety.

Kristin is currently the vice-president of the Incident Prevention Association of Manitoba (IPAM), and will assume the role of president this year. IPAM is a group of safety professionals working to improve incident prevention methods, training, and education. Kristin has also been named an associate member of the CSA Z432 committee. The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) takes on associate members as technical representatives to help develop their standards. It is an accomplishment to be known as a machine safety expert and to be invited this early in her career to help develop these standards.

She has been nominated as a finalist for both the 2015 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards and the 2015 Manitoba Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. Kristin conducts several volunteer presentations a year related to machine safeguarding to the local safety community. School division safety coordinators are among the attendees for these presentations. Kristin promotes engineering as a career choice to students and has assisted in mentoring Engineers-in-Training within the workplace. She has also volunteered with the Winnipeg Humane Society, judging science fairs and coaching girls'

volleyball. In the future, Kristin would like to expand her role for promoting the involvement of women in engineering.

Kristin Petaski has a reputation as a machine safety expert in Manitoba and she plans to work to grow her company's reputation across the prairies. Kristin represents the profession of engineering in all her volunteer work with safety organizations. She strives to show the importance of a technical perspective in the safety field. Kristin plans to continue to educate the industry on the importance of machine safety and the benefits of having machines properly assessed by professional engineers.