**Jessica Evans, Emerson Climate Technologies**

Hi, my name is Jessica Evans, and I’m the Operations Strategic Planner at Emerson Climate Technologies that’s headquartered in Sidney, Ohio. Our products offer solutions for both the residential and commercial air-conditioning, heating, and refrigeration markets. A strategic planner looks at what has been done in the past and then tries to come up with a plan of what the future will look like or can be like by making forecasting models and continuously looking at data to help give upper management the background to make business decisions about our operations. So those decisions impact the company as a whole, along with everyone working for the company.

At Emerson, Operations includes the manufacturing process to make compressors for both heating and air-conditioning solutions. The data I collect usually comes from our manufacturing plants and is based on how the plant is running. Some examples could be their quality, how much they manufacture, and also the cost associated with it. I talk to plant managers, material managers, and even people on the assembly line. And then I communicate a lot with materials, procurement, which is the supply chain, the vice president of operations - and as you can see, Operations really involves a lot of different functions and a lot of people in different backgrounds.

Lean manufacturing and strategic planning fit together because it’s based on the principle of making continuous improvements. And that is making better quality products, reducing the time to make products, and also offer some cost efficient solutions.

I was born and raised in the Midwest and I am the baby of five older brothers and sisters. I grew up in the country and I have always had a love for the outdoors and for horses. And I feel like my childhood has really helped me to stay grounded throughout my career and to know what hard work is like and to be able to accomplish it.

From high school on, my favorite subjects have always been math and science because it involved a lot of problem solving and trying to figure out how things work. I went to the University of Dayton and there I got a B.S. in Chemical Engineering with a Minor in Bio-Engineering.

My first job out of college was at a paint company, where I was really using my chemical engineering degree and training. I learned a lot and the job was very interesting, but then I also came to a point where I just wanted more out of my career. I was interested in how the upper management was making business decisions and I wanted to learn more. So, I signed up for my MBA to bridge from the technical to the business side of the company. And I worked full time during the day and went to school at night for two years. And I’m very glad that I went back for it. And I would recommend it to anyone, because it does help you to have that engineering mindset with the business knowledge as well, and it’s a really good combination to have. My MBA got me into the door at Emerson.

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I was calling to see if you had a minute to talk about the global manufacturing strategy spreadsheet.

My responsibilities at work are to complete my projects and assignments to the best of my ability. And this usually includes gathering data, analyzing it, and interpreting it. And then I summarize my learnings on PowerPoint presentations that upper management uses to communicate the message to others. Good computer skills is really important in my job. Every day I use Microsoft Excel to do my data analysis, which would involve using some various functions, you know, pivot tables, filters, and I make a lot of graphs.

To complete my job well, I have to be very organized and I have to have good communication skills. I’m constantly talking to people with different backgrounds in different locations trying to gather data, so it’s important for me to have an open mind and also to have that drive to make a difference every single day.

I honestly don’t really have a typical day or week at my job. My projects can range from doing a cost analysis on a part for a compressor to helping a vice president with their presentation to executive management. So, every day and every week can be different.

Emerson Climate Technologies is a part of a worldwide organization that has locations in Europe, Middle East, Asia, and right here in the United States is the headquarters in Sidney, Ohio. When I get my job right, it really affects the bottom line, which is the profitability of our company and the ability for growth. I’m passionate about my job because it’s challenging. I really like to problem solve and do data analysis, and I feel like my work impacts the company and the decisions made across Global Emerson.