

## James W. Linton



James Linton is returning to the Whitehall Group with 20+ years of experience in manufacturing, logistics and restructuring. James' expertise includes the areas of operations, finance, lean management, quality control, continuous improvement, supply chain management, leadership training and executive coaching. The Whitehall Group provides services to companies in transition or in trouble that are ultimately looking to pivot for transformational purposes.

In industry, James has primarily served as both COO or CFO for clients during transition and has helped them to remain or return to profitability. James started his career at DaimlerChrysler (DCX) as a graduate of the Chrysler Institute of Engineering (CIE) Management Trainee Program, where he was able to experience all facets of the automotive industry from design office to engineering to manufacturing to international market financing and sales. During his rotations in manufacturing, James led several lean manufacturing initiatives that reduced changeover times, incorporated layered process audits, standardized work instructions, redesigned cellular layouts for takt time reductions and implemented 5S & value stream mapping within several production sites. He also received his Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification at DCX and later supervised both the UAW skilled trades and the production teams to help build the underbodies at Sterling Heights Assembly Plant (SHAP). James' fondest moment at DaimlerChrysler, besides working with many fun and guiding professionals, was when he was handed the keys to a Viper while in rotation at Conner Avenue Assembly!

James later moved on to various consulting roles, including the Whitehall Group LLC, while obtaining his MBA and eventually worked with the Whelan family to help restructure the family business. W.F Whelan Co. (Whelan) is one of the largest third-party logistics providers (3PL) and Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) operators in Metro Detroit. While at Whelan, James was responsible for the FTZ warehouse/distribution operations, the information technology department and finance/accounting. James helped implement several key performance indicators (KPI's) across the business units and rolled up the financials to evaluate department contribution margins. James also led a full restructuring of the management team and eventually led Whelan to profitability quickly after the 2008-2009 financial crisis. James later moved on while the family transitioned the business to second generation where it now strives to even greater heights.

James currently serves as a Managing Partner in a sales and engineering firm as well an equity partner in a warehouse and distribution company. James received his B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Wayne State University where he also played Tartar baseball. He also received his M.S. in Engineering Management at the University of Michigan (Dearborn) and an MBA in Finance at the University of Detroit Mercy. James is a certified analyst and an active member in the Turnaround Management Association (TMA) and has recently received his Executive and Leadership Coaching certificate. James is grateful for his family and love's spending time in nature while hiking and running the local trails or kayaking down the Huron River.

James also serves as a BenjaMen of Huron Valley that strives to improving community with a local impact.