

Ron Knopf

Leadership Developer, Operations Executive

Ron has spent most of his career investing in and developing outstanding leaders. He formerly served as the Executive Director of Manufacturing for the Ford Motor Company. During his 30-year career, he held positions in Plant Operations, Engineering, New Program Management, Supply Chain Development, Quality Systems, and Strategic Planning—mostly in Transmission and Engine manufacturing. In his last 5 years, he held global positions which provided extensive international experience.

In his final role at Ford, Ron led the development of the Powertrain Division in China. During that assignment, the teams built two new factories (\$2B invested), hired and trained 3500 people, and delivered more than one million engine/transmission sets each year to customers in Asia. The operations achieved “Best in World” recognition in terms of Safety, Quality, and Delivery. The success continues as the foundation is built on a world-class training program and a well-designed leadership development process. He retired in 2017.

Ron earned his bachelor’s degree in Engineering from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, and his Six Sigma Blackbelt certification from Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. Ron is married and has four children and one grandchild. His interests include fitness, snowboarding, and woodworking.

