Bringing Together Theory and Practice

Kean’s management education program stepped outside of the classroom on October 5, as faculty and nearly a dozen students from the College of Business and Public Administration (CBPA) attended the 59th annual Ott Quality Conference held at Rutgers University, Newark. “The conference provides an excellent opportunity for our students to link classroom materials with real business, preparing them for their future careers,” said Dr. Bin Zhou, assistant professor in the Department of Management and organizer of the event.

As one of the nation’s oldest annual conferences on Quality Management and Control, the Ott Conference is dedicated to providing novice and seasoned practitioners, quality managers, project management professionals, business leaders, and students with useful and updated information that will help to improve their knowledge and professional development. Key speakers of this year’s conference included Howard Roberts, president of New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and Mike Wilke, COO of PB’s Americas. Among the topics presented were six sigma, quality auditing, project management, quality basics and organizational development. Each year, the conference presents an effective means for organizations from both industry and academia to bring theoretical and practical information to the business community as well as to aspiring professionals. “I saw ties between classes I had previously taken throughout my college career and witnessed how they are applied in the ‘real world,’” said James Larkins, a senior student of CBPA who attended the conference. “In attending this meeting, I learned more than I expected.”