



Derek Winkel

Executive Director,

Manufacturing Operations

Renewable

Energy Group, Inc.

Thursday,

January 17, 2019

11:00 a.m.

171 Durham Center

Iowa State University

VisionZero: Creating a Culture of Continuous Improvement

VisionZero represents a team's commitment to continuous improvement with a vision to achieve:

- Zero injuries
- Zero environmental incidents
- Zero process safety incidents

The presentation will also discuss:

- What is safety culture and why does it matter?
- Finding the balance between culture and rules enforcement

For 20 years, Derek Winkel has been responsible for managing manufacturing operations in the chemical and renewable fuel industries. Currently, Mr. Winkel serves as Executive Director, Manufacturing Operations of Renewable Energy Group, Inc.

As Executive Director, Manufacturing Operations, Winkel coordinates the efficient operation of the company's 14 operating plants by leading a team that monitors plant performance, analyzes data and drives continuous improvement to increase margins and quality. In addition, Winkel oversees several areas that support plant operations, including environmental, health and safety; corporate process and mechanical engineering; and manufacturing reliability. Winkel is also a key contributor in the selection and commercialization of new technology and plant acquisition due diligence.

Winkel joined REG in 2006 as the General Manager of REG Newton LLC during its construction and successfully led the plant through start-up and continued operations until transitioning to his current position full time in 2010. Prior to joining REG, Winkel served as the technical manager for a 30 million gallon per year ethanol facility.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and Master of Business Administration from Iowa State University in 1998 and 2015, respectively. He currently serves on the ISU Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering Advisory Council, board of directors for the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association and is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

The Chemical Engineering Graduate Seminar Series events are part of the required curriculum for chemical engineering graduate students, but open to all Iowa State University graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, scientists, faculty and staff. See the full seminar schedule at cbe.iastate.edu/seminar-series/