



Ernest K. Banks

Vice President

Continuous Improvement Manager, Virbac Animal Health

Ernie Banks started a new role during February 2021 at Virbac Animal Health in Bridgeton, MO. His key role is to support plant operations in the development, planning and execution of operational excellence and continuous improvement projects, initiatives and metrics. He is striving to establish a cultural environment where colleagues can realize their gifts, develop their talents and feel fulfillment for their contributions.

Before joining Virbac, Ernie served as the global operational excellence director for Curium (the union between Mallinckrodt Nuclear Medicine LLC and IBA Molecular). He had overall responsibility for all aspects of the LEAN, six sigma, change leadership, cost savings and training programs for the operations at the flagship manufacturing facility in Maryland Heights, the site in France and the complex in the Netherlands.

Ernie earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in 1981. After working for almost a year, he took a leave of absence to obtain his master's degree in chemical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1984. In the spirit that hands-on experiential learning never ends, he then went on to secure his six sigma black belt certification in 2002, his LEAN certification in 2006 and his six sigma master black belt certification in 2013.

One of Ernie's major volunteering contributions is with the Lift for Life Academy (LFLA). LFLA was the first charter school in St. Louis and provides students with a creative and motivating alternative education. Ernie's responsibility as a school board member is to use his operations and six Sigma master black belt experience to provide sound guidance and support on strategic matters. Other volunteer examples include donating time and talent to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and to the Association for Manufacturing Excellence St. Louis Consortium.

Ernie has been married to Angela Banks, EE'87 for 30 years and she is currently the chief financial officer for the St. Louis Public School System. They have three grown children, Tiffany, Jarret, Jordan, a granddaughter, Bailey, and a grandson, Sebastian.