

# Preface

I was fortunate to have a rich and diverse career in industry and academia. This included working at International Harvester as supervisor of operations research in the corporate headquarters; at IIT Research Institute (IITRI) as a Senior Scientist, serving in the Advance Assembly Methods program with worldwide applications; as a Professor in the Industrial Engineering Department at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT); in the Stuart School of Business at IIT; and many years of consulting assignments with industry and government throughout the world. At IIT, I was lucky to be assigned a broad array of courses, gaining a wide breadth with the variety of topics, and with the added knowledge I acquired with every repeat of the course. I was also privileged to serve as the Advisor to many bright Ph.D. students as they carried on their dissertation research. Bits of knowledge from various courses and research helped me in the classroom, and also in my consulting assignments. I used my industry knowledge in classroom lectures so the students could see how some of the textbook methodologies actually are applied in industry. At the same time, the knowledge I gained from the classroom helped me to formulate and develop solutions to industry assembly line applications as they unfolded. This variety of experience allowed me to view how assembly systems are used in industry. This book is based on this total experience and also includes the quantitative methods that I found doable and useful.

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