

# Neal J. Michal III

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www.ConvertingExpert.com

## Executive Summary

Principal with Converting Expert, LLC. Subject matter expert focused on improved productivity, delivered quality and converting performance. Retired from Kimberly-Clark after 31 years in five different locations. Served as KC's senior web handling expert for 21 years: winding, slitting, unwinds, packaging and converting. Demonstrated ability to use good science and critical thinking to solve problems. Led KC's open innovation effort at the Web Handling Research Center that reduced cost more than \$100M. Authored plan and led effort to improve converting performance across the corporation. Provided technical assistance to external material suppliers, converting customers and equipment providers. Authored six proprietary books on web handling, winding, slitting, unwinds, roll handling, and wound roll mechanics. Provided training to over 1,000 co-workers. Led computer modeling efforts for winding, wrinkling, longitudinal dynamics and converting.

## Work Experience

### Principal

Converting Expert, LLC; Oct 2018 – Present

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- Consulting services for web handling, winding, slitting, converting, packaging, automation and guarding
- Nonwovens, spunbond, SMS, elastics, film, tissue, paper, coform, carded web, HET and laminates

### R&E Technical Leader

Kimberly-Clark; Oct 2005 – Oct 2018

- Kimberly-Clark's senior web handling expert for: winding, slitting, unwinds, packaging and converting
- Authored plan and led effort to improve converting performance across KC
- Designed and optimized over three dozen processes
- Provide technical assistance to external material suppliers and converting customers
- Key contact for six major equipment providers. Led two joint development agreements
- Authored six proprietary books on web handling, winding, slitting, unwinds, roll handling, and wound roll mechanics. Provided training to over 1,000 engineers, technicians and machine operators.
- Led computer modeling efforts for winding, wrinkling, longitudinal dynamics and converting
- 2 patents, 2 trade secrets, 6 publications

### Open Innovation Leader

Oklahoma State University; Dec 1999 – Oct 2018

- Led KC's open innovation effort at the Web Handling Research Center for 20 years
- Led a cross sector team to apply research which provided over \$100M cost savings to KC
- Chair of the Winding research team for 14 years
- Chair of the Industrial Advisory Board for two years
- Identified need and led effort to fund a first of a kind high speed / low tension pilot line
- Hired, trained and mentored two PhD and three MS students from Oklahoma State

**Global Project Leader** Textor Technologies; Melbourne Australia; Mar '13 – May '15

- Ex-pat assignment to develop and successfully launch a first of a kind topographical surge layer
- Redesigned entire process from base machine to a highly automated spooler operation
- Hired and led a team of five engineers. Led five rebuilds with over 13,000 safe man hours.

**Senior Process Engineer** Kimberly-Clark; Roswell, GA; Apr 1998 – Sept 2005

- Led Global Nonwoven Sector efforts for slitting, winding, web handling, automation and packaging to reduce costs and improve delivered quality
- Worked cross-sector with our Personal Care customers to codevelop total supply chain solutions

**Project Engineer** Kimberly-Clark; LaGrange, GA; Dec 1992 – Mar 1998

- Led capital & expense projects to provide step change improvements in yield, uptime, and safety
- Capital Planning Coordinator for 11 mill engineers. Developed first of a kind budgeting process
- Developed guarding assessment program that became the corporate standard for more than 10 years

**Operations Team Leader** Kimberly-Clark; Paris, TX; July 1990 – Nov 1992

- Responsible for 10% of Huggies production in the US
- Two years no reportable safety incidents (1991 and 1992 - P4 and P5)
- Best annual quality results (1991 - P4 thick diaper and P5 thin diaper)
- Co-developed high speed packaging improvements with maintenance and operations

**Diaper Plant Capital Engineer** Kimberly-Clark; Paris, TX; Sept 1989 – Jun 1990

- Design, develop, install, and start-up Huggies diaper machine equipment.
- Led several capital and expense projects to support high speed converting performance.

**Infant Care Staff Engineer** Kimberly-Clark; Neenah, WI; June 1987 – Aug 1989

- Capital project engineer to commercialize two Huggies diaper improvements
- Co-developed and implemented first ever web handling training for all Kimberly-Clark sectors
- Co-developed Fife SE-23 web guiding sensor designed specifically for nonwoven materials
- Developed loop applicator module that was rolled out into production for mechanical fastening

**Platoon Sargent** US Army National Guards; Jan 1983 – Aug 1991

- Military Leadership Award; Noncommissioned Officers School, 38th Infantry Division; 1987
- Indianapolis Star Military Achievement Medal; 1986
- Enlisted Soldier of the Year; 2nd Brigade 38th Infantry Division; 1986
- Top Gunner, TOW ITV; 1984

#### **Education**

- BS, Mechanical Engineering Technology; May 1987; Purdue University
- Tau Alpha Pi - Scholastic Honor Society; 1986
- Vickers Fluid Power Education Award for scholarship and citizenship; 1985

**References available upon request**