



Event: “Creating a Sustainable Lean Culture”

Speakers: Tom Shuker, Jim Manley

Date: December 7, 2012

Location: Michigan State University



The Michigan Lean Consortium (MLC) partnered with the Demmer Center at Michigan State University on December 7, 2012. Tom Shuker was the main presenter and Jim Manley also spoke. Two MSU students, Carl Ream and Rahul Seelam also led breakout sessions.

The presentation was focused on creating a lean culture. Most companies embarking on a lean journey soon become frustrated with kaizen events and isolated improvement projects that yield great short-term results but have no sustainability. They are searching for something more: the culture of continuous improvement with its philosophy, processes, and people aligned to cultivate problem solving.

In addition to Tom Shuker’s presentation there were the following breakout sessions:

1. Two Ways of Coaching and Developing Your People (with Tom Shuker as Leader)
2. Case Studies of Michigan Success Stories (Demmer Center clients)

Participants also helped the MLC come up with ideas in the following areas: marketing and communications, fundraising, events and projects. Afterwards, there was a great networking reception where attendees could mingle and celebrate the MLC’s great year.

Approximately 80 participants attended the event.

[See photos from the event on Facebook.](#)



The mission of the MLC is to offer a diverse network of knowledgeable lean professionals who come together to share innovative practices. The organization aims to create a lean culture in Michigan to ensure sustainable competitive advantage, which could translate into healthier businesses that offer more job opportunities leading to economic growth in the state.

The charter members of the MLC include: Amway, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, DTE Energy, Johnson & Johnson, The Lean Learning Center, Northwestern Michigan College, the Oakland University Pawley Lean Institute and the Michigan Shingo Prize through The Right Place. For more information, visit www.michiganlean.org.