



**Event:** "How Thinking Styles Affect Launching and Sustaining a Lean Culture"

**Speaker(s):** G.S. Clarke

**Date:** March 23, 2012

**Location:** Macomb-OU INCubator in Sterling Heights, MI



The Michigan Lean Consortium (MLC) partnered with GS Clarke on training event "How Thinking Styles Affect Launching and Sustaining a Lean Culture" on March 23, 2012 at Macomb-OU INCubator (now called Velocity). This was Part 2 of a 3 part series on Lean Culture.

The presenters were Gerry Clarke (Clarke), Senior Partner with Clarke Consulting LLL and Thomas Smith from Mocal, Inc. Clarke has 25 years of experience as a consultant to business and industry internationally and has used Life Styles Inventory with hundreds of clients since 1984 and is past President /CEO of Human Synergistics. Thomas is a consultant on continual improvement, culture and teamwork. His clients include ABB, Ford Motor Company, Masco Corp, and Time Warner Cable to name a few.

Participants completed the Human Synergistics Life Styles Inventory (LSI) to determine their dominant thinking styles. Clarke demonstrated how we think determines behavior and personality. To become a more effective, satisfied person you need to first understand the styles of thinking, self-reflect and then adopt more positive effective styles. Participants also learned how combined thinking patterns of teams and organizations most often determine their effectiveness. Thinking patterns of teams influence a number of organizational factors such as problem solving, job performance, quality, turnover rates and productivity. Quality of thinking patterns impact effective decisions and leads to the right environment for success.

Approximately 19 participants attended the event representing organizations such as St.



Joseph Mercy Oakland, Henry Ford Macomb, Genesys, McLaren Flint, X-ray Industries, Henkel, and Skilled MFG. From the event survey one attendee stated that the event was compelling and thought provoking. Another attendee stated they wanted to study more of the material presented so they can start applying the concepts. "Lean Culture Part 3" will be held April 13, at 8:30 am at Macomb-OU INCubator.

[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](http://www.michiganlean.org).