



Event: “Kaizen for Beginners” Workshop

Speaker: Amy Long

Date: September 14, 2012

Location: Macomb OU INCubator (Velocity) in Sterling Heights, MI



The Michigan Lean Consortium (MLC) partnered with Amy Long who instructed individuals on the basic principles and concepts for a Kaizen event on September 14, 2012 at the Macomb OU INCubator.

Amy Long is a Lean Instructor and Six Sigma Black Belt who began her Continuous Improvement journey as a child thanks to her Dad's belief in "working smarter not harder." Her professional background includes 12 years of experience working in various Continuous Improvement roles at The Dow Chemical Company and Henkel Corporation. She recently transitioned to the health care industry where she is currently Director of Episodic Quality Improvement & Implementation at Concentra. She holds an MS in Organizational Development from Eastern Michigan University and a BA in Organizational Communication from Western Michigan University.

Participants gathered to learn about process improvement and how a typical Kaizen event flows.

“Who knew making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich could be done in so many ways and so efficiently?” This was just one example of an exercise that was completed within the workshop.

Approximately 40 participants attended the event representing organizations such as Kraft, Grand Rapids fire Department, Sparrow Health, Trinity Health, Concentra, DTE,



Auburn Hills Fire Department, Michigan State, and ABB Inc. The next event will be the "Health Care Summit" at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital Conference Center.

[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.