



Event: Lean Operational Excellence

Speakers: Howard Weston, Mike Taubitz, and Larry Osentoski

Date: October 24, 2012

Location: Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center

The Michigan Lean Consortium (MLC) partnered with Michigan Tech for the Lean Operational Excellence Simulation on October 24, 2012. This event featured Howard Weston, Mike Taubitz, and Larry Osentoski who lead attendees on a workshop that demonstrated how Lean Operational Excellence differs from traditional operations.

In addition to providing an overview of Lean Thinking, attendees will participate in a hands-on learning simulation that demonstrates the difference between traditional operations employing specialized departments, batch processing and push scheduling and Lean Operational Excellence employing continuous flow, visual management, pull scheduling & standard work.

During round 1 of the simulation, work will transfer from department to department routed through inspection to “ensure” quality while participants track baseline metrics of productivity, quality, throughput time and investment cost.

During round 2, participants will identify waste before redesigning the process for continuous flow, pull and standard work and utilizing this improved process participants will experience the benefits of Lean Operational Excellence. The workshop and simulation will enable participants to see and understand the impact on business performance as we compare the baseline metrics to those achieved from the Lean environment.

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.