



**Event:** End of Year Event and Networking Reception  
**Speakers:** Ray Muscat and Debra Levantrosser  
**Date:** December 5, 2014  
**Location:** Automation Alley in Troy, MI  
**We want to thank Automation Alley**  
**For their generosity for sponsoring this fantastic event!**



The Michigan Lean Consortium (MLC) partnered with Automation Alley on December 5, 2014 for an End of Year Event featuring Ray Muscat and Debra Levantrosser.

Debra Levantrosser started the day off with a Lean Pie (Lean is NOT Process Improvement) presentation.

Next Jim Manley presented on the Michigan Lean Consortium.

Ray Muscat from Herman Miller gave participants an understanding of HMI's approach to the Toyota Production System/Lean (HMPS) and lessons learned.

Approximately 53 people attended this event in Ada.

**Speaker Bios:**



**Ray Muscat, Senior Vice President of Manufacturing Research and New Product Operations, Herman Miller**



Ray Muscat joined Herman Miller in 1991 and has had responsibilities in engineering, new product development, operations management, corporate quality, global facility strategy, mergers, and acquisitions. He led a core team that developed and implemented the Herman Miller Performance System, Herman Miller's adaptation of the Toyota Production System/Lean Manufacturing, globally.

Mr. Muscat has overseen all new North American product launches in Operations since 2001, and is currently researching and developing new materials and manufacturing processes for the factory of the future. His responsibilities include all North American facilities along with numerous facility construction projects, consolidations and upgrades worldwide. He is currently responsible for the Herman Miller Energy Center which takes waste and turns it into energy used to run manufacturing operations. Before Herman Miller he has held various positions in the Automotive, Defense and Aerospace Industries. He has a BSE in Industrial and Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan and an MBA from the University of Rhode Island.



**Debra Levantrosser** is the founder and lead adviser of Arbed Solutions, a company dedicated to helping and teaching businesses to make positive, Lean changes to their work. She is the hostess of The Leaning Edge radio show on [www.themichiganbusinessnetwork.com](http://www.themichiganbusinessnetwork.com) and is also co-founder and board member of the Michigan Lean Consortium, an organization utilizing Lean principles statewide to help rebuild the state's economy. She has over 20 years of executive business experience in companies of all sizes leading strategic and tactical problem-solving efforts using a continuous improvement mindset. Industries in which she has worked include automotive, health care, food service, consulting and her own companies which focused on product design. She is now focusing on implementing lean in the food truck business.

[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.