

July 25, 2012

## **Wednesday's Words of Quality**

**Lean in your up-North backyard, the Michigan Lean Consortium**

### **Michigan Lean Consortium (MLC) is All About Applying Lean Principles to Improve Michigan's Economy**

MLC is a non-profit, volunteer organization of nearly 300 members comprised of lean leaders from business, healthcare, government and consulting. MLC hosts monthly educational events and a 2.5 day [annual conference](#) featuring highly sought-after professionals sharing lessons and applications of lean principles and continuous quality improvement.

MLC's vision is create a lean culture in Michigan to ensure sustainable competitive advantage, which will translate into healthier businesses that offer more job opportunities leading to economic growth in the state.

### **This August 8-10, 2012 is The Michigan Lean Consortium Annual Conference: Establishing a Winning Culture**

in Traverse City Michigan at the beautiful lakeside campus of Northwestern Michigan College.

It features visionaries and highly-respected lean practitioners and presents opportunities to form valuable bonds with like-minded colleagues.

The Conference is appropriate for all levels in all industries. Whether you're completely new to lean, interested in getting certified, or an advanced leader, there's a workshop for you and your industry.

In particular there are several healthcare-focused workshops:

- \* **The Culture of Lean in Healthcare: A Case for Worker Empowerment in Process Redesign in Clinical Medicine**

Richard Zarbo MD and Rita D'Angelo MS

- \* **Improving Patient Flow and Sustaining Program Implementation**

Mike Olive

- \* **Using Lean in the Emergency Department: An interactive simulation for teaching the core principles of Lean**

Steve Hoeft and Brock Husby

- \* **Our Current Journey to Develop 600 Problem Solvers in the Spectrum Health IT Department**

Edward Blackman and Heather Dane Strickland

You will gain hands-on and immediately applicable experience. The two-and-a-half day agenda is packed with useful information that you will be able to share with your workplace colleagues and get started with immediately.

You will learn from top-notch speakers and presentations. You'll gain insights from visionaries like:

- **Michigan's Lt. Governor Brian Calley**, and
- **Robert Riney, President and COO of Henry Ford Health System**, and
- **Steve Cousins, Superintendent of Traverse City Area Public Schools**, and

other highly-regarded lean practitioners.

You will connect with other culture change professionals. Hear real-life stories and share obstacles and best practices with others from around the state. Get to know colleagues who share your passion for lean and can help you progress professionally. You will have the opportunity to formally work with other people in your industry and informally network with all industries.

Refresh, recharge, and walk away reinvigorated. Taking a break from the daily grind is not only good for you, it's essential to staying motivated and engaged in your own continuous improvement. The conference's lakeside location is restful and inspirational at the same time and promises to leave you renewed to take on the next challenges to come.

For more information, visit the Michigan Lean Consortium website at <http://michiganlean.org/>

Hope to see you Yoopers up North!

Disclosure statement: The author has no financial relationship with MLC and receives no remuneration for his voluntary participation in MLC.