

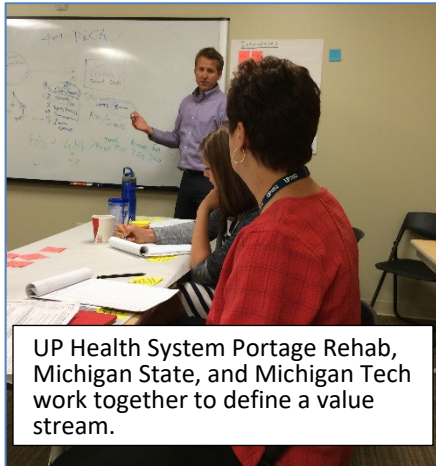
Continuous Improvement Using Lean Principles

December 2015 Update

Our Lean Community of Practice

The Lean community of practice in the area surrounding Michigan Tech is maturing. A community of practice is a group of people who share a common skill and a passion for applying it, similar to a craft guild. The community of practice develops the capabilities of individuals at the same time that it shares best practices across organizations. The people in the community are at different skill levels and the application is organization-specific, but the basic principles of Lean are learned, shared, and practiced whenever the community of practice gathers.

Lean Principles. The community members use examples from their everyday work to teach each other the five principles of Lean. These five principles begin with what it means to define value from the point of view of the customer. Next is defining and understanding the organization's value streams. Once value streams are identified, people learn where to look for waste as they make the service or product flow from one step to the next without stopping. Finally, it's critical to understand why creating a system that pulls value through the system is important, and when to set the next target goal as everyone works together toward a "North Star" of perfection. Our Lean community of practice will keep us strong.



UP Health System Portage Rehab, Michigan State, and Michigan Tech work together to define a value stream.



The Leaders of Continuous Improvement (LCI) student organization learn about how the customer defines value from Pettibone.



The Rotary Club of Hancock learns about the Lean fundamentals, respect for people and humility, from Michigan Tech.



LCI teaches the non-profit 31 Backpacks the principles of flow and 5S, which is a method for organizing things.



LCI and Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly learn about looking for waste in the system from Tim Waatti at The Muffler Shop.



People from 6 different organizations gather at Michigan Tech to learn about seeking perfection from the Michigan Lean Consortium (MLC).

Lean Outreach and Connections

- **Gemba Academy Training Available.** The Office of Continuous Improvement (OCI) has purchased access to the School of Lean from the Gemba Academy. The School of Lean subscription includes streaming video tutorials as well as relevant learning materials that you can use anytime. This service is available to all Michigan Tech faculty, staff, and students.
- **LCI Membership Up.** The attendance at the Leaders in Continuous Improvement (LCI) student organization meetings and activities has been consistently around 25-40 members this year. An enthusiastic, dedicated group of mechanical engineers is making the difference.
- **Three Michigan Tech Presenters at Lean Conference.** Three Michigan Tech employees were selected to present at the Michigan Lean Consortium's (MLC) annual conference. The topics presented were *Tune Up Your Process Mapping Skills*, *Working in a Piano Factory* by Pattie Luokkanen from the Van Pelt and Opie Library, *Kanbans for All* by Tammi LaBissoniere and Julie Seppala from the Sponsored Programs Office, and *Growing as a Lean Leader* by Ruth Archer from the Office of Continuous Improvement.
- **Continuous Improvement on Agenda for Huskies New Employee Orientation.** Human Resources has created a new onboarding program for Michigan Tech employees; Lean and Continuous Improvement is on the agenda.
- **A Variety of Lean Presentations Spread the Learning.** The OCI delivers presentations on request to anyone wishing to learn more about Lean and Continuous Improvement. Students in the Pavlis Honors College learned about opportunity spotting, students in the School of Business and Economics' (SBE) Business Process Analysis course and members of the student organization Silver Wings received an introduction to Lean, and community members in the Hancock Rotary Club learned about the Lean fundamentals—respect for people and humility.
- **Zupancic visits from Dover Corp.** Jim Zupancic, Director of Continuous Improvement for Dover Corporation, visited campus to learn more about how industry and the university can work together to graduate students proficient in Lean and continuous improvement.
- **MLC Workshops hosted.** Debra Levantrosser from the MLC presented *The Mechanics of Lean Deployment* and *How to Assess the Maturity of Your Lean Organization* to five businesses, some traveling all the way from Lansing to attend. Michigan Tech's Dining Services, OCI, Housing and Residential Life and Administration were also in attendance.
- **15 Trainees in new Lean Facilitator Cohort.** Fifteen Michigan Tech employees, representing the Executive Team areas of Academic Affairs (5), Administration (7), and Student Affairs and Advancement (3), began training to become volunteer Lean facilitators for Michigan Tech. The training is seven days long spread over six months, and includes hands-on projects and feature guest speakers. The class will graduate in April 2016.
- **Scholarship for Lean Accounting Conference Expenses.** Joel Tuoriniemi (SBE) and one of his students were awarded the Lean Accounting Summit Scholarship offered by the Lean Education Advancement Foundation. The Lean Accounting Summit seeks to foster the discussion of how today's modern, lean enterprise requires an update of traditional accounting practices. The scholarship is valued at \$5390.

Formal Continuous Improvement Events as of October 31, 2015

Executive Team Area	Active as of 31 Oct 15	Completed since last report 1 Jul – 31 Oct 15	Completed FY16 YTD	Completed FY14 Full Year
Academic Affairs				11
Administration				9
Financial Services and Operations				0
Information Services				1
Research				1
Student Affairs and Advancement				1
Total				23