

Arizona State University Hosts Lean Construction Academic Forum

Integrating production management in construction education through research and teaching was the focus of the second meeting of Lean Construction Institute's (LCI) Academic Forum, held April 26 and 27 at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

ASU Professor Howard Bashford organized and hosted the second meeting this year. Professor Bill Badger, Chairman of the Del E. Webb School of Construction, welcomed participants to the University. Greg Howell, Executive Director of the LCI conducted the meeting which was devoted to instructional strategies, pedagogical tools and case studies. Discussion centered on the application, function and importance of games, simulations and case studies in developing and revealing underlying conceptual issues. The organization and function of various production systems was explored with the "Airplane Game", and the combined effect of dependency and variation on production with the "Parade of Trades" simulation. Other simulations were used to illustrate work structuring in support of the Lean ideal and decision making under uncertainty.

A research case study on the installation of hollow metal doors in prisons explored alternative approaches to work structuring. The case was provided by Oscar J. Boldt Construction and developed by LCI researchers including Professor Tommelein of the University of California. In addition, Professor Tommelein presented an innovative approach to light fixture design, supply and installation.

Forum participants included nine teaching professionals from six universities in three countries. Professors Howard Bashford, Kenneth Walsh, and Avi Wiesel from Arizona State University; Assistant Professor Tariq Abdelhamid, Michigan State University; Professor Michael Horman, Penn State University; Rafael Sacks, The Technion in Haifa Israel; Professor Iris Tommelein, University of California, Berkeley, Professor James Diekmann, University Of Colorado; Professor Eric Johansen, University of Northumbria, United Kingdom. Representatives from industry included Jerald Rounds, Rounds Associates in Phoenix, Don Brenner and Dennis Sowards from J.B. Rodgers/Kinetics, also located in Phoenix.

For more information on the Lean Construction Institute's pending events, please visit www.leanconstruction.org