



September 3, 2013

Dear Dan,

The 15th Annual LCI Congress is coming soon! If you have not as yet checked out the program this year, take a minute and view it here: <http://www.leanconstruction.org/media/docs/2013-Schedule0825-2.pdf> The planning team has made a concerted effort to provide lots of training and case study-type discussions highlighting Lean in both design and construction. We expect a large turnout this year in Dallas – registrations are running well ahead of last year this time. The main concern at this point is to ensure you have a room reserved at the \$199 conference rate – our room block is filling fast and expires at the end of this month, so please act now to ensure you have a room onsite. The registration and room booking information for the October 22-25 event are available here: <http://www.leanconstruction.org/calendar/35/11-15th-Annual-LCI-Congress-Dallas-TX/> I look forward to seeing you there!



Mr. Paul Akers will be the keynote speaker at the Congress. We are excited to announce that **Mr. Paul Akers will be the keynote speaker at the Congress** on Wednesday, October 23. Paul is founder and president of FastCap, an international product development company based in Bellingham, WA. FastCap, launches approximately 20 new innovative products per year and is regarded as a lean leader among American manufacturers. The grandchild of Greek immigrants, Paul was born and raised in Southern California where he graduated with honors from Biola University. He worked in Pasadena restoring historical homes, taught industrial arts, and served as pastor of a Baptist church. In 2000 Paul discovered

Lean manufacturing or Toyota Production System (TPS). This newfound knowledge helped him and his wife Leanne to launch FastCap from their garage, eventually transforming their venture into the successful product development company it is today. Using Lean, Paul's company has prospered and expanded even through the economic downturn, having never laid off an employee nor cut one salary, all while continuing to offer the highest level pay for any business in the region.

Paul is an energetic speaker whose core passion is helping people discover their full potential in life and teaching others how to implement Lean thinking for their own business and personal success. Paul has worked with the US Navy, IDF Israel Defense Forces, major European Banks and companies all over the world, including builders and trade partners such as Walters and Wolf. He maintains a dynamic speaking schedule nationally and spoke recently at the Lean Construction Institute – Northern California Community of Practice to rave reviews. Paul is a master craftsman, gardener, and designer. He built his own exquisite Greene and Greene craftsman style home in Bellingham, Washington, as well as the furniture and guitars in his home.

Interested in the Congress, but unable to make the trip this year due to travel cost or schedule conflicts? We have a solution: live internet streaming of the 2013 Congress presentations. You can sign up to obtain both a live stream of the Congress content, plus "on demand" downloading availability over the next year for one registration fee. See our special live stream registration site at: <http://www.prolibraries.com/lci/events/2013annualcongress>

Besides Congress-related information, there is much other interesting and insightful information accessible to LCI members on our website, albeit at times not so easy to find. [By the way, we have a dedicated committee of volunteers working on addressing this long-time concern of materials being tough to find, so help is on the way!] I recently ran across a **paper from the early 2000's entitled, *Linguistic Action: Contributing to the theory of Lean Construction***, by Hal Macomber and Greg Howell. I found it helpful reading, and wanted to provide an indication here of what it contains. Below are excerpts of some of the major points; phrases highlighted in bold throughout are to help the reader in scanning the text, and you can click through to read

more of my summary if you like. Excerpts:

The theory of linguistic action describes the very human processes, the **purposeful ways people communicate**, by which projects are conceived and delivered. Lean Construction springs from the failure of current project management and opens the door to significant reform.

The **quality of assignments affects the productivity of the immediate crew**, but the predictable release of work produced by the assignment is even more important to downstream crews and total project performance. At some point, various practitioners and academics began to understand an assignment as a promise to those downstream. The Last Planner System® is now understood as a distributed production control (work planning) system that increases workflow reliability. **Every planner in the system has the responsibility to say “no”** rather than to let a defective plan or assignment advance if specific criteria are not met.
http://www.leanconstruction.org/media/docs/September_4_2013_supplemental_info.pdf

Congratulations to LCI member company The Beck Group, Dallas on a great profile on the company in the ENR Contractor Business Quarterly in August. Beck joined LCI earlier this year, and the CBQ profile highlights a variety of Lean-related business practices, including: a focus on cutting waste and maximizing efficiency through collaborative integrated project delivery, building trust-based, collaborative relationships with subcontractors, clients and its own staff, and treating people with respect.

Also in the August CBQ was an article on the **business benefits of industry safety practices**. Since the effective implementation of Lean Construction practices is proven to eliminate waste and clutter onsite, one of the major side benefits is improvements in safety. It's no surprise that the article cites contractor-reported cost and schedule benefits stemming from improved safety programs, and this only reinforces our message that the safety improvements experienced on Lean projects represent a built-in side benefit of utilizing Lean tools and techniques, a benefit that contributes to the contractor's reputation as well as the bottom line. According to the article, contractors by wide margins reported these **benefits of safety program investments: improved reputation (82%); lower injury rates (71%); greater ability to win new work (66%); and better project quality (66%)**.

Thanks as always for the many and various ways each of you out there is contributing to transforming our industry through Lean tools and practices.

Sincerely,



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New LCI Members

LCI welcomes these firms to our growing list of member companies committed to the Lean journey



PERKINS + WILL



MARNELL CORRAO ASSOCIATES
CONSTRUCTION • ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN
CONSULTING • PROPERTIES • TRANSPORTATION

Easy Access Links

15th Annual LCI Congress - October 22, 2013 – October 25, 2013, Dallas, TX

[Registration](#)

[Sponsorship Information](#)

[Room Reservations](#)

[Preliminary Agenda](#)

NEW! LIVE STREAMING OPTION: Interested in Congress but can't make the trip this time? Try our new live streaming/on demand access option to view Congress presentations live - or anytime thereafter - from your desktop. It's the next best thing to being there! <http://www.prolibraries.com/lci/events/2013annualcongress>

Coming LCI Community of Practice Events

(See the LCI Website for our full [calendar](#).)

Los Angeles Area CoP>> Right Sizing of Lean Tool for Small Projects, September 4

Register here: <http://lci-los-angeles-09-04-13.eventbrite.com>

Mid-Atlantic CoP>> The Last Planner® Project Site Visit, September 13

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/event/7807788305>

Carolinas CoP>> 3P Event: Cardboard and Collaboration at the University of Iowa, September 19

Register here: <http://lci-carolinas-09-19-2013.eventbrite.com>

Central Florida>> Bringing LEAN Manufacturing to Construction Prefabrication, September 25

Register here: <http://lci-central-florida-09-25-2013.eventbrite.com>

(Click [HERE](#) for our FULL Calendar of events)