



# Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

There is something very compelling about the willingness of company representatives to share with an audience of potential competitors their lessons learned in applying business model processes used on projects. When those people are as articulate as **Todd Henderson (Boulder Associates)**, **Victor Sanvido (Southland)**, **Bernita Beikmann (HKS)**, **John Megibbon (Messer)**, **Tariq Abdelhamid (Michigan State)**, **Garry Meyers (Clark Construction Michigan)** and **Steve Knapp (Lean Project Consulting)**, it's a special treat. The Target Value Design conference in Cincinnati lowered the water and exposed the rocks of one of the key opportunities of an integrated project. And as navigating a rapidly moving stream through centuries' old boulders is no easy task, neither is developing robust, transparent, effective mechanisms for collaborative design that drives down cost while preserving quality and program. The panel discussion at the conclusion of the program underscored how important this topic is—we'll be reprising it nationally before next spring.

Interest in the Owner's community in lean processes was underscored by the large turnout for the **St. Louis Council of Construction Consumer's** breakfast meeting on August 25. **Tim Gunn of Alberici** and I presented a two hour program on the basics of lean construction its practical application in connection with the first completed lean healthcare project in the country, **SSM St. Clare Health Center** in Fenton, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. What made the morning the more memorable was that the venue was a large meeting room in the **St. Clare** facility itself. It was a great privilege to talk about lean in such a surprising and lovely space. Thanks to **Dennis Lavellee** for his hospitality, **Dan Ballinger of Chameleon Consulting** for sponsoring the event and **Nick Grapsas** and **Dr. Marcelo Azambuja** for spending time at dinner with me the night prior to the event.



Letters went out Monday to those presentations accepted for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lean Congress. We'll publish the full list of participants next week but as promised, we're bringing a number of owners to Pasadena to report on their experiences in, and more importantly, their needs from lean design and construction. Keynotes include **Craig Russell** from **Walt Disney Imagineering** and **Dave Umstot** from the **San Diego Community College District**. At least 7 other owners will be prominent members of team presentations. Friday will be hands on workshops—how teams have used lean tools on their jobs. I'll let **Greg** give you more in depth background on the some of the presenters but he has remarked that several of our selections "have a great story to tell." Only a great storyteller really knows a tale. Hotel space is going fast so please see below to confirm your reservations. In addition, please remember that member discounts (for all employees of corporate members) **only applies if you have renewed your membership for this year**. If you have any questions about that, contact Donna Pemberton.

A big thanks goes to the Presentation Committee headed by **Victor Sanvido (Southland)** (who heads the Congress Committee). Members include **Will Lichtig (Boldt)**, **Dave Hagan (Bernards)**, **Eric Ahlstrom (Amgen)**, **Mark Konchar (Balfour Beatty US)** and **Romano Nickerson (Boulder Associates)**. You can experience their work first hand at the Congress.

Only a couple of sponsorship opportunities remain for the **CURT/LCI Summit** to take place in a few weeks in Amherst, New York (outside Buffalo). Thanks to **Mike Kotubey** and **MMC Contractors Inc** for taking the leadership platinum role **again** this year. Mike's an amazing asset to our community and is constantly there with support. This year's meeting takes CURT's members beyond a mere introduction to lean—the presentations will demonstrate team formation and progress in transitioning lean in the company into lean in design and construction. A few spots still remain so click the link below to sign up for the Summit.



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Finally, **AGC's Lean Forum** meeting in San Antonio is scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. Please follow the link below to sign up—they'll be rolling out the lean construction curriculum many members of our community have helped create.

Thanks again for all you do to support lean in design and construction. We are based on learning and continuous improvement, neither of which we could do without your support.