



Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

We are leaning directly into the wind during the next few weeks—I guess the winter hiatus is over. LCI is kind of like the weather in Dallas—it goes right from a mild winter to a hot summer with very few stops along the way.

We start next Monday with the Academic Forum in Boulder. Tariq Abdelhamid and I will be hosting the first day. We're focusing on available simulations including our own Parade of Trades™ and Make-a-Card™ simulations. We'll not only play the games but we'll have official versions available for purchase and use within your companies. Samples of the finished boxes that will contain the kits are displayed (these won't be available for about six weeks but we can forward the contents to you without the pretty box.

Our focus won't just be on the simulations, but on how to teach the lessons they make so clear to us. This is a great opportunity for the learning leaders in your company to understand the value of these engaging games. Be prepared for a very long, but really fulfilling first day.

The second and third days will be for presentations of academic papers that we hope we can help publish in the community. Thanks to Tariq for handling the main oar in this effort and for his continuing efforts to make the LEAN CONSTRUCTION JOURNAL and the academic affiliations we promote at LCI so robust and vital.

Big learning will be had the week of June 11 in St. Louis. Our new Board will be meeting the 12th. The 13th is reserved for a joint presentation sponsored by the Construction Users Round Table (CURT), Associated General Contractors (AGC), the AIA and LCI. While we work to extend our association relationships, these three have been at the very heart of our emergence as a voice of lean in the industry. The 14th and 15th will be our Summer Design Forum, co-sponsored and presented for the first time with the American Institute of Architects. We are looking to expand on the learning we shared in Berkeley in February where we had over 100 people in attendance. Sign-ups are currently available so please sign up early to insure you a spot.



Other substantial efforts in the next few weeks include the kick-off two day Introduction to Lean sponsored by our newly formed New York Community of Practice. They have a professional logo, a great





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community and a history of lean construction techniques—consider that the Empire State Building was completed in 1931, 11 months after construction began. Jim Barrett of the New York Turner Office pointed me in the direction of *Building the Empire State* (from whence I gleaned the ENR Article at the right published in August, 1930), edited by Carol Willis (the founder and director of the Skyscraper Museum in New York). The book contains her brief history of the project as well as the construction notebooks compiled in the offices of the builder, Starrett Brothers and Eken. It's a fascinating study and great place to begin a "renewal" of sorts of line of balance scheduling, just in time delivery and early plan management that foreshadowed the Last Planner® System. It should be a great couple of days.

We also recently issued a Call for Papers for the 14th Annual Congress to be held in Washington this year. This ranks as the earliest in our planning processes that we have reached out to practitioners to assemble the best available information about lean planning, design and construction. Kudos to Mark Konchar of Balfour Beatty and the Capitol Regions Community of Practice for their management of the upcoming Congress (Save the dates—October 9, 10, 11 and 12). If you're interested in submitting a presentation, click on the link below.

Thanks for all you do. Hope to see you at an upcoming Community of Practice meeting in your neighborhood or at one of our larger, national events.