



# Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

Lots of things going on this week so hold on. First, we have posted the **Job Listing for the Executive Director** on [Linked In](#) and have posted a [link](#) on our opening page on the website. If you are interested, please follow the link to Linked In and create a response. We're filtering responses through that process. Thanks to **Board Member Chuck Greco** at **Linbeck** and his **Senior Vice President of Human Resources, John Sylvester**, we'll be reviewing, culling and proceeding apace.

If you're reading this on Tuesday, the 21st, you'll notice that we are 7 short weeks from the Congress. Hotel rooms are fast disappearing so book now. We are firming up a number of items:

- We received more than 50 presentation ideas so thank you for that. The Program Committee is culling through the presentations and will hope to be able to notify the teams by August 27. We believe we have 17 slots for presentations but we're pretty nimble in combining ideas from various presentations. We'll continue working to make this a thought provoking and valuable Congress.
- We'll have a place on Tuesday when the Committee Mentors from the Board of Directors will make themselves available to explain the various committees and give people a chance to sign up for service. Donna Pemberton, at the main registration table, will also take your committee interest requests throughout the Congress.
- We have not landed on the exact content of the educational program on Tuesday. However, we've had many requests to continue the traditional Introduction to Lean and we've had some interest in a Last Planner® simulation developed by Alan Mossman and colleagues. We'll update the website, the Event Brite site and this space when that is decided—no later (I hope) than August 31.
- Thursday morning we're inviting a representative of each Corporate Member to attend a breakfast for a download on current LCI initiatives. This is your opportunity to give us feedback and our chance to use your knowledge as an Advisory Council. Please plan on sending one representative from your company to that breakfast. By the way, it's on us.
- The Awards Banquet on Wednesday night will be the "gala fete" night of the Congress. Plan on attending that as well. We'll be honoring our soon to be announced 2nd Annual Pioneer Award winners.

**Marton Marosszeky**, the head of **LCI Australia**, is conducting a survey of lean benefits. The specific question posited is:

*What benefits have companies in the construction, mining and resources sector derived from implementing lean practices in their businesses?*

The survey only takes 10 minutes to complete and Marton would like responses finished by this FRIDAY, August 24. Results will be presented at the LCI Australia conference later this month and Marton's folks will publish the results. All respondents requesting a copy of the results will be sent a summary.

To take the survey, head

to: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dGswMmpVYmNjbmFmMGZPaDZzVGM4TkE6MQ>

Simply use this link or paste it into a browser.

**Romano Nickerson** of **Boulder Associates** sent me the following [link](#) to "Close Calls are Near Disasters, Not Lucky Breaks," from *Wired Science*. It's instructive to safety in our business. How many times do you think of "close calls" as good luck or good karma? How many companies have a requirement that close calls be reported? Robin Dillon-Merrill and Catherine Tinsley, two researchers at



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Georgetown's McDonough School of Business have investigated why we have a "blind spot" when it comes to near misses:

*"People don't learn from a near miss, they just say, 'It worked, so let's do it again,'" Dillon-Merrill says. Other studies have shown that the more often someone gets away with risky behavior, the more likely they are to repeat it; there is a sort of invincibility complex. "For ego protection reasons, we like to assume that past events are a product of what we controlled rather than chance," Tinsley adds.*

As we moved deeply into a culture of safety, the data suggests we best start counting and reporting near misses:

*A more effective way to curtail disasters is to get better at spotting the near miss. One great success in near-miss awareness is Dow Chemical. The company has seen an 80 percent drop in serious accidents since it started a new program to push close-call reporting. The company is proof that modern disaster prevention can and should be about stopping trouble before it strikes, not cleaning up afterward.*

Thanks for spotting that Romano—I nearly missed it.

**More Congress talk**—the **Early Bird** sign up ends this **Thursday, August 23** for the Congress. Teams selected to present will have the Early Bird rates extended through August 31.

In the Communities of Practice, next week in **Kansas City** you can participate in a Last Planner workshop based on a real project. And on the 30th, in Charlotte, **Nick Apanius** (my host in Cincinnati a few weeks ago) will present with **Messer** colleague **Steve Keckeis** on Integrated Project Delivery and Lean. And September is promising to be a full month of presentations in the CoPs as well. Thanks to the Core Groups for making these relevant programs available.