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### **Lean Transformation Leader Ken Black Joins Rucker & Associates**

RALEIGH, N.C. –Top lean strategist Ken Black has joined the team of Rucker & Associates. The sought after Raleigh consulting firm uses lean six sigma strategies to reduce defects and improve the workflow of business and manufacturing processes.

Black received lean production training using Shingijutsu, which was pioneered by former Toyota executives who are experts in efficient manufacturing processes. For the past 16 years, Black has delivered value to clients in the electronics and manufacturing industries by helping them streamline and improve their systems and lower their operational costs.

“Ken Black consistently delivers impressive results and we are excited he is joining our firm. His passion for creating improvement is clear and really ‘wows’ clients,” said Dave Rucker, president of Rucker & Associates.

Black comes to Rucker from The ProAction Group in Chicago, where he led a lean transformation turnaround for the Weston Presido Group at Micro Power Electronics. As a direct result of his efforts, manufacturing lead time was lowered by 75 percent.

Black was also influential in Maytag Corporation’s success in lean principles; they were later awarded the Shingo Prize for “Excellence in Manufacturing.”

“The team at Rucker & Associates is dedicated to finding new ways to apply and improve lean six sigma principles,” Black said. “I’m excited to be part of such a hard-working group.”

Black has also served as the senior vice president of operations for Douglas Dynamics, LLC; president of Lean Manufacturing Group, LLC; senior management consultant at TBM Consulting Group; and the continuous improvement manager at Copeland CRI.

#### **About Rucker & Associates**

Rucker & Associates is a high-performance consultancy dedicated to helping companies discover dramatic new efficiencies using Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma improvement methodologies. Rucker’s hands-on mentoring process with clients produces dramatic results – training teams to accelerate change and implement continuous improvement. Every Rucker project features an unconditional guarantee. Learn more at <http://www.ruckerassociates.com>.

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