



Accelerating Business
Performance with Lean Six Sigma

Lean Connection

1QTR, 2008

Whats New?

Congratulations to the University of Minnesota Capital Planning group for winning third place at the 2008 [Quality Fair](#) for their lean improvements.

We're proudly helping them introduce lean principles to the University in conjunction with the Office of Service and Continuous Improvement. "These projects are all about getting better each and every day," said President Bob Bruininks.



Best Practices

Ten Tips for Successful Improvements



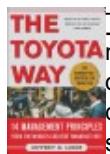
With our 75+ years of collective experience, we have accumulated a list of helpful guidelines to keep in mind as you plan and execute your next improvement activity.

Team make-up: Ensure all shifts are represented to provide firsthand communication to their shift on what changed and why.

Clearly identify Sponsor: Introduce the Sponsor at the event kick-off, to make sure the team knows their role for the week. [Full list](#)

Have you Read?

The Toyota Way *by Jeffrey K. Liker*



The Toyota Way explains how the Toyota Production System evolved into a system of manufacturing excellence, and describes companies that are using Toyota's methods to dramatically improve performance from the customer's perspective. But many companies who think they are Lean - aren't. The book explains how to get beyond the surface tools and techniques of Lean by creating a culture of team-based learning. [full review](#)

Bronze Level Lean Certification achieved

Congrats to Trent Turner for achieving SME's [Bronze Level](#) Lean Certification. Trent, General Operations Manager for Caterpillar Forest Products, said the examination process is a tough but fair test of your lean knowledge. He found the process interesting and has already set his sights on the Silver Level!

Partners

[David M. Rucker](#)
President
(919) 880-7800

[Victor I. Klein](#)
Managing Partner
(919) 741-9825

[J.D. Cunningham](#)
Managing Partner
(919) 259-5908