

Announcing the 2nd Lean Project Leadership (Shusa) Program

Lean Project Consulting, Inc. in conjunction with The Center for Innovation in Project and Production Management is offering the second “Shusa” development program aimed at developing leaders able to implement the Last Planner System™ of Production Control every time. This is an intensive series of 6 meetings and coursework spread over 5 months. Each participant will manage a project using the system, read and jointly consider a rich literature from Henry Ford to Patrick Lencioni. Along the way we will explore related lines of thinking – Theory of Constraints, Linguistic Action, and fundamentals of production system design. Participants learn an enquiry process aimed at taking new actions, coaching one another, engaging in full-on debate and reflection. The contrast between Lean Project Delivery and current practice becomes sharper as we learn how to cope with resistance. This course is for people charged with leading the implementation of lean across the company.

Participants in the first session had this to say:

“I am doing a better job of identifying and removing interdependencies in the 6 Week Lookahead. I am now a lot more confident in talking to senior management about lean in projects to senior people. Reflective learning has been powerful and effective for me.” Steve Roach, Engineering Process Improvement, Lockheed Martin.

“The big pluses for me have been learning to coach in the project setting and being plugged into a group that is learning.” Mark Kiefer, General Contractor.

“The Lean approach makes me examine the coming work to see if I need a better promise or should make one.” Dave Zalewski, Director Purchasing, Lockheed Martin.

“The course has opened so many new ideas and is changing how I think about and do my job. First, I am stunned at the similarity in problems across the various projects and the power of this new approach. I really like the way the Last Planner System™ acknowledges, respects, and responds to the human dimensions. Our planning and routine interactions are much improved. People often ask, “Is that a request?” or “Are you making a promise?” Finally, the new approach to learning and continuing research is crucial to our future.” Cathy Arentsen, Director of Head-Start Programs.

“The readings and discussions are right on the mark and feel they have helped me with concepts, ideas and vocabulary. I am currently assigned to lead a critical preliminary proposal activity that will be perfect for LPS.” Paul Romanowski, Engineering Manager, Lockheed Martin.

You might be wondering about the term “Shusa”. The word was coined at Toyota referring to the leader of new product development and introduction. These individuals

were seen as masters of project management. We have appropriated the name to distinguish our focus on developing leaders who are on a path of mastery. Program participants will acquire the skills and practices for continuing the journey themselves.

The series will begin in Cincinnati on Monday, Jan 27th at 6 PM and wrap on Wednesday the 29th at 3 PM. The remaining sessions will be located to spread the travel burden among participants and to give us a chance to visit sites applying lean concepts. These meetings will be held at the same times on Feb 24/26, March 24/26, April 21/23, May 19/21 (most likely in Kansas City) and June 16/18.

The fee is \$10,000 is reduced for LCI members to \$8,000. We also offer discounts for multiple registrants. We include all course materials – books, reprints, meeting room fees, breakfast, lunch, and some dinners.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best, GAH