Associated Schools of Construction 27th Annual Student Competition

I was appreciative of the offer by our member company PCL to host me at the recent Associated Schools of Construction 27th annual student competition held in Reno, NV earlier this month. This event annually brings together dozens of student teams from California to Virginia and parts in between for a competition designed to show how they would propose to tackle a major project and present their efforts before teams of judges from individual contractor organizations. This provides both great experience for the kids and recruiting opportunities for the attending contractors, so real value all around.

Making a Business case for the Growth of Lean

This week’s ENR/Contractor Business Quarterly is full of relevant material on Lean Construction, headlined by the article “Making a Business case for the Growth of Lean.” This expands on the results of a McGraw Hill/Dassault survey that many of you participated in at our request in 2013. The findings compared the input of LCI members with a control group representing a cross-section of the construction industry. Lean is characterized as very much an untapped opportunity across the industry, with too few
contractors--and especially trades organizations--unfamiliar with the tools, techniques and benefits. Of the non-LCI member respondents, 37% were unfamiliar with Lean, and only 28% reported using any of the Lean practices cited in the survey. By contrast, all of our responding members consider themselves at least familiar with Lean; 82% have implemented at least one practice. Of the full set of respondents, 38% of general contractors and 55% of trades contractors report complete unfamiliarity with Lean.

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**Educating and Involving the Trades**

The report finds that **educating and involving the trades** in Lean could be hugely influential in its adoption across the industry. Helping them see the benefits that others are experiencing is key, including greater customer satisfaction, shorter project schedules, more reliable outcomes, enhanced profitability, and reduced cost. The study foresees that with better outreach and education, the trades could move from a position of being laggards to leaders in promoting the broader use of Lean. This highlights the continuing challenge and opportunity LCI is attempting to address every day in our education and networking programs across the country. We clearly have a long way to go to achieve the transformational "tipping point" we are seeking in our industry, but it is **great to see ENR helping raise awareness** about the benefits of Lean Design and Construction.

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**Number of Our Member Firms Cited as Participants on Nine of the 19 “Best of the Best” Projects**
Also in the latest ENR are references to a number of our member firms cited as participants on nine of the 19 “Best of the Best” projects of 2013, as chosen by ENR, including:

Bernards – 8500 Burton Way apartment complex (CA)
Clark Construction – Arent Fox Tenant Fit-Out (DC)
Gilbane – UVA Medical Center Patient Tower (VA)
Mortenson Construction – Ralph Carr Judicial Center (CO)
Perkins and Will Architects – Commonwealth Ctr for Advanced Manufacturing (VA)
Sellen Construction – King Street renovation (WA)
Skanska – Catskill-Delaware UV Light Disinfection Facility (NY)
Turner Construction – Bing Concert Hall (CA)
Whiting-Turner – John and Frances Angelos Law Center (MD)

CEO and Chairman of Balfour Beatty US

The new CEO and chairman of Balfour Beatty US is featured in the ENR/CBQ as well. Mark Layman doesn’t use the “L-word” in the interview, but Balfour’s commitment to Lean is very apparent in the dialogue. He is foursquare behind an approach they call the “BB Way”: a system for capturing innovation and systematically eliminating waste.

“Our most sophisticated clients are looking for [teams] who already have a strategy and are moving toward it. We’ve invested heavy resources and money against becoming the leader in this area…”

Read More
Congress Abstracts Now Being Solicited

Congress abstracts now being solicited: We have just opened our abstracts submission opportunity for those who wish to submit a request to brief at the Congress this October in San Francisco. Please click this link to access the 2014 abstract submission form.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director

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LCI Welcomes Our New Members!

Click Here to read more about these companies

- HOK
- Charter Mechanical
- Agostini Bacon
- State of Tennessee - Dept. of General Services
- Worcester Air Conditioning