The International Group for Lean Construction (IGLC) ...

... just completed its annual meeting in Norway in late June, and as usual an array of interesting papers was presented by authors from around the globe. One such work is by LCI member consultants David Umstot and Dan Faucier, as well as Thais da C.L. Alves of San Diego State University: "Metrics of Public Owner Success in Lean Design, Construction, and Facilities Operations and Maintenance." Click here to view the full paper. This brief article will provide some highlights. The San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) manages a $1.6B capital budget (2002-2019), and has adopted Lean on many of its projects as a means to drive efficiency and manage the maintenance challenges of its large portfolio in years to come. (SDCCD is the second largest organization of its kind in California, and the 6th largest in the US.) The paper identifies key owner metrics used to measure the value of specific Lean principles and practices, and analyzes the benefits of having used them on the district’s project work.

Speaking of IGLC, we recently were advised that the next US-based IGLC meeting is now slated for Boston in 2016. Congratulations to Cynthia Tsao, former LCI executive director (and currently active participant in the core group of LCI's New England Community of Practice). Cynthia was instrumental in making the case for Boston vs. other North America locations as IGLC deliberated its future schedule during its Norway meeting.

Congress Registration link is now live.

We are pleased to advise that it is possible to register for the 2014 LCI annual Congress in San Francisco.
Note: that everything is in place to support registration except the training day schedule for Tuesday, October 7. The planning team is still finalizing the training programs for that day.

Mark your calendar:

An exciting, safety-related program is being produced with LCI co-sponsorship by our partner organization P2SL at UC/Berkeley on Monday, September 22. This day-long program will feature Professor Sidney Dekker from Griffith University, a leading practitioner, academic, and advocate for a new approach to safety. The program will seek to open our minds to new thinking on how to create safer organizations, brainstorm on changes we can make to improve safety performance in our industry, and encourage research on Lean Safety.

There are also some great sponsorship opportunities available for this meeting. If you are interested in learning more about these, please email Danh@leanconstruction.org.

Construction Owners Association of America (COAA) Meeting

At the May meeting of the Construction Owners Association of America (COAA), we attended an awards luncheon at which scholarships were announced for undergraduate students based on an essay contest. Students were asked to write on the topic of the greatest issue facing the construction industry. Rachel Sommer, an aspiring architectural engineer (class of ’15) at Penn State won the contest with her essay on the “fragmentation and animosity between the different major parties (owner, architect, contractor, and subcontractors)” that manifests in projects and teams. She went on to prescribe IPD and Lean techniques as means of addressing this challenge. It was great to see not only her recognition of the problem, but also COAA’s agreement that this was the key issue worthy of recognition via its scholarship program.

To read Rachel’s essay, click here.

CCA Looks at its Lean Role

Words of Wisdom

From: Creating a Talented and Collaborative Team, in The Owner’s Dilemma, by Barbara W. Bryson. Choosing a project team is critically important, especially if an owner plans to maximize value by encouraging collaboration. A collaborative team is one that abandons stereotypes and biases in order to create a cooperative, respectful, and innovative project environment. Smart
owners choose great people, not just great companies...Choosing great team members is impossible in a traditional bid environment and difficult in a best-value environment because most delivery processes make it impossible to consider personality as well as demonstrated ability in team selection...The participants have to like each other as well as share values, respect, and goals to make the relationship work. Shotgun marriages, created by owners without these considerations, rarely work.

The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) has begun to explore what its role should be when it comes to Lean construction project delivery for its membership nationwide. “We are starting to get owners asking for it,” said Kees Cusveller, vice-chair of CCA’s general contractors council and Graham Group’s vice-president of alternative procurement and delivery. At the CCA’s recent directors’ board meeting in Victoria, B.C. members of the association’s general contractors council discussed what CCA’s lean construction role, if any, should be. The council determined that CCA should likely have a role in somehow facilitating the training and educational options available to its members. The council will report back in fall on what it has found. Read the article and see how CCA views LCI’s programs and educational materials below.

CoP Corner

On Tuesday August 12 in Greensboro, NC, the Carolinas CoP will be presenting an all-day Intro to Lean with David MacNeel from On Point Lean Consulting. The course will be an exploration of Lean foundational principles and their application to the design and construction of capital projects. Through various exercises, simulations, and lecture, participants will learn the essentials of Lean and get an introduction to the tools and processes that are making projects significantly safer, faster and cost less than traditional delivery. Lean principles that will be covered are: eliminating waste, value, flow, pull, variation, reliability, and continuous improvement. Lean tools that will be reviewed are Last Planner® System, Integrated Project Delivery, 5S, Prototyping, Visual Control, Target Value Design and Choosing by Advantages.

The LCI Ohio Valley Community of Practice presents their Benefits of Lean Series: Toyota Georgetown Plant Tour on Tuesday August 5th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm EDT. Attendees will get a tour of Toyota’s Georgetown plant to see demonstrations of Lean principles applied to manufacturing and then participate in a roundtable discussion about the application of Lean Manufacturing Principles in Construction.
Sincerely,

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Executive Director

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