

NEWS RELEASE



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For immediate release

LEAN LEARNING CENTER NAMES RON HOLCOMB AS NEW PARTNER

Novi, Mich., May 1, 2006 – The Lean Learning Center, a leading provider of lean curriculum and consulting to a variety of industries, has announced that current lean consultant and trainer Ron Holcomb has been made a partner in the company.

Prior to joining the Lean Learning Center in 2001, Holcomb spent 30 years focused on improving automotive manufacturing processes at Ford Motor Company and Visteon Automotive Systems. He served as the founding director of the Ford Production System (FPS) Institute and managed the deployment of the FPS to 73 plants in Ford's worldwide operations. Holcomb was published as a competitor in the Franz Edlehan Award for excellence in Industrial Operations Engineering.

"I am proud to be part of a business that is improving operational excellence in a wide range of industries," said Holcomb. "Lean thinking is not isolated to discrete manufacturing operations... it is equally effective in improving any process in any company. We work with clients and processes ranging from poultry processors in Arkansas to defense contractors in Michigan and just about everything in between."

"Ron's leadership experience has been an incredible asset to our lean training team here at the Center," said founding partner Andy Carlino. "We are pleased we could offer him this partner opportunity and know that his knowledge will contribute to the strength of our product offerings."

Holcomb holds a bachelor of science in Computer Science and an MBA in Manufacturing Planning and Control Systems from the University of Michigan (U of M). He is a regular guest lecturer at the U of M, Michigan State University, University of Detroit Mercy and has been active in teaching and research at Michigan Technological University.

Founded in 2001, the Lean Learning Center, in conjunction with corporate partner Achievement Dynamics, a provider of management consulting, provides a full complement of lean transformation services. Industries served include manufacturing, healthcare, public utilities, retail, aerospace, communications, technology, investment equity, service and more. Partners Jamie Flinchbaugh and Andy Carlino have recently authored a book titled *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Lean*, published by the SME. For more information visit www.hitchhikersguidetolean.com.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Current trainer and consultant Ron Holcomb has been named a Lean Learning Center partner.