

# NEWS RELEASE



## **Lean Learning Center**

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***For immediate release***

## **Lead Recycler RSR Corp. Employee Earns Lean Master Certificate From the Lean Learning Center**

**Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 09, 2006** – Leading recycling company RSR Corporation has announced that employee Joe Wheat has been awarded a Lean Master Certificate from the Lean Learning Center in Novi, Mich. Appointed as the RSR Journey to Excellence (JTE) Manager in 2003, this certificate qualifies Mr. Wheat as an effective and capable lean leader and facilitator. To achieve this status, he had to participate in the Lean Experience, Lean Leadership, Lean Kaizen Boot Camp, and Lean Value Stream classes at the Lean Learning Center with an individual project assigned to each. Additionally, Wheat had to successfully implement a number of real-world on-site programs at the RSR facility.

Through its JTE program, which has been guided by the Lean Learning Center, RSR Corporation is successfully implementing lean manufacturing across its corporation -- the Indianapolis facility had documented \$220,000 in savings within the first five months of 2005. Mr. Wheat has played a key role in this enterprise-wide transformation including his Lean Final Demonstration Project, which analyzed the Refinery Hard Lead Loading procedures of the facility. The project team was able to identify potential savings of \$876,272 annually through process changes that would reduce both shipping and hard lead material costs.

“Lean has brought RSR together with a common purpose to eliminate waste and continually improve processes,” commented Mr. Wheat. “The biggest lesson that I have

learned in my training is that most companies fail in their lean transformation because they confuse the tools and practices of lean with the system. Lean has to be adopted as a way of thinking and acting.”

“Lean transformation is not just about tools,” said Jamie Flinchbaugh of the Lean Learning Center. “It starts with a change in the way everyone thinks about what they do, how they do it and why it matters. “Joe grasped this concept early on and has been able to help RSR use this systematic approach to eliminate waste and sustain results.”

Prior to his appointment as the JTE Manager, Wheat served as Plant Environmental Manager. He is also a Six Sigma Black Belt. Wheat earned a bachelor of science from Marion College and an MBA from Wesleyan University. An Indianapolis native, Wheat currently lives in Avon, Indiana with his wife Brenda. They have two grown children and three grandchildren living nearby.

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CAPTION: RSR Corporation employee Joe Weeks was certified as a Lean Master by the Lean Learning Center of Novi, Mich.

#### **Editor Notes:**

##### **RSR Corporation**

RSR Corporation, with over 600 employees, is headquartered in Dallas and operates recycling facilities in City of Industry, CA, Indianapolis, IN and Middletown, NY. It purchases scrap lead acid batteries, lead cable strips, remelt lead, scrap lead, wheel weights, drosses, and other lead bearing materials. From these materials, RSR then produces pure lead as well as a complete line of calcium and antimonial lead alloys.

##### **Lean Learning Center**

The Lean Learning Center (Novi, Mich.) is focused on helping companies gain the thinking and knowledge necessary for successful lean transformation. In conjunction with its corporate partner Achievement Dynamics, a provider of management consulting, the Center 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 entitled *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Lean*, published by the SME. For more information, call 248-478-1480 or visit [www.leanlearningcenter.com](http://www.leanlearningcenter.com).