



AME**CHICAGO**2007

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**Networking**

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# Leading Lean: AME Annual Conference October 29-November 2 in Chicago

**W**hy should I attend the AME Chicago 2007 Annual Conference?" is a question that you may ask yourself. There are many answers to this question. The obvious answer is that there will be more than 50 high-quality presentations from great companies demonstrating excellence. Another is the six keynote speakers, with yet another being over 20 hands-on facility and plant tours. Still another answer is the more than 25 learning workshops. Add value for your investment as a participant in this conference is the professional networking and sharing that occurs in each workshop, presentation, plenary session, breakfast, lunch, plus special interest topics, and of course, AME Toronto 2008 night.

"For AME Chicago 2007, the lineup of presenters, keynote speakers, and workshops is already in great shape," said Marketing Chair Jerry Wright. "Brian Bush, our program chair, and his program team have already confirmed a number of sought-after companies to provide presenters who will assure a topnotch experience for our AME Chicago 2007 attendees."

One such company is **O.C.Tanner**, maker of high-end employee recognition awards and services. O.C. Tanner will discuss how management must change to sustain and lead lean from the top down. 2006 Shingo Prize Recipient and 2005 *IndustryWeek's* Best Plants Winner, **DJO, LLC** will present their lean product development process. Another company scheduled

to present is **ESCO Corporation**, a global manufacturer of engineered metal parts. ESCO plans to present their structure and process for growing lean leaders. **HID Global**, the premier manufacturer of "contactless" security access control cards and readers, will focus on both lean and the "soft stuff" in their business; the company received the Connecticut Silver Shingo Prize for 2006. Other world-class organizations confirmed to present are **La-Z-Boy**, **Underwriter's Laboratories**, and **Nestle Waters North America**.

Tour sites already confirmed for the Chicago conference are **Ford**, **Abbott Labs**, **Flexible Steel Lacing**, **Ace Metal Crafts**, and **Winzeler Gear**. Attendees can register to visit these facilities to see lean and excellence in action on the plant floor.

Keynote speakers confirmed for the annual conference include **Charles Fishman**, author of *The Wal-Mart Effect: How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works — and How It's Transforming the American Economy*; **Terri Kelly**, CEO and president of WL Gore; **John Shook**, co-author of *Learning to See*; and **Benjamin Zander**, conductor of the world-renowned Boston Philharmonic Orchestra.

There are already over 600 people registered to attend the Chicago conference. Most of these people actually signed up in Dallas last October. After seeing the value provided by AME, they absolutely did not want to miss attending AME's conference this year. Rick Sunamoto, director of HM Electronics in Poway, CA was a first-time AME conference attendee at Dallas. He said, "The AME Dallas 2006 conference was absolutely amazing. I really didn't expect it to be as informative as it was. The keynote speakers were great and I learned a lot at the various presentations. I definitely got my money's worth."

Chicago Conference Chair Maria Elena Stopher has challenged her conference team to exceed the expectations and quality of not only the AME Dallas 2006 conference, but of all previous AME conferences. "We want the Chicago attendees to experience excellence in every aspect of the conference, from registration and check-in to every presentation, keynote, meal, and network experience they have," she said. This will not be an easy task, but Maria Elena believes she has the right team in place to "inspire, excite, and ignite" every

AME Chicago attendee. "The challenges we face are not going away. In fact, they are getting more intense, which means that solutions are getting even more complicated and crucial to sustain any gains we have," said Maria Elena. "Today, we need to embed lean thinking and process excellence in all we do — customer service, product development, finance, etc. The AME Chicago Team has been busy reviewing what you said is important to you — bringing the best thought leaders and leaders from all aspects of the enterprise. Experience first-hand best practices ranging from Toyota-style lean product development to cultures reflecting daily problem solving and the next frontier — environmental sustainability. You will be guaranteed hundreds of new ideas that you can bring home. Whether you are in industry or another type of organization, the conference will help you to build readiness for successfully meeting and embracing new challenges."

For more information or to register for AME Chicago 2007, go to [www.ameconference.org](http://www.ameconference.org) or call 224/232-5980.

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*The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.*

*Albert Einstein*

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