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Cal Poly to Host Central Coast Lean Summit Feb. 19-20

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business and its Central Coast Lean program will showcase "lean" advances in healthcare, manufacturing, law enforcement and higher education at the fourth annual Central Coast Lean Summit on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 19-20, in the Performing Arts Center on campus.

The lean concept seeks to maximize customer value while minimizing waste. To accomplish this, processes are created that need less human effort, space, capital and time to make products and services cost less with fewer defects. Companies are able to respond quickly to changing customer desires with high variety, high quality and low cost. Also, information management becomes simpler and more accurate.

This year's summit theme, "Frontliners Engaged in Problem Solving," will focus on lean innovations, trends and best practices that are valuable to practitioners in a variety of industries. Organizers also hope to foster a community of local leaders who can build their network with like-minded managers engaged in lean strategies.

"Lean is not just for manufacturing anymore," said Eric Olsen, Cal Poly's Industrial Technology area chair. "There are folks from government, education, service industries and agriculture, to name a few. Lean provides a common set of tools and approaches that can work for any organization." Olsen also serves as director of Central Coast Lean, a research project in the Orfalea College of Business.

Programs and workshops will be led by industry professionals, many who have earned the International Association of Six Sigma Certification's Black Belt designation in lean practices. The event will begin with a pre-summit workshop Feb. 19 to help attendees learn the lean language through a hands-on simulation.

The Feb. 20 summit will feature interactive workshops led by Tom Jackson of Rona Consulting Group; Beau Keyte of the Keyte Group; Andrea Church Kreisa, an IASSC master black belt; Peggy Huston, chief operating officer, UC Berkley's Campus Shared Services; and Keith Inglis, Helix Medical. Norbert Majerus, an IASSC senior master black belt at Goodyear Rubber and Tire Co., will deliver the keynote address, "Principle-based Problem Solving in Lean R&D."

A "coaching cafe" will openly discuss lean challenges and offer best practices during a facilitated peer group discussion. Attendees will be able to network with lean experts from different parts of California and collaborate with Cal Poly faculty.

"The summit is a great opportunity for the Central Coast lean community to hear from nationally respected experts and local teams with success stories to share," Olsen said.

For more information and to register, visit

<http://www.cob.calpoly.edu/centralcoastlean/summit/>.

About the Orfalea College of Business and Cal Poly

The Orfalea College of Business, one of six academic colleges at Cal Poly, is a nationally ranked, four-year, comprehensive public university in San Luis Obispo, halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles on the Central Coast. Cal Poly is a distinctive learning community offering academically focused students a hands-on educational experience that prepares them for today's scientific and technical world. For more information, visit www.cob.calpoly.edu.

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