

Continuous Improvement Lean Collaborative

2019 Lean Systems Summit

Where Government, Services, and Manufacturing Meet

AUGUST 8-9, 2019

Opening Keynote Speaker

Michael Bremer

Principal & Past President, The Cumberland Group



Michael Bremer started his business career in public accounting, migrating to operations and information systems. He worked for a number of highly effective leaders and a few not so effective senior executives -- and learned much from both groups. These experiences sparked his interest in understanding why leaders do what they do and a curiosity about why some organizations work very hard to improve but fail to improve their competitive position.

Michael is an executive with broad domestic and international industry experience in business process redesign, Six-Sigma, Kaizen/Lean methods, post-ERP business process performance improvement (financial and operational), project team development, lean accounting, and continuous improvement at high- and low-tech manufacturing, electric utilities, USAF, USN, software, newspaper publishing, and non-profits. His clients have included: Motorola, RWJ Foundation, Hallmark Cards, 3COM, Am. Electric Power, The Houston Chronicle, Hamilton Sundstrand, Verizon, AT&T, Flextronics, Eltek Manufacturing, Department of Financial Services (DFAS), and VA. He initially learned about the world of business performance improvement as a young man in the 1980s when he was given responsibility for creating a company-wide improvement effort for a Fortune 30 company. The Beatrice Foods improvement initiative (Strive for Excellence) was an improvement model used when the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Criteria was developed. He learned with Dr. W. Edwards Deming (process thinking), Dr. Joseph M. Juran (employee engagement-- focus on the vital few,) and Phil Crosby (quality is free, cost of quality). He was also mentored by sr. executives from other Fortune 100 companies who had significant experience in business perf. improvement.

Michael is a Principal and past President of the Cumberland Group – Chicago; V.P. of Manufacturing Excellence Awards for the Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME - volunteer); Co-Managing Director of the Chicagoland Lean Enterprise Consortium Group; and Instructor for the University of Chicago's Graham School on process innovation. He is co-author of three books: *Six Sigma Black Belt Handbook*, *Six Sigma Financial Tracking and Reporting*, and *Escape the Improvement Trap*.

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Mid-Day Keynote Speaker

Henry Darwin

Acting Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



In his capacity as EPA's Acting Deputy Administrator, Henry Darwin is the key advisor to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler on day-to-day operations and the leader of the agency's transformation to an organization of continuous improvement. By deploying the EPA Lean Management System (ELMS) to reduce waste and maximize value-added work, Darwin is creating more effective ways to better serve EPA's customers while increasing the capacity of EPA employees to do more environmental good.

Prior to joining EPA, Darwin served as the State of Arizona's Chief of Operations, where he worked to start up the first state government intentional management system based upon lean principles. Among the improvements achieved by Arizona state agencies as a result of the management system are elimination of a backlog of 16,000 uninvestigated child abuse allegations, reduction of customer wait times at Motor Vehicle Division offices by over 50 percent, and reduction of aquifer water quality compliance data review times from up to three months to 24 hours.

An experienced environmental engineer and attorney and a longtime Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) employee, Darwin was named ADEQ director in 2011. As ADEQ Director, Darwin led deployment of the state's first lean initiatives.

Darwin holds a Juris Doctorate from Lewis & Clark College and a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering hydrology from the University of Arizona.



Closing Keynote Speaker

Dustin Kaehr

Director, Lippert Academy for Leadership, Lippert Components, Inc.



Dustin Kaehr, who has been one of LCI's Directors of Leadership Development, was appointed to the role of Director of the Lippert Academy for Leadership.

The Lippert Academy for Leadership is a separate division within Lippert Components, Inc.. The academy serves external businesses, nonprofits, and individuals with a variety of programs and offerings, including on-site training and leadership development programs, executive coaching, speaking engagements, and a two-day in-house leadership development experience.

As a start-up minded off-shoot, the Academy builds on and transfers what LCI has learned on its journey to other organizations. With over 11,000 co-workers and 65 facilities in 17 states, Canada, and Europe, they have learned a lot, (and still have a lot to learn), but are excited to share with others.

As a leadership and business coach, Kaehr has over 20 years of experience helping large and small organizations with leadership challenges, operational management, and employee/customer engagement.

In addition to work with companies and individuals helping them grow as leaders and understand themselves better, he is a speaker and author covering topics including customer experience, leadership, team development, and personal development.

His goal is to help people think differently, lead courageously, and live passionately.

Dustin holds a Master in Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Grace College.

