



October 2013

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### From the Director's Desk

Fall is here and from my discussions with colleagues this seems to be the season of choice for most of us! Cooler temps, beautiful fall colors, and Lean projects, it just doesn't get better than that.

In the last week I had the opportunity to work with a kaizen team at the Minnesota Department of Transportation and it was so rewarding to see their Lean process improvement team (highlighted in [last month's issue](#)) at work. They made great recommendations for change and their dedication to Lean methods is an inspiration.

On that note, I know that all of our agencies are doing great Lean projects every day. Please tell us about them! Send us your upcoming projects and the results of your completed projects.

We are routinely asked to report your results, so this is a friendly reminder: Keep in touch so we can communicate your successes to the Governor's Office, the legislature, and other senior leaders and key stakeholders across the state.

In the near future, we will be launching a tool that will make it easier for each agency to do this – reporting projects and measuring results easily, in one place. I hope to share more about this functionality with you very soon, as we get closer to the release.

As one final note, I'd like to formally welcome and introduce two new members of our Enterprise Lean team. Penny Swanson is currently working in the position of Performance Advisor, working with data analysis and developing that central reporting and measurement tool. In addition, we're fortunate to have hired Cristine Leavitt to lead our training efforts and the facilitation of Lean projects with individual agencies. I hope you're as excited as I am to have them on board!

Mary Jo Caldwell  
Director of Enterprise Lean

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#### Inside this issue

[Reporting Your Success](#)

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#### Did you know?

Nearly 32,000 hours of our Lean training have been completed by nearly 6,000 trainees! Does that include you?

## Last Call for Nominations for the 2013 Continuous Improvement Awards



*Governor Dayton spoke to and congratulated winners at a previous year's awards event.*

Last month, we announced the opening of nominations for the 2013 Governor's Continuous Improvement Awards. The nomination period for the awards closes at the **end of the day on Friday, Oct. 18**, so only a couple days remain to nominate an individual or team that is improving government services. Don't miss your opportunity to submit a nomination!

It's as easy as reviewing the [Awards Overview](#) and filling out the [Nomination Form](#), both available on the Lean website at [mn.gov/lean](http://mn.gov/lean).

The awards are all about recognizing outstanding achievements within state government, whether they have improved quality of service, decreased costs, or simply made continuous improvement an increasing part of the culture of state government.

All nominees that meet the basic selection criteria will be reviewed by the Lean Steering Team to determine finalists. Final winners will be selected by the Governor's Office in partnership with the Lean Steering Team. Qualified nominees and award winners will be recognized at a ceremony scheduled to take place on Dec. 10. If you have questions about the awards and submitting a nomination, don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

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## Calling All Continuous Improvement Professionals – Join Us for the Minnesota Lean User Group

We are pleased to finally announce the launch of the Minnesota Lean User Group, a forum for continuous improvement practitioners of all stripes to come together for sharing, discussion and networking with their peers. Work in continuous improvement? Join us to discuss your recent efforts, share ideas and best practices, learn new tools and skills, and network with fellow continuous improvement experts and innovators across the state. Individuals at all skill levels and roles are welcome!

### Upcoming Events

**Nov. 6**, Lean User Group  
**Nov. 12**, Lean 101, Full  
**Nov. 14-15**, Facilitator Training,  
**Space Available**  
**Dec. 3**, Lean 101, Full  
**Dec. 5-6**, Facilitator Training,  
**Space Available**  
**Dec. 11**, Lean User Group  
**Jan. 9**, Lean User Group

New Training Dates for 2014 will be announced soon!

View all Lean events at [www.lean.state.mn.us/calendar](http://www.lean.state.mn.us/calendar)

Register for trainings on our [mnlean.eventbrite.com](http://mnlean.eventbrite.com).

Our first three session dates and locations are listed below. Stay tuned as future sessions are announced.

- **Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2013, 3 to 4:30 p.m.** ([Click here to RSVP](#))  
*Centennial Office Building, Ladyslipper Room ([Maps](#) and [Parking Information](#))*
- **Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** ([Click here to RSVP](#))  
*Administration Building, Conference Room 116B ([Maps](#) and [Parking Information](#))*
- **Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014, 2:30 to 4 p.m.** ([Click here to RSVP](#))  
*Centennial Office Building, Ladyslipper Room ([Maps](#) and [Parking Information](#))*

The best user groups are user driven, so please send us your ideas and suggestions. Our suggestion box is open at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mn\\_lean\\_user\\_group](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mn_lean_user_group). And if you have other questions, simply email us at [lean@state.mn.us](mailto:lean@state.mn.us).

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