Semi-annual Meeting

We had a great time at the semi-annual meeting. Great speakers, great conversations, looking forward to a greener future.

Thanks, Landscape Forms, for giving us a "home" when we needed one!

We would appreciate some feedback about this meeting and ideas for future ones.

See you all in April 2015!
**Engineering Expo**

The halls at the college of engineering were full of enthusiastic interaction, impressive company exhibits, and motivated and inspired students, this past October 2\textsuperscript{nd} at the 2014 Engineering Expo. The Green Manufacturing Initiative (GMI) has participated at this event for the past three years, recruiting engineering students for open research assistant positions with the Industrial Consortium (GMIC). As the Initiative and Consortium keep gaining notoriety, students purposely look for the Green Manufacturing table exhibit at the Expo, spend some time getting to know the organization and submit their resumes to be considered for research assistant positions. A great number of high caliber students showing admirable professionalism approached our exhibit during this event and interviews for research assistants are currently ongoing. We will for sure find upstanding, fitting new research assistants to become part of our green team!

**Sustainable Manufacturing Seminar**

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) are working with several partners in Michigan to provide the opportunity to implement lean, clean, energy efficient and environmentally sound activities identified by the Michigan Economy, Energy, Environment (E\textsuperscript{3}) assessment team members. As a framework strategy, E\textsuperscript{3} is designed to revitalize Michigan’s manufacturing communities and to support ongoing innovation and change in a competitive global marketplace.

Several Michigan based companies joined in discussion to learn more about their path to sustainable enterprise at the *Sustainable Manufacturing: Leading the Way to Prevention, Profit and the Future* seminar this past September 17\textsuperscript{th} at the Western Michigan University (WMU) Fetzer Center. This first of its kind, one day seminar focused on the diverse stakeholder connections and actions necessary to achieve long-term economic, energy and environmental vitality in the future. The GMIC was well
represented by its researchers, faculty, consortium members and partners in almost all of the seminar panels, and GMIC various projects funded by the MDEQ were discussed during the seminar.

Attendees learnt about the importance of sustainable initiatives, how to create a culture of sustainability within their organizations, what works well and what areas pose major challenges, how to track sustainable metrics, and governmental and non-profit organizations in Michigan able to assist them in implementing their sustainable initiatives. This seminar was such a success that the MDEQ is contemplating the possibility of making this an annual seminar.

**Landscape Forms Career Night**

The company covered a variety of topics including history, culture, design focus and open positions. Also, a group of engineers came in to talk to the students, shared their stories about why they became engineers and what it’s like to be part of the Landscape Forms’ engineering team. At the end of the event, a Q&A section took place; plus students stayed after the event was over to talk to the Landscape Forms staff. The event was a total success! Over 35 engineering students joined in to learn about the organization’s values and employment opportunities.

This type of event is available for all consortium member and partner companies. Contact us if you’re interested in coordinating a career night at WMU’s college of engineering!
**Featured Project: Zero Waste To Landfill (ZWTL) Supplier Workshop**

**Background**
The GMI is currently conducting a Landfill Audit project in one of Steelcase’s supplier facilities, Bold Furniture in Muskegon (Michigan). This project inspired both Steelcase and the GMI to host a ZWTL workshop to train Steelcase’s suppliers via their Lean Supplier Network. The MDEQ jumped at the idea to co-fund this workshop, knowing that zero-landfill initiatives provide invaluable benefits to Michigan manufacturers.

**The Workshop**
The ZWTL Supplier Workshop took place this past August 22nd at Steelcase’s Kentwood Manufacturing Plant in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The GMI’s project manager Marylin Glass-Hedges acted as main speaker supported by Steelcase’s Environmental Performance Engineer Betsy Hernandez. Sixteen attendees from Steelcase’s Lean Supplier Network, representing twelve organizations, learned all about zero-landfill, why it is important, how to engage in recycling and waste reduction initiatives, and how to keep associates engaged to guarantee the program’s success.

Other topics included: instructions on how to conduct initial waste management audits, facility walk-throughs, waste bins mapping and waste assessments (a.k.a. dumpster dives); waste disposal forms, how to contact service providers, waste haulers, recyclers and other partners, tips on how to improve waste management practices; finally, various case studies were shared including Steelcase’s, discussing best recycling practices and ways to sustain change.

**Zero [Solid] Waste Theory**
Zero Waste is achieved by developing proper recycling and waste reduction programs, through the collaboration of green+lean initiatives, leveraging of their similarities and carefully considering their trade-offs. A Zero Waste program helps an organization reduce their negative environmental impact and improve their bottom line, via solid waste reduction, pollution prevention and increased material efficiency.

**Takeaways**
A major takeaway from this workshop was the story sharing between suppliers in regards of how they handle certain types of waste. Furthermore, participants talked about their partnership with Steelcase, engaging in activities that contribute to greening the supply chain, for example the re-use of dunnage and pallets, and tracking environmental metrics once green initiatives are in place.

Since the GMIC has already helped most of its member and partners implement zero-landfill and zero-waste initiatives, this would be a great workshop to help extend this knowledge to all organizations’ supplier network. If you’re interested, don’t hesitate to contact us!