Demmer Center for Business Transformation
Broad College of Business
Michigan State University
3535 Forest Road, Lansing, MI 48910
Phone: (517) 353-8711 ext. 71005

Transforming Michigan companies into strategic, lean competitors by providing education, “hands-on” engagement, and thought leadership.
Partial List of Partner Organizations

AK Plastics
Demmer Corporation
Dickinson Press
EBW Electronics
Emergent BioSolutions
Jedco
Lear Corporation
Manna’s Market
Medical Imaging Solutions International
Roberts Sinto
Sparrow Health Systems
State of Michigan

“We had the privilege of working with three apprentices last year and they did a wonderful job of analyzing our entire logistics process as well as right-sizing safety stock levels and greatly increasing the ordering efficiency and inventory turnover ratio of our business. Without the lean apprentice program we would not have been able to achieve the supply chain efficiencies that we currently enjoy.”

— Ryan Stonier, CFO, Medical Imaging

“Emergent’s experience with the Demmer Center programs has been an extremely positive influence on our early lean transformation efforts. In a relatively short period of time, we have seen tangible benefits to the organization through the establishment of our production value stream, elimination of waste and improved cycle times of some of our critical processes.”

— Michael Vallender, Director, Vaccine Manufacturing, Emergent BioSolutions
What is the Demmer Center for Business Transformation?

“Our mission is to help Michigan companies transform their business models to spur innovation and growth so they can compete more aggressively and effectively in domestic and global markets. To facilitate strategic transformation, we assist companies in becoming more operationally effective by designing integrated business processes and embracing lean principles. We provide education and coaching to companies and conduct research that examines the drivers of competitive performance. Our vision is to become the #1 resource for Michigan companies desiring to increase their competitiveness in the marketplace through strategic transformation.”

— Shawnee K. Vickery, PhD., Faculty Director of the Demmer Center for Business Transformation
Demmer Legacy Fellow
Professor of Operations & Supply Chain Management

The Demmer family established the John and Marnie Demmer Center for Business Transformation at MSU in early 2012 in honor of Bill’s parents, with gifts totaling $5 million, so other Michigan companies could benefit from a connection with the university as Demmer Corporation has.
**Why Partner with the Demmer Center for Business Transformation?**

- Develop new strategies and metrics to drive performance
- Learn lean thinking and lean tools
- Access the resources of Michigan State University
- Enhance your business model, identify waste and create leaner systems
- Collaborate with undergraduate and graduate students through Lean Apprentice Program
- Participate in training programs, executive education, simulations

**How to Partner with the Demmer Center for Business Transformation**

**Qualifications**
Partner companies and organizations are selected based on the following Demmer Center guidelines:

- Michigan-based operations
- Stable business(es) with growth potential in new or existing markets
- Recognize value of lean systems thinking and express a strong desire to incorporate this into their culture, strategy and operations

The Demmer Center is looking for diverse partner organizations spanning all size and industry sectors (including non-profit and government).

**Expectations**
The Demmer Center expects partner organizations to establish a working relationship to advance strategic transformation, lean systems thinking and subsequent
process improvement by engaging lean apprentices, staff or faculty to assist, support, and coach continuous improvement projects and business transformation.

Lean Apprentice Program

The Lean Apprentice Program provides undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to engage in “hands-on” learning by working on high impact lean projects with partner organizations of the Demmer Center.

“The Lean Apprentice Program has provided me experiential learning over the course of my MBA program and taught me to be an efficient and effective executive. It has introduced me to various tools that will apply within organizations to find and solve problems. The greatest skill that I have learned from my mentor, Jim Manley, is the art of problem solving, which is helping me achieve excellence in my professional career currently and it will be my primary skill for the decades to come.”

— Rahul Seelam, Broad MBA, Class of 2013
Demmer Center for Business Transformation Team:

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Broad College of Business  
Executive Development Programs