TOYOTA Production Systems Laboratory

Fall 2011.

TPS Lab adds space and equipment

This edition of our newsletter summarizes activities and events from the past six months. We have added more space, new equipment, new staff, and new activities are underway.

Lab Sign
There is a new sign over the lab entrance! The Industrial and Systems Engineering graduating Class of 2011 provided this as a gift to the department. It is awesome!

New Equipment
As mentioned in the last newsletter, we devoted a significant portion of our summer activities to getting the new pick-to-light and build-to-light equipment fabricated, installed, and operational. This fall we have done some initial usage testing as we become familiar with the software and hardware. This equipment will be used in our planned outreach activities (see next section) and in the Lean, Production Systems, and Facilities Planning courses that use the lab.

Toyota USA Foundation Grant
We have started work on developing modules which will be used to teach math and science in an interesting and fun way to students in grades 5 through 12. There will be a series of modules in manufacturing, logistics, and health care, that will use the lab and be available on line — 3 modules per category, and 3 grade levels per module, so 27 in all. Modules will be designed for activities in the lab, and will also be developed for on-line use. We also just welcomed Arlene Meyer to the team as the Program Coordinator for the work on this grant.

Lab operations and activities

Staffing
Manuel Sosa completed his 2-year staff assignment in the lab and now is focusing on his research. Srinath Sriram joined our team of Abbey Donner and Tim Schmoke so we are well covered for this year.

Workshops
We hosted 12 faculty from the Dominican Republic who were here for a week in our department learning about our teaching methods and ISE topics. They spent 2 days in the lab. We also hosted 25 students who are in a certificate program in Advanced Manufacturing and Nano-tech that was sponsored by the NY State Genesee County Economic Development Center.

We welcome your continued feedback and suggestions; contact Prof. Andres Carrano (alceie@rit.edu) or John Kaemmerlen (jxkpdm@rit.edu)

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