COE Morning Professional Development Seminar: December 1, 2006

“Implementing Change in Your Organization to Implement Lean”

Michael Vella, Global Director of Operations Strategy for the Global Fluids Division of Cooper Standard Automotive, will be the COE’s guest speaker on December 1, 2006.

Mike Vella has been a favorite speaker for guests at the Center for Operational Excellence (COE) since his first presentation in 2002 on Succession Planning entitled “First Break All the Rules”. Mike continues to challenge us as well as his organizations. During this session Mike will discuss the challenges that must be overcome to implant change for any lean implementation to be successful. Mike has 29 years of manufacturing experience. He was instrumental in the relentless pursuit of adopting lean manufacturing philosophies within the TI Automotive’s North American facilities and will pursue these same goals within Cooper Standard.

Human Resource Development is a very important part of insuring continued success of organizations and as a part of this process is a program of ongoing training. Mike has been a regular participant in delivering training to his team, either in person or in an electronic format.

Mike received his Masters in Business Administration from Wayne State University in Detroit and his B.S. in Aviation Engineering Technology from Western Michigan University. Mike is certified as Quality Engineer and Reliability Engineer and is an ASQ (American Society for Quality) Fellow. Mike resides in Livonia, Michigan with his wife Lynne.

Cooper-Standard Automotive Inc., headquartered in Novi, Mich., specializes in the manufacture and marketing of systems and components for the global automotive industry. Products include body sealing systems, fluid handling systems, and NVH control systems. Cooper-Standard Automotive Inc. employs more than 16,000 across 61 facilities in 14 countries.

It is the mission of Cooper-Standard Automotive to be the leading manufacturer of sealing system products, fluid systems, vibration control applications and other related products while focusing on innovative, continuously improved solutions to their customers' problems with world-class quality, leading edge technologies, service and competitive pricing. Their pledge to ethical, honest principles driven by the spirit, pride and dedication to their employees drives them toward their vision of market leadership and success.

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