

Northeast Shingo Prize Conference Announces Keynote Speakers:
John Shook & R. David Nelson

Boston, MA -- April 23, 2007 – The Northeast Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing in conjunction with GBMP, Inc. announced today the keynote speakers for this year's Northeast Shingo Prize Conference.

Co-author of “Learning to See”, John Shook will provide one of the keynote addresses. John learned about lean while working with Toyota. Mr. Shook was the first American employee at Toyota's world headquarters starting in 1983 and that company's first American kacho (manager) in Japan. He also served as Deputy General Manager of the Toyota Supplier Support Center, which helps automotive suppliers implement lean manufacturing. This real world experience in implementing lean principles throughout an organization gives him extraordinary insights into the challenges faced by those who are interested in lean manufacturing. John is a true sensei who enthusiastically shares his knowledge and insights within the lean community and with those who have not yet made the leap.

“Dean of the Supply Chain”, R. David Nelson is chief supply chain/strategy officer for HTC Global Services, Inc. and will present the second keynote address of the conference. Nelson served for 10 years as vice president of purchasing and later as senior vice president of purchasing and corporate affairs of Honda of America Manufacturing in Marysville, Ohio. He was promoted to the Board of Directors of Honda of America Manufacturing in 1997. During his tenure at Honda he saw the company's purchasing division grow from 100 to 400 associates and North American purchases increase from \$600 million to \$6 billion. After Nelson's time at Honda, he served as vice president of worldwide supply management at Deere & Company in Moline, Ill., for four years. Under his direction, Deere became known for implementing world-class supply management processes and best practices. In 2001, those efforts were recognized when *Purchasing Magazine* awarded Deere the Medal of Professional Excellence, the purchasing industries highest award. Nelson has long been involved in advancing the purchasing and supply management profession and has co-authored three books, one on Honda, and the others on best practices for managing supply chains.

The Northeast Shingo Prize Conference is an annual two-day educational symposium featuring the best and brightest minds in lean thinking from around the country and culminates with an awards banquet to recognize Northeast Shingo Prize applicants and recipients. This year's theme, “Genchi Genbutsu” (Go See the Problem) reflects the belief that practical experience is more important than theoretical knowledge. The Northeast Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing was established to recognize business excellence in the Northeast Region of the United States. Manufacturers in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont and New Hampshire are eligible to apply for the Northeast Shingo Prize.

The conference will be held on Wednesday, October 3 and Thursday, October 4, 2007 at the University of Massachusetts, Boston campus. Registration and sponsorship information is available at www.neshingoprize.org. Registrations received before August 1, 2007 will receive an additional \$100 off the cost of admission.

