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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Thomas L. Jackson and Ann Kernan to facilitate hoshin kanri workshop at Shell**

Mercer Island, WA — October 24, 2013 — Rona Consulting Group is pleased to announce that Thomas L. Jackson and Ann Kernan will facilitate a hands-on hoshin kanri workshop for Shell Oil's Americas Continuous Improvement Community. The workshop will be based on a Shell case study that Dr. Jackson developed in collaboration with Shell. More than 100 continuous improvement experts from Shell North America and Shell South America will draft A3-Ts and X-matrices to apply A3 thinking to the human, technical, data management, and legal challenges of managing the new boom in oil and gas production.

Hoshin kanri, or strategy deployment, is a unique business operating system designed to empower decision makers at the front line of operations. It is both a strategic planning method and a project management tool that ensures high quality, innovation, and reliable profit growth.

Currently a partner at Rona Consulting Group, **Thomas L. Jackson** has more than 21 years of experience in consulting for global companies in a very wide variety of manufacturing and service industries that implement the Toyota Management System. He designed major lean certification programs for Ford, Whirlpool, Emerson, adidas, Air Products and Chemicals, and the Ohio State University. His book, *Hoshin Kanri for the Lean Enterprise*, was honored with a Shingo Prize for Excellence in Research. He is the Editor of the *Lean Tools for Healthcare Series* from Productivity Press.

**Ann Kernan**, also a Rona Consulting Group partner, is an accomplished lean leader, having started her kaizen journey at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle more than 12 years ago. Also a trained Radiologic Technologist, she managed radiology departments in the greater Puget Sound area. She is certified in lean and 3P methodologies.

**Rona Consulting Group** is a lean consultancy serving the healthcare industry. Rona Consulting Group develops transformational leaders who are capable of educating and coaching their managers, clinicians, and support staff to become a lean healthcare organization. Rona Consulting Group is committed to helping healthcare organizations and purchasers of healthcare achieve the highest quality through zero defects, increased patient satisfaction, empowerment of staff, and improvement in financial performance through the application of the Toyota Management System.

**Shell** is a global group of energy and petrochemicals companies with around 87,000 employees in more than 70 countries and territories. Shell uses advanced technologies and take an innovative approach to help build a sustainable energy future.

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