



**Steve Laton**  
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**Bio:**

Stephen (Steve) James Laton is product leader for the delivery of IES lean services.

Steve is based in Albemarle and works with clients from Murphy to Manteo. He has developed and continues to refine a Senior Management Coaching program, based largely on the Toyota Production System. Steve has more than 20 years of experience in applying the TPS to manufacturing operations. The Senior Management offering has been well received by many companies, and is in growing demand as companies large and small seek to improve the implementation and sustainability of a real lean culture in their organization. As the product leader for lean, Steve is working to apply standard work concepts internally, improve delivery personnel training, develop new and innovative products, and grow IES influence not only in manufacturing but support areas for industries statewide.

Steve worked with Collins & Aikman for 35 years as an industrial engineer at the corporate, plant and division level. He managed four facilities as plant manager at sites in Michigan, North Carolina, and Mexico. This experience was mainly as a tier one parts supplier to most of the major automotive producers. He was Vice President of Operations for Racemark International, a tier one and aftermarket accessory mat supplier prior to joining IES.

Steve received his B.S. in textile technology from NC State in 1970 with honors, and with a minor in industrial engineering.

Steve also volunteers with the Boy Scouts, Community College Boards, and various Civic organizations.