

# MEP official speaks to CHA suppliers

Chuck Spangler knows why many hosiery companies in North Carolina and South Carolina are facing difficult times.

He was in many of those companies 10 years ago when he was in the hosiery industry. He's recently returned to some of those companies as vice president of the South Carolina MEP.

During that 10-year period, Spangler says many companies have not kept up with the changing business world.

"Nothing has changed for many North Carolina businesses," Spangler said. "Others are making changes and they are making money."

As a representative for the S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Spangler's job now is to offer assistance in helping businesses develop strategies to better compete in the ever-changing business world.

Spangler gave a presentation on one of those tools – LEAN manufacturing – at the July 22 Carolina Hosiery Association's Supplier Luncheon held at the Hosiery Technology Center.

Lean manufacturing is a process in which a company can study its supply chain processes to make them more efficient. One of its primary objectives is to allow companies to keep low levels of inventory while filling orders on time.

Spangler said sometimes the problem can be as simple as reformulating a plant's layout to reduce transportation cost and inefficient handling processes.

However, some the problem involves a much more serious problem and one that is more difficult to solve. That problem he said is an unwillingness on management's part to change.

He said its the No. 1 reason for business failures today.

"That is something that I can't show them how to fix," he said. "I can tell them they need to do it to survive but then its up to them."

Chuck Spangler manages S.C. MEP's field staff of manufacturing and technical specialists. He has more than 12 years of manufacturing experience in the textile, hosiery, tire and . The more than 20 companies he has worked with have found a 500 percent return in terms of dollars invested in increased productivity and profitability. Spangler was presented the Practitioner of the Year award in 2001. For more information, contact SCMEP at 803.252.6976 or [www.scmeep.org](http://www.scmeep.org).

## October suppliers' meeting

Chuck Spangler is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the October 21st Carolina Hosiery Association suppliers' meeting to be held in Greensboro. He is scheduled to give his presentation on LEAN manufacturing.