



**The Swedish-American Chambers of Commerce, SACC Detroit, networking at Oakland University Department of Engineering, by Roger Lidgren, Toleap Consulting.**

SACC Detroit is a regional chamber under the national organization – SACC USA, formed in 1988 to enhance trade, commerce, and investment between the Detroit region and Sweden. SACC is a networking organization. Anyone with a Swedish heritage interest or Swedish business connection with the USA or an interest in Sweden and American relations may join SACC.

The arrangements of this networking activity were impressive. Around 45 people attended whereof half were students.

*- Those with business ties to the Detroit Metropolitan Region and Sweden were invited to join this networking group of professionals, explains Roger Lidgren. I think it offers great insights in different activities at the university and I hope we will find future opportunities from the network. In our work to bring our services and educations to our customers I strongly believe that the SACC network and activities will be beneficial to all involved, cooperation in good spirit is our motto.*

*- Michigan is a very business-friendly state, says Roger, I know that many company CEOs agree to that. It will be very interesting to cooperate with the professionals here, hopefully we can soon write about our successful business activities.*



*Picture 1: Louay Chamra (to the left), the Dean of Oakland University, Engineering Department, Detroit Michigan in discussion with Andreas Waller, Chairman of SACC Detroit Chapter.*



*Picture 2: We had part of our meeting in one of the IT classrooms.*

Oakland University is a student-centered, doctoral research institution with a global perspective. The university was established 1957 and has more than 20,500 graduate and undergraduate students in distinctive educational experiences. There are around 3500 students at the faculty of Oakland University Department of Engineering. Out of the total number of students, 35 % are coming from abroad. China, India, Australia, Mexico and Europe. 90% stays in Michigan. Michigan state has a substantial lack of Engineers. The University is also taking pride in helping students to get internships at different companies. The success rate of getting employment from



this University is very high. They claim that it is the second highest in the US.

*The learning concept of the university is very impressive, says Roger. Simply put the combination of theory and practice is really hands-on and the projects are very applied. The SAE competition vehicle is a good example of that. It is a sponsored prototype vehicle developed by students. Within specification, design, build and race! This University is very hands-on. You study, learn and then, I think, the most important thing, you apply the things you learnt.*



Picture 4: Read more about SACC Detroit at <http://saccdetroit.org/about-mi-sweden/about-michigan/>



Picture 3: SAE competition vehicle.

*- I met with Professor Chamra after the meeting and we agreed upon that Toleap Consulting should come back during the fall. Then new students are coming in and a perfect time to influence or create interest in different technologies such as Fatigue, Tribology, Metal Forming, Tooling Design and Training Concepts. In other words, the things we know about! Concludes Roger.*



Picture 5: Andreas Waller at SACC exemplifying the good business relations between USA and Sweden (picture from earlier meeting in late 2016).



## Contact information

Toleap Consulting AB  
- Technical and Commercial Know-how

### Address

Toleap Consulting AB  
Amsbergsvägen 41  
784 68 Borlänge  
Sweden

E-mail: [toleap.consulting@toleap.se](mailto:toleap.consulting@toleap.se)

### Phones

Andreas Kuoppa: [+46 \(0\)70 395 56 79](tel:+46(0)703955679)  
Jan Kuoppa: [+46 \(0\)70 395 56 77](tel:+46(0)703955677)  
Jan-Olof Sperle: [+46705773147](tel:+46705773147)  
Karl-Erik Olsson: [+46\(0\)722460888](tel:+46(0)722460888)  
Per Tägtström: [+46 \(0\)70395 56 85](tel:+46(0)703955685)  
Roger Lidgren: [+15869257240](tel:+15869257240)  
Juan Carlos Rivera: +5218443502667

### Contacts in China:



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- FATComp - a design tool for fatigue loaded structures (*still under development*) [www.fatcomp.se](http://www.fatcomp.se)
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