



Emerald Coast Florida Chapter

Volume 3, Issue 6

President's Corner

by
Cheryl Archer, PMP

Fellow Program Managers,

The days are finally starting to cool off. Days are shorter and football games are being played. Autumn is my favorite season. Maybe it is the cooler air, the new school year for the kids, or just the changing colors of the season, but this time of year has always inspired me to take on new projects or challenges.

These are trying times. There are layoffs and cutbacks. It seems even a little rougher in our community with our strong government ties. It is even more important to be a leader and an employee that stands out. How can you stand out? You have the ability.

One of the concepts I have always embraced about PMI is that of continuing education. We learn, we teach, we share and we all grow because of it. We all become better. Our monthly membership meeting attendance is growing. Our "Journey through the PMBOK" sessions have been well received, and if you read our membership numbers on new PMPs for our chapter you'll be as impressed as I was at the accomplishments of our members. We also continue to look at new ways to reach out to our membership to provide the best opportunities.

We provide lunch meetings, dinner meetings, networking opportunities, weekend conference in the spring, workshops, and now we are looking into virtual meetings.

Our annual general membership meeting is scheduled for November 10 at the Ramada Beach Resort. This is a dinner meeting and our speaker is our Region 14 Component Mentor, John Watson. He will be speaking to us on "A life cycle overview of PMI, Project Management and you as a Project Manager". It promises to be a great program and our 2012 board members will be announced. Please join us. More information is available on the events page of our chapter website. <http://pmiemeraldcoastfl.org/Conference/November%202011%20annual%20meeting.html>

As always, our volunteers are what make this all happen. PMI Emerald Coast FL 2012 Board member elections are upon us. If you are a member – please vote. If you haven't already, join the PMI Emerald Coast FL chapter. Attend our membership meetings at the most convenient location for you.

Thank you, and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Cheryl

"Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected."
– Steve Jobs

**PMI Emerald Coast
Florida Chapter
P. O. Box 1265
Shalimar, FL 32579**

September 2011

Membership Stats as of
September 2011

Total Members: 241

141 PMP, 1PgMP, 1 CAPM

107 Chapter Members

29 Mobile Branch Mem-
bers

45 Panama City Branch
Members

60 Pensacola Branch
Members

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Meeting Information | 2-3 |
| November Meeting Info | 4 |
| Sponsorship Information | 5 |
| PMI Global Congress | 6 |
| Article regarding Mo- bile Branch | 7-8 |
| New PMP's | 8 |
| 'Our 'Simple Seven' Keys to Establishing a Suc- cessful PMO' | 9-11 |
| 'The Value of Holding Multiple Project Man- agement Credentials' | 11- 13 |
| International Project Management Day / Additional PDU Info | 14- 15 |
| Miscellaneous | 16- 17 |

October Chapter Membership Meeting Information

October 19, 2011

Time: 11:30AM—12:30PM (network 11:00—11:30)

Two Trees Restaurant, 1955 Lewis Turner Blvd, Ft. Walton Beach, FL

Speaker: Kathy Reid, PMP

Topic: Risk Management (Chapter 11 PMBoK)

Earn **1 PDU** for attending!

The meeting will start at 11:30 and will conclude at approximately 12:30 with networking, lunch ordering from 11:00am—11:30am. Let Server know upon arrival what you would like for lunch, orders will be paid by attendee at time of meeting. Requirement for use of Two Trees Restaurant at no cost to the chapter is EVERYONE must have lunch (see registration site for menu).

Register online at http://pmiemcfl_oct2011membershipmeeting.eventsbot.com/ or visit chapter website at <http://pmiemeraldcoastfl.org> for additional information.

October Mobile Branch Meeting Information

October 20, 2011

One Year Anniversary Celebration!

Sponsored by Holiday Inn Mobile Airport

Time: 5:30 PM—8:00PM

Location: Holiday Inn Mobile Airport

Speaker: Carrie French, PMP

Topic: 1 Year Review / Looking Ahead—Year 2

See <http://www.eventsbot.com/events/eb463234341>

for registration information.

Earn **1.5 PDU's** for attending! Bring your own lunch.

Look for more information on the [Mobile Branch](#) page of the Chapter website or contact

Carrie French, PMP Director, Mobile Branch at directormobilebranch@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org



Panama City Branch Meeting Information

October 27, 2011

Time: 5:00 PM—7:00 PM

Location: L-3 Communications Main Conference Room

Check the Panama City Branch Event Site for additional meeting information including speaker, topic and registration.

Earn **1 PDU** for attending!

Look for more information on the [Panama City Branch](#) page of the Chapter website or contact John Dawson, PMP Director, Panama City Branch at directorpanamacitybranch@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org



Pensacola Branch Meeting Information

October 18, 2011

Time: 11:30 AM—1:00 PM

Location: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida—Corporate Office 2190
Airport Blvd, Suite 3000, Pensacola FL 32504

Speaker: Carla Rich, MBA, DPA, CP—Pensacola State
College

Topic: From Pensacola Junior College to Pensacola State
College: Effecting Major Change

Earn **1 PDU** for attending!

Lunch is not included.

Look for more information on the [Pensacola Branch](#) page of the Chapter website or contact Charlotte Peacock, PMP Director, Pensacola Branch at directorpensacolabrand@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org



Important
DATE!

REGISTER NOW!

Date: November 10, 2011

Annual Evening PMI Emerald Coast Florida Chapter Membership Meeting

Time: 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Location: Ramada Inn, Fort Walton Beach

Speaker: John Watson, PMP (Component Mentor)

Speaker Topic: A life cycle overview of PMI, Project Management and you as a Project Manager

Additional Topic: Announcement of new Board Members
Social 5:30 to 6:00, Program 6:00 to 8:00, 8:00 to 8:30 Closing

Cost: Student: \$35.00; Member: \$39.00; Non-Member: \$44.00

Dinner Options:

Chicken Parmesan:

Caesar Salad

Breaded Chicken Breast topped with

Marinara Sauce and Cheese

Angel Hair Pasta

Italian Green Beans

Dessert

Grilled Vegetable Plate:

Caesar Salad

Chef's Choice Grilled Vegetables

Saffron Rice Pilaf

Dessert

Cash bar will be available from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Earn **1 PDU** for attending.

Register online at: <http://pmiemcfl2011annualnovembermeeting.eventsbot.com/>

Be sure to vote for your 2012 Board Members!

Then come meet your 2012 Board of Directors!

JACOBS
BRC • Orion • Qualis • Sentel



REMEMBER TO VOTE FOR YOUR 2012 CHAPTER AND BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

For voting instructions please visit: www.pmiemeraldcoastfl.org

Why participate as a Sponsor?

The PMI Emerald Coast FL Chapter serves the Northwest panhandle of Florida and Southern Alabama area. Sponsorship at this Chapter offers a tremendous opportunity to support the Project Management profession while exposing your company's products and services to our members.

We are the newest chapter in our Region. Our depth and breadth of membership has various needs for community outreach programs, educational opportunities and professional networking. Our primary location is Fort Walton Beach, FL with Chapter branches in Mobile AL, Pensacola FL and Panama City, FL

Sponsorship Options

The PMI Emerald Coast FL Chapter is pleased to offer a variety of sponsorship options. Descriptions for each of these sponsorship options are presented below.

- *Annual Sponsorships (\$2,500, \$1,000, \$500)*
- *Event Sponsorships (\$500, \$250)*
- *Bi-Monthly Newsletter Promotions (\$500, \$250, \$100)*

If you would like to sponsor the Chapter Annually, an individual event, or newsletters, have suggestions for other sponsorship ideas, please contact us at info@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org.

Additional facts about PMI Emerald Coast FL:

Our members are Project Managers working in a broad range of industries.

Our monthly Chapter meetings are broadly attended by local project management practitioners and are open to members and non-members. Many of our member attendees are certified Project Management Professionals (PMP®).

Our newsletter is circulated electronically to active members & subscribers.

Our Chapter website receives frequent visits from guests, members and other Project Management professionals.

PMI Global Congress North America 2011

PMI® Global Congress 2011—North America 22–25 October 2011 Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, USA

There are many exciting learning and networking possibilities at PMI Global Congress 2011—North America. At this three-day event attendees will gather the know-how and inspiration needed to succeed. Educational sessions and networking opportunities will connect peers to discuss common issues, innovative solutions and best practices, and to learn about the latest trends, tools and techniques from project management experts.

PMI Global Congress 2011—North America
Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center
1501 Gaylord Trail
Grapevine, TX 76051 USA

Keynote Speaker Malcolm Gladwell



The best and most effective managers are often said to be intuitive in the sense that they have the confidence to act on instinct. What is this instinct? And how can this intuition be developed? Author Malcolm Gladwell draws lessons from the world of professional athletes, surgeons and musicians to understand the components of intuitive expertise and help decision makers tap into that powerful resource.

For more information visit www.PMI.org

Proud member of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce.



The following article is reprinted with permission from the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce from its October 2011 issue of The Business View.

Members Only

How Joining an Industry Association Can Help You Do Business Better

Membership has its privileges. And for members of professional associations, those benefits can range from professional development and networking at meetings to professional credentials to discounts on products like industry publications, overnight shipping and rental cars.

Most organizations offer monthly meetings featuring industry-related speakers, as well as workshops, and regional and national conferences. For organizations like the international Project Management Institute (PMI) and the American Advertising Federation (AAF) that cut across industries, local leaders make an effort to address members' different interests and needs.

AAF Mobile Bay, the local chapter of the oldest national advertising trade association, counts media and marketing representatives, advertising agencies, vendors and students among its members, while the Mobile branch of the Emerald Coast Chapter of PMI represents project managers across multiple disciplines including telecommunications, engineering, government, information technology and the military.

The Mobile Branch of PMI often meets at ITT Technical Institute, a vocational college offering the area's only bachelor's degree in project management. These meetings are sometimes held in conjunction with classroom lectures. Members receive professional development credits for attending events; a certain number must be earned for recertification of professional designations.

Meetings and networking events allow members and guests to discuss aspects of the industry, share tools and best practices,



Professional associations are a good way for local executives to have access to peers for networking and support. Pictured from left to right are local association presidents: Craig Brantley, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors - Mobile; Jeff Winter, American Advertising Federation Mobile Bay; and Carrie French, Project Management Institute Mobile Branch.

and provide a professional sounding board. "It's valuable to get together with other project managers in the industry," said Carrie French, of Southern Light LLC, president of the local PMI branch.

Many professional organizations speak out for their members. For Craig Brantley, of Principal Financial Group, president of NAIFA (National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors) Mobile, the largest chapter in the state, one of the most important benefits is how membership fees

guard clients' rights through lobbying efforts. "It's a voice in Washington that's protecting your clients," he said.

"It is valuable to get together with other project managers in the same industry."

Carrie French
president of the local PMI branch

Membership in AAF also has far-reaching benefits. "They are represented in all the lobbying they do in Washington on behalf of the advertising industry," AAF Mobile Bay President Jeff Winter of the *Press-Register* explained.

Professional associations also offer personal benefits, and organizations need to remind

members what membership fees provide. For AAF, members are eligible for discounted entries in the Adly industry competitions, reduced costs on many services and public service opportunities.

For Mobile Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) President Mary White of Mobile Technical Institute, one of the most valuable benefits offered are the PHR (Professional in Human Resources) and SPHR (Senior Professional in Human Resources) industry certifications. "It's third-party verification of your credentials," she explained. These designations are often preferred or even required to move into higher-level human resource positions. It marks the standard of excellence in the field, White said.

Continued on next page.

Continued from page 21

PMI and NAIFA also offer several certifications. These professional designations are mentioned specifically in job advertisements, and many organizations offer study groups to help members prepare for the required exams. PMP (Project Management Professional) is PMI's most popular certification, which requires experience and training, as well as knowledge of the organization's common body of knowledge and globally recognized standards. "PMP is industry-independent," said French. "The skills are transferable. Every project has the same basic needs. The certification applies to all of them."

Professional associations can help promote an industry, increasing the public's awareness of an organization's mission and what it promotes. "We're looking out for the clients' best interests," said Brantley. He hopes financial and insurance clients will ask about NAIFA membership when meeting with an adviser. "You need to be part of the organization that protects all those products you're putting clients in," he explained. "Because you take pride in what you do, you really look out for the clients' best interests. You're not just there to sell products and make a commission."

Congratulations Mobile Branch!

Way to get our name out to the public!

Please note, the Mobile Area Chamber was notified of the correct title of Director of Mobile Branch for Carrie French.

The Mobile Branch is forming a new PMI Study Group in October. All members are welcome. Please contact Carrie French at cfrench700@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Congratulations to our newest Project Management Professionals!

Daniel Kelly, PMP

My linda Johnson, PMP

Randy Smith II, PMP

Romona Barnes, PMP

Gerson Cedeno, PMP

Rick Gaviria, PMP

Joseph Johnson, PMP

Roberto Lago, PMP

Matthew Seese, PMP

Christa Colvin, PMP

Tony Trawick, PMP

Our ‘Simple Seven’ Keys to Establishing a Successful PMO

By Gareth Byatt, Gary Hamilton, and Jeff Hodgkinson

Much has been written about how best to establish a PMO. There are many elements to take into account, and this article seeks only to provide what we believe are a few “pointers” to consider.

For purposes of this article, we’ll assume that we are in a situation in which we (or you) work for an organisation with no existing type of PMO. It is important to fully understand the ‘Driver’ for introducing a ‘PMO’ of any type. When we say “of any type”, we mean – what type of PMO are we talking about? What does the “P” stand for in this abbreviation for a Management Office? A PMO can serve to control governance for projects, it may oversee a program of work, or it can operate at an Enterprise level and therefore be more strategic. In one way or another, all PMOs are ‘Governing Bodies’. The questions you need to ask are:

“Do the key people in my organization agree that a PMO is required, agree on the authority of the PMO (and have I clearly articulated the benefits of introducing one)?”

“Are our processes mature enough for us to capture the value of a PMO and to make the long term commitment required for success?”

Before embarking on a plan to introduce a PMO, you may have discussions with key stakeholders, perhaps conduct a survey, and/or hire an Organizational Development consultant to conduct an independent assessment. The bottom line is similar to the way a talent agent spots a future star performer or a coach, the next top-rated athlete. In addition to talent and ability, the organization needs to have the drive to introduce the type of PMO that you feel will provide the greatest benefit. If, after reviewing the proposal, you feel that key stakeholder support and/or your capacity to introduce a PMO is not yet in place, it is better to stop and continue to focus on managing programs and projects well. Don’t see the inability to implement a PMO as a failure of any kind – different organizations have different needs. On the contrary; one sign of a good leader is recognizing when an organization is ready or not ready to change in some way. Also remember that although many organizations have some form of strong governance in place, they do not consider or call it a PMO (it is fair to say that the term PMO is, for the most part, confined to IT organizations or departments).

Taking all of this into account, if you’re certain that introducing a PMO into your organization is a worthy objective (and have the right stakeholder backing), the rest of this article may be of interest for you.

If you do an online search on PMO’s and Project Governance, it will return thousands of hits. There is a large amount of extremely useful advice available, both free and from specialists who charge for their time. In writing this article, it is not our intention to repeat information already available; rather, we are providing some insight into what’s worked and not worked for us when initiating and managing PMOs.

Step 1: Prepare yourself – The road ahead will not be easy. The individual charged with leading the introduction of the PMO will need to be well-rested, and able to focus a large percentage, if not all, of their time on the task of establishing a PMO. Let’s assume you are the person being asked to set up a PMO. Consider taking a vacation; charge your batteries for the task ahead. If you are in the middle of a course of study (such as obtaining a credential or a degree), you might want to finish before starting this task. If you are involved in volunteer activities that consume a lot of your free time, you might want to consider taking a hiatus or excusing yourself from the most time consuming responsibilities (painful as it may be). Can you do all that? – Good; you’re ready to start.

Step 2: Understanding which type of PMO you need – We mentioned earlier that there are different types of PMO. A Project Management Office usually exists to control governance on projects, and to ensure that projects are being set up with the appropriate criteria. Program Management Offices usually have a particular goal in mind, e.g., to deliver a program of work adhering to governance standards. At an Enterprise level, an Enterprise PMO usually represents a portfolio of work and can, in itself, be provided with reports from divisional Project Management Offices and Program Management Offices. Companies usually start with the foundation-level Project Management Office. Maturity Models are available from several organisations to help you gauge your need.

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

Step 3: Take an “It’s a Project in Itself” Approach - Make alliances early and draw up a Communications Plan; have formal and informal conversations with key stakeholders (and know what kind of influence they all have), gather preliminary data and all information you need to completely fill out a project Charter, just as you would for any other project. Ensure you have a robust Business Case and Plan. You must have the mindset that establishing a PMO is a project in itself and your time is required to manage it. Does this include you personally taking on the full time position as PMO Manager? That would depend on whether you are the appointed person for the role. The success criteria for justifying the PMO must be defined and understood by you and your key stakeholders. Don’t forget to communicate that the ‘end’ state for the PMO to be “part of the way we do things” will be a while away – perhaps at least a year and more likely two years to fully embed. Several factors need to be considered, but the bottom line is: what is the priority or importance of the PMO to Management, and how quickly can your organization implement the change? Generally, organizational change transitions can either be quick and painful, or slow and relatively painless. Management buy-in is fundamental to success. Both approaches to the speed of change (fast or slow) have pro’s and con’s; we have seen that taking an aggressive approach and ‘pushing hard’ can reap rewards, but requires a strong commitment to succeed. As the saying goes, there’s a thin line between love and hate; the same can be true about organizational change such as creating a PMO.

Step 4: Obtain Buy-in for the Long Term - After completing your project Charter, having peer-level reviews, and gaining the necessary support and alliances to make it a success, step back and take a good look at the approach and the desired end result. Depending on the size of your organization, is your launch strategy acceptable? For example, are you proposing a new level of central control or a phased approach of having several ‘federated’ PMO’s that manage their business to a common, accepted level of process? The latter would involve having a few simple, comparable and easily cumulative metrics versus trying to get everyone to follow the required changes for a centralised PMO. Whatever your plan, be sure that the C Level Executives agree to it for the long-term. We suggest that you are conservative in your proposed results and set realistic goals, timelines, savings, productivity improvements, etc. The implementation of a PMO is often a major change effort, so it is best to have realistic expectations and support your assumptions with a calculated degree of confidence. Articles on PMO’s often refer to the establishment of short term and long term goals. This can be a great strategy as long as the focus on the short term results does not obscure the long term results and change. If you take this approach, be certain that you clearly communicate both expected outcomes, results and the timeframe of all milestones along the way. Remember, the long term results are the measure of your real success.

Step 5: Achieve, Document, and Communicate Early Wins - Look for, achieve and communicate ‘early wins’ as the PMO starts to make changes, even if they’re miniscule. Any positive changes in project execution or unsolicited positive feedback should be documented and sent as a ‘news flash’ to your team, management, and stakeholders. Don’t oversell; you will also have negatives that, in fairness, you’ll also need to communicate (have no doubt; if you don’t, someone else will) so that progress as a whole can be accessed.

Step 6: Stay positive through the ‘lull’ period - As with most projects and project teams, there may be initial enthusiasm but, as the ‘newness’ wears off and the work really starts to make an impact, there can be a drop in morale and ‘esprit de corps’. If you spot this lull, keep up the positive vibe. Make no mistake; setting up a PMO can be a big challenge to implement. The period most likely to require attention is during the lull period between the times during which you’ve completed, documented, and communicated your early wins or short terms goals, and the commencement of achieving the long term objectives for your PMO. It is then that the changes proposed, approved, and implemented will make a strategic impact on the prior routines, and your customers (including the PM’s in the PMO and those they support) will start to react to the impact of the change agents.

Step 7: Know When to Declare ‘Success’ – Okay. Hopefully, after all your efforts and successes, the PMO is, for all intents and purposes, working. You have documented processes, common metrics, basic standards, common tools, a central repository, training packages, and are seeing visible improvements, such as greater accuracy of project estimates, there’s more predictability about project schedules and budget outcomes,

Continued on Next Page.

Continued from previous page.

project phases are being reviewed as part of governance, lessons are being shared and learnt, and your manager and stakeholders are pleased with the progress. As they say, it's an 80/20 rule and you're 80% there now. Keep in mind that the final 20% of the work to optimize your PMO could take as much effort as the first 80%. This is the time that you need to look at benefits versus value and the effort to achieve that final 20%. Is it worth it to continue driving to the final improvements, or is it time to declare success and let quality reach its ideal level over time? This is not an easy decision: it's time to scan the environment in which the PMO operates, make a decision and provide recommendations for the next steps. By the way, there's nothing wrong with taking a 6-month pause, monitoring the results, and then proposing a 'Phase 2' of PMO activities. Assuming that you are successful and always focus on your key stakeholders, the backing and momentum to continue building the PMO will happen. Be very aware of any organizational changes that may take place – it is a fact of life in modern organizations is that change is part and parcel of the future. It is important to ensure that quality of service is maintained, and that the driving forces of “how you do things” are being shared across the teams that use and function within the PMO. If the PMO has become its own department and is visibly providing value, you should be set. If it is still ad-hoc and ‘pieced together’ by evangelists, then perhaps the best decision is to keep managing it as a project until you see that the embedment has occurred.

In conclusion, in any type of organization or company, there are many ways to implement a successful PMO. Different organizations have different needs.

- Whichever way you choose, treat the creation of a PMO as a project in itself and manage it accordingly;
- Decide what type of PMO you need (if indeed you choose to call it a PMO);
- Justify it with a proper Business Case and Plan;
- Think about the long-term objective and short-term goals to celebrate along the way;
- Recognise when to decide if the PMO is ‘as good as it gets’ and is part and parcel of the operations;
- Finally, remember that if the implementation of a PMO is not progressing as planned, maybe it is not the right thing for your organization (at least, at that specific point in time).

See Page 13 for information about the authors.

The Value of Holding Multiple Project Management Credentials

By Gareth Byatt, Gary Hamilton, and Jeff Hodgkinson

Whether you are a current practitioner in program or project management or you are considering a career in this profession, you may have thought about the value of obtaining one or more project management credentials.

If you are already certified and/or have one or more credentials, you may be contemplating ‘broadening your armory’ by seeking additional credentials or certificates in program or project management. For many reasons, the three of us are believers in holding credentials. To prove our point, a quick review of our bios at the end of this article shows that we all have several program and project management credentials. So what is the benefit of obtaining one or multiple credentials? Is there a typical value against the investment in time and money?

As we discuss the value of program/project management credentials, we will approach it from the point of view of varying levels of one's career. Let us first consider the viewpoint of a recent college graduate in our profession. A recent four-year college graduate will have invested significantly in real money and time to obtain their degree. During the course of their undergraduate education, they have likely had some exposure to a real-life project. Nowadays, even elementary school students sometimes work on research, business, IT or

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page:

other types of real-life projects as assignments, either individually or as a group. The majority of today's employers will typically look for evidence of project work and the ability to successfully work on projects. Yet, how many recent college graduates also seek out entry level credentials in project management, such as CAPM, IPMA Level D, PRINCE2 Foundations or Projects+ as part of their education? When compared to the average cost of a typical four-year undergraduate education in any country, one or more of these 'entry level' project management credentials can be obtained for a relatively small additional amount. In the current job markets worldwide, competition for good jobs is fierce, especially amongst those entering the market for the first time. Having an entry level Project Management credential not only shows initiative, it may also allow new graduates to differentiate themselves, especially within professions in which project work entails a significant percentage of the role.

Let's now approach the question from the perspective of the young professional who has been employed for three to eight years, and may be growing into (if not already in) a mid-level position. Over the course of their professional career to date, they have probably worked on one or several projects, perhaps having led a project for their employer. How does the young professional know what expectations exist of them, either as a project contributor or as a project lead? Organizational assets to guide people exist in most companies, but, assuming they are present, they can only serve the professional to a degree. Gaining experience is an important ingredient of managing projects, and blending experience with professional study/skills development can help move them forward. By seeking higher level credentials, the young professional is demonstrating a keenness to learn standard practices in project management.

Lastly, let's consider the mid to senior level project professional that has been in their career for more than eight years. You may be asking yourself, "If I have eight or more years of experience within an industry and already hold a project management degree and/or credential from a chosen organization, what, if any, benefits exist if I expand my credentials? Surely, for me, it's experience that counts." To answer this question, you must first consider your own long-term career ambitions and your work situation. Will your employer be conducting business with organizations that ascribe to a project management methodology different than their own? What if you suddenly find yourself out of a job? The "preferred" project management credential will vary from employer to employer, the industry, and, in many cases, the geographic region in which you work. The senior practitioner of project management can potentially stand out by having multiple credentials from various certifying organizations. And also, remember that these credentials offer some good fundamentals in the basics and advanced techniques of our profession. Whether you choose to actively use them in your work is a separate topic.

For the experienced professional, holding credentials also demonstrates to peers with whom you may want to create a network that you are serious about your profession. This can "open doors" to expand your professional network and to learn from each other.

No one has a crystal ball that will predict what the job market in your geographic region will be like in 6 months or 6 years. However, if project management is the career in which you plan to remain throughout your working years, holding more than one credential may allow you increased mobility and security, and mitigate risks found in unforeseen situations such as changing jobs. Given that the majority of employers offer professional development as part of employment, the question becomes, "Why not add multiple credentials to your professional toolkit?" Through our interactions with many program and project managers, we can state that having multiple credentials can only benefit your career, in some way, shape or form. Regardless of your current stage of career development, seeking new training and knowledge for personal growth is always looked upon favorably by employers.

In conclusion, whether you believe their value to be intrinsic or monetary, having at least one program / project management credential/certification can be beneficial, regardless of your current career level.

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page:

There is a saying, ‘What is great today is the norm for tomorrow ...’ There are numerous globally recognized PM and PM-related credentials and certifications available today. Given the increasingly competitive job market and the growing recognition of project management as a profession, we think that this trend will continue.

See below for information about the authors.

| Article Author Bios as of July 2011 | |
|---|---|
| <p>About The Article Authors, Their Roles Their Plans, And Their Goals</p> | <p>Gareth Byatt, Gary Hamilton, and Jeff Hodgkinson are experienced PMO, program, and project managers who developed a mutual friendship by realising they shared a common passion to help others and share knowledge about PMO, portfolio, program and project management (collectively termed PM below). In February 2010 they decided to collaborate on a three (3) year goal to write 50 PM subject articles for publication in any/all PM subject websites, newsletters, and professional magazines / journals. So far 29 have been written, published, and translated into Arabic, Czechoslovakian, French, German, Indonesia, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian and published on websites in 25 countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, India, Jamaica, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Trinidad, Turkey, UK, Ukraine and the USA. Their mission is to help expand good program and project management practices by promoting the PM profession, to be a positive influence to the PM Community, be known as eminent influencers of PM practices, and in earnest hope readers can gain benefit from the advice of their 60+ years of combined experience and expertise and include the expertise of co-authors who write with them on certain articles and subjects. Along with writing articles, each also champions a role in the overall writing program collaboration process:</p> <p>Gareth manages all requests for additional guest author collaborations Gary manages the article development tracking and readership metrics Jeff manages the article distribution and new readership demographics</p> <p>Each can be contacted for advice, coaching, collaboration, and speaking individually as noted in their bios or as a team at: Contactus@pmoracles.com</p> |
|  | <p>Gareth Byatt has 15+ years of experience in project, program and PMO management in IT and construction for Lend Lease. Gareth has worked in several countries and lives in Sydney, Australia. He can be contacted through LinkedIn.</p> <p>Gareth holds numerous degrees, certifications, and credentials in program and project management as follows: an MBA from one of the world’s leading education establishments, a 1st-class undergraduate management degree, and the PMP®, PgMP®, PMI-RMP®, PMI-SP® & PRINCE2 professional certifications. Gareth is currently a Director of the PMI Sydney Chapter, he is the APAC Region Director for the PMI’s PMO Community of Practice and he chairs several peer networking groups.</p> <p>He has presented on PMOs, portfolio and program and project management at international conferences in the UK, Australia, & Asia including PMI APAC in 2010. Email Gareth: gareth.byatt@gmail.com</p> |
|  | <p>Gary Hamilton has 16+ years of project and program management experience in IT, finance, and human resources and volunteers as the VP of Professional Development for the PMI East Tennessee chapter. Gary is a 2009 & 2010 Presidents’ Volunteer Award recipient for his charitable work with local fire services and professional groups. He has won several internal awards for results achieved from projects and programs he managed as well as being named one of the Business Journal’s Top 40 Professionals in 2007. Gary was the first person globally to obtain the five credentials PgMP®, PMP®, PMI-RMP®, PMI-SP®, CAPM®. In addition to these, Gary holds numerous other degrees and certifications in IT, management, and project management and they include: an advanced MBA degree in finance, Project+, PRINCE2, ITIL-F, MCTS (Sharepoint), MCITP (Project), and Six Sigma GB professional certifications. Email Gary: Gary@PMOracles.com or contact him through LinkedIn.</p> |
|  | <p>Jeff Hodgkinson is a 32 year veteran of Intel Corporation, where he continues on a progressive career as a program/project manager. Jeff is an IT@Intel Expert and blogs on Intel’s Community for IT Professionals for Program/Project Management subjects and interests. He is also the Intel IT PMO PMI Credential Mentor supporting colleagues in pursuit of a new credential. Jeff received the 2010 PMI (Project Management Institute) Distinguished Contribution Award for his support of the Project Management profession from the Project Management Institute. Jeff was also the 2nd place finalist for the 2009 Kerzner International Project Manager of the Year Award™. He lives in Mesa, Arizona, USA and is a member of Phoenix PMI Chapter. Because of his contributions to helping people achieve their goals, he is the third (3rd) most recommended person on LinkedIn with 555+ recommendations, and is ranked 54th most networked LinkedIn person. He gladly accepts all connection invite requests from PM practitioners at: www.linkedin.com/in/jeffhodgkinson. Jeff holds numerous certifications and credentials in program and project management, which are as follows: CAPM®, CCS, CDT, CPC™, CIPM™, CPPM–Level 10, CDRP, CSM™, CSQE, GPM™, IPMA-B®, ITIL-F, MPM™, PME™, PMOC, PMP®, PgMP®, PMI-RMP®, PMI-SP®, PMW, and SSGB. Jeff is an expert at program and project management principles and best practices. He enjoys sharing his experiences with audiences around the globe as a keynote speaker at various PM events. Email Jeff: jghmesa@gmail.com</p> |



International Project Management Day

November 3, 2011

Visit <http://www.internationalpmday.org/Home/tabid/514/Default.aspx>

For further information.

On the Acknowledgements page, there are even Project Management song lyrics and yes, even Project Management poems.

In honor of International Project Management Day, IIL offers **free PDU's**. You must register for the event:

http://events.unisfair.com/index.jsp?eid=1022&seid=374&cm_mid=1023923&cm_crmid=%7B55795537-ACF3-DF11-8C70-00219B9D002A%7D&cm_medium=email

November Mobile Branch Meeting Information

November 16, 2011

Upcoming November Meeting Information

Speaker: Bruce Coole, Airbus

Topic: “Visual Tools: An Extension of Program Management”

Watch <http://pmiemeraldcoastfl.org/Branches/Mobile/MobileBranch.html> for additional meeting information and registration.

Earn **1.0 PDU** for attending! Bring your own lunch.

Look for more information on the [Mobile Branch](#) page of the Chapter website or contact

Carrie French, PMP Director, Mobile Branch at directormobilebranch@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org

SEMINARSWORLD 2011

PDU OPPORTUNITIES

October 19-22, 2011

October 26-27, 2011

**Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center
Grapevine, Texas**

Visit <http://congresses.pmi.org/NorthAmerica2011/Seminars/> for registration and course offering information.

These are offered several days prior to and after the 2011 PMI Global Congress North American Conference.

PMO SYMPOSIUM 2011

November 6-9, 2011

**LOEWS ROYAL PACIFIC RESORT
ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

Hot Topics in 2011:

**Portfolio Management
Enterprise PMO and PMO 2.0
Resource and Demand Management
Strategy and Organizational Alignment
PMO Agility
Benefits Realization
Success Case Studies**

Visit <http://www.pmosymposium.org/index.htm> for registration and more information.

Where do I take the PMP Exam?

If you are not taking a PMP training class that includes taking the exam, you may be wondering how/where you will take your test. The PMI website provides the name of the testing company but not much more in the way of specifics. You might start your search using the following URL: <http://www.prometric.com/default.htm> As you drill down to find a testing site, be aware that the one most convenient for YOU may not be in Florida; for instance, the site in Mobile Alabama is more convenient if you live near Pensacola. Another possibility is Tallahassee—depending on your location.

Interested in forming a PMP Study Group?

Keith Yockey, VP Professional Development would like to hear from you if you are interested in participating in a study group to prepare for the PMP Exam. Some details remain to be resolved, such as finding a suitable location; but the Board has access to study materials and is willing to name a POC if sufficient interest is shown. Also, this would provide another way for current PMPs to earn PDUs—by leading a session.

So—if you are interested in forming a PMP Study Group or leading a session, please contact Keith Yockey, PMP at: vpprofdevelopment@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org

PMI Emerald Coast FL Chapter Needs YOU!

If you are interested in volunteering, the Chapter has many opportunities for Volunteers and you can earn PDUs at the same time. The Chapter has a continuous needs for volunteers to help board members with planning and executing Chapter activities.

Volunteering is an excellent way to expand your contact network, and to increase your skills and qualifications as a leader.

Board Members earn 10 PDUs for their service. Chapter volunteers also earn PDUs to help you meet your continuing certification requirements for your PMP. However, having a PMP is **NOT** a prerequisite!

NOT a member of PMI® or the Chapter?

When you become a PMI member, you'll gain access to knowledge, networks and resources that can help you to improve your work and advance your career in project management. Membership means you'll be recognized as someone who is:

- Serious about professional and personal development
- Enthusiastic about good practices in project management
- Dedicated to practicing your profession in an ethical manner

All of these factors give you an edge in the job market and distinguish you to employers, colleagues and stakeholders. Go to <http://www.pmi.org/en/Membership/Membership-Benefits-of-Membership.aspx> for more details on how to become a member of PMI and the Emerald Coast FL Chapter

Chapter Website

www.pmiemeraldcoastfl.org

Check the website often for information regarding Chapter Events (and registration for Events), Newsletters, as well as PDU-earning opportunities such as Webinars, Classes and Bootcamp sessions that might be of interest to our members. You will also find the Monthly Training Session presentations on the website; these are posted within a day or so after the monthly membership meeting. We encourage suggestions and other input regarding Newsletter and/or Website content. If you have an item or an idea for Newsletter or Website content —please send it to: info@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org

Academic Resources

To advance the teaching of project management in higher education, PMI offers a range of programs and services for students, professors, researchers and educational institutions.

Student Resources: For students, PMI continues to develop educational resources to help them achieve their academic goals. PMI also offers discounted student memberships, tuition scholarships, professional credentials and the ability to get involved in communities to learn and network with other students and project management practitioners.

Faculty Resources: Classroom resources such as teaching case studies, journal articles, *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge* and other global standards have proven invaluable to instructors. PMI also offers a scholarly journal and research grant opportunities.

Institutional Resources: Because higher education plays an important role in advancing project management, PMI offers programs that give recognition to universities and colleges that meet quality standards for project management education and training.

From: PMI website - see “Academic Resources” under “Academic Degree Accreditation” on the “Career Development” page on the PMI.org website: www.pmi.org.

Chapter Communications

If you are receiving e-mail communications from the PMI Emerald Coast Florida Chapter - your e-mail address is on our distribution list. You have been added to this list because - (1) you have requested notification of chapter events (2) we have received notification from the PMI that you have joined/renewed your membership in our chapter (includes contact info) and/or (3) you are a PMI member in our area and we hope to interest you in an upcoming chapter event (including Chapter Branch formation). Also—when you renew your membership - please ensure your contact information is current!

It is not our intent to contact anyone who wishes to be excluded from our distribution list. If you receive unwanted e-mail from the PMI Emerald Coast Florida Chapter- please contact the VP Communications at vpcommunications@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org and request to be removed from this distribution list.

For new members who may not yet be receiving chapter e-mail notices - depending on the day of the month you join it may take a couple of weeks for us to receive your information from the PMI. Please feel free to contact the VP Communications to have your e-mail address added to our distribution list rather than waiting for PMI to send us their notification.