FROM SHOESTRINGS TO GENEROUS DONOR GIVING BACK THROUGH PMIEF SCHOLARSHIPS

Professional development scholarships for educators, students, nonprofit staff and emerging practitioners are now available thanks to donor Cornelius Fichtner, PMP®, and OSP International, LLC.

The 2016 Community Advancement Through PM Award

Project management training provides youth with the skills to shape their own future and make their dreams a reality. Watch this short video to see the impact your gifts to PMIEF are having on the next generation.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Donor believes every member of PMI should give annually to the PMI Educational Foundation to support youth training in project management.

RELATED RESOURCES

Are you or is someone you know in need of scholarship help to advance project management skills? Whether you’re already enrolled in an academic program and want to study project management or you’re thinking about additional training for professional development, PMIEF has scholarship opportunities available to you.
FROM SHOESTRINGS TO GENEROUS DONOR
GIVING BACK THROUGH PMIEF SCHOLARSHIPS

OSP International LLC, and its Founder and President, Cornelius Fichtner, PMP, continue to expand their generosity to serve PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) constituents through gratis project management professional development opportunities.

A Swiss native, Cornelius originally came to the U.S. in 2003 with a company that, soon after, terminated his position. After attending a networking meeting with other unemployed project managers, he knew he needed to differentiate himself. He began to pursue PMP certification and needed to do so as economically as possible.

"Thanks to books I borrowed from the library, my local PMI chapter and a free online PMP course, I prepared and passed my exam during a really tough time for me personally and was able to do it inexpensively," he shares.

His personal experience during a difficult time, today motivates Cornelius to be generous toward others who may be in a similar situation. His giving back to the project management profession began when he launched The Project Management Podcast™ a decade ago. "The podcast is really my hobby," he says. "I do it because I love project management, I love to podcast and I find it a wonderful way to reach out and give back personally to the community."

When he founded OSP International, the company intentionally took its first PMP training course to market with a low price point. "There's always been a helping idea around what we do. We have a sizable customer base around the world. To some, the price of our course is little, but to others it might be a quarter of their next month's salary," he says.

Today the company continues to offer a variety of excellent training and professional development resources at a reasonable price. The Project Management PrepCast™ is one of the most popular PMP video training courses on the market because it's accessible to anyone with a smartphone. "The training material is developed especially for the mobile user. It's always in your pocket, and if you have an iPhone there's no additional software to install," Cornelius explains.

The idea to partner with PMIEF to provide project management training scholarships came about when OSP began to receive multiple requests for free or discounted access to their paid courses. "We had so many people writing to us about it. We needed someone to determine who should get a scholarship. Finding an organization like PMIEF to help us with that determination—that was important for us," he says.

The PMIEF/OSP International Scholarship Program was initiated in 2015, providing eligible applicants with the opportunity to complete a project management practices course and to take practice exams leading to the PMP certification exam.

In 2016, OSP increased their PMIEF scholarship contribution. The next deadline is the 1st of March and applicants may select
from The PM PrepCast, The PM Exam Simulator or The Agile PrepCast™. In addition, a Certified Associate in Project Management scholarship (CAPM®) is a new training opportunity this year, and it will be offered as a bundle to include coursework as well as preparation for the CAPM exam. Coursework, coupled with practice exams, are in high demand by nonprofit staff and educators who are just beginning to implement project management practices in their organizations and classrooms.

Cornelius recognizes the great need for project management training around the world. "More and more people are just falling into the field. They go to work one morning, and the boss says, 'There's something very important for you to work on,' and suddenly you're doing a project. It's happening all over the world. People everywhere who have become project managers want to show their employers they are certified and know what they are doing, but they may not have the funds to do so. That's where we want to help out," he explains.

In addition to the scholarships, OSP also makes a cash donation to PMIEF every year. "It really has to do with the fact that when I started out my journey, I had to do it on a shoestring budget. I personally want to help those who just have shoestrings available and need help," he says.

*For more information about the scholarships available or to apply, please visit the Scholarship section of the PMIEF website or OSP International’s website.*

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The 2016 Community Advancement Through PM Award

PMIEF is accepting applications for the 2016 Community Advancement Through PM Award. This award is aligned with PMIEF’s focus on Project Management for Social Good®. It recognizes PMI chapters, individual project managers and corporations/government agencies for their significant achievement in increasing a nonprofit’s organizational competency; improving the well-being of a community through the completion of a project; or, applying project management principles to the pro bono delivery of nonprofit services. For more information, or to apply before the deadline of 20 May 2016, please visit our website.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT:
Miguel Sáenz de Viguera, PMP®

Miguel Sáenz de Viguera, PMP, has been a member of the Project Management Institute since October 2002, and he earned his PMP certification in 2004, counting himself as one of the first PMPs in Spain. In 2007, he was the first Spaniard to be recognized with PMI’s Distinguished Contribution Award for his significant achievements to the advancement of the project management profession.

Miguel believes one of his most important professional contributions to the field of Project Management was that of creating a project management methodology, training the employees in PM, and establishing the Project Management Office at Indra, Spain’s leading consulting and technology multinational corporation. Miguel spent more than seven years as the Project Management Corporate Director for the company. Following his retirement from Indra three years ago, Miguel worked in Spain as an independent consultant and a visiting professor teaching business strategy, innovation and project management to postgraduate students at Deusto Business School and at Mondragon University.

Since 2003, Miguel has been an annual donor to the PMI Educational Foundation because he is convinced of the value of educating youth in project management. "Education is the most valuable gift we can give to young people, especially those from undeveloped countries," he says.

He’s thankful for the role PMI and PMIEF have played in the creation and dissemination of project knowledge, skills, tools, techniques and education. "I have been working with projects for 45 years, and 45 years ago project management was just intuition and Gantt charts. There was not a system or procedure to manage the projects. The contribution of PMI to create the knowledge and process of project management has been marvelous. As members of PMI, we receive a lot from the organization. We should each contribute to the knowledge and tools PMIEF creates to share project management with the world," he says.

With the speed of change in today’s world, Miguel appreciates the work of PMIEF to help bring the tools and expertise of our profession into the day-to-day lives of people who need them worldwide.

"The speed of change is faster than ever in our history, and projects and project management are key drivers for effective innovation and change creation. Teaching project management to children and young people is, in my opinion, a major contributor to eradicating poverty from the world in our days," he says.

He’s doing his part, too. Miguel recently began volunteering with a local parochial school connected to the Catholic Church in his town of Getxo. There he works with children of immigrants teaching math, Spanish and, of course, project management skills, using some of PMIEF’s no-cost resources like the Spanish language translated "PM Toolkit for Teachers" and the "PM Toolkit for Youth."
PMIEF has a wide variety of scholarships available and our Scholarships, Grants & Awards portal makes it simple to find one that's right for you. There are scholarships for academic graduates, academic undergraduates, professional development, as well as training for nonprofits, school administrators and teachers. Take a look today!

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