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PMIEF SCHOLARSHIP PUTS WINNER ON PATH TO SUCCESS

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: CURTIS AND PENNI JAMES, PMP

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PMIEF SCHOLARSHIP PUTS WINNER ON PATH TO SUCCESS

Even as a young girl, Dr. Elizabeth Ardolino, PMP, had set her sights on earning a doctorate degree someday.

Her career began in the defense industry, which led her to join the U.S. Army. Then she earned her Associate in Arts in Computer Studies, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Master of Project Management, and Project Management Professional (PMP) certification. But financial realities made the doctorate appear out of reach.

Along the way, she became involved with PMI, serving on the Chicagoland Board of Directors in the roles of Academic Outreach and Corporate Outreach Program Director. “I jumped in full feet,” she replied.

That's when she learned about the Dr. Harold Kerzner Scholarship. Sponsored by the International Institute for Learning and offered by PMIEF, the scholarship each year awards up to US$7,500 to four students who are pursuing graduate or undergraduate degrees in project management or related fields of study.

Receiving the scholarship in 2010, 2012 and 2014 enabled Dr. Ardolino to extend her studies and realize her dream. In 2015, she attained her PhD in Organizational Management with a specialization in Project Management. That opened new doors in her career. Dr. Ardolino is now on the faculties of DePaul University and Ashford University, which enables her to have an impact every day on her students, as she passes her passion for project management to the next generation. “I was born a project manager,” she said. “It’s part of who I am. I was always the one organizing my toys and setting up lemonade stands.”

Besides teaching and advising, Dr. Ardolino helps advance the project management profession in other ways. She serves as a PMIEF scholarship volunteer judge, helping select future scholarship recipients. She also made PMIEF the beneficiary of a life insurance policy and designated that the proceeds be used to establish a new $25,000 PMIEF scholarship.

“Being a scholarship recipient made me want to turn around and give an opportunity to others who otherwise would not be able to continue with school,” she said. “My education spanned over 35 years, with 20 years dedicated to earning four degrees. I’m so grateful that the Kerzner scholarship helped make it possible. I think PMIEF is a fantastic organization.”

PMIEF offers an array of academic and professional development scholarships. See the scholarship directory to learn more about applications for 2018.

Go to our Facebook page to get involved in our active community and see what everyone is talking about!
DONOR SPOTLIGHT: CURTIS AND PENNI JAMES, PMP

Penni James' volunteer commitment to PMI and belief in PMIEF’s mission led her and her husband, Curtis, to take the simple step of revising their wills. In 2009, they added language to establish a bequest designating a percentage of their estate to helping ensure the foundation’s work continues.

It all began when Penni's passion for education and professional development inspired her to establish a resource library for her local PMI chapter in Dallas, Texas, USA, where she has been active since earning her PMP in 2005. “Someone suggested I reach out to the foundation for resources to include,” she recalls.

The library is mobile — it is brought out on a 7-foot wheeled cart at monthly chapter meetings and contains books and more to help members grow in their profession. It's an example of how much Penni values continuous learning.

Among the resources are ones that hold special meaning: books by Jim Rankin, a fellow PMI Chapter member who was also a co-worker and friend of Penni's. Jim passed away suddenly in 2004. In addition to his full-time work as a project manager and lead programmer/analyst in the financial industry, Jim taught college-level technology classes.

PMIEF now manages a scholarship in Jim's name that the Dallas Chapter sponsors. The James Rankin Memorial Scholarship awards up to $2,500 annually to a Texas resident who is pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in project management or related field of study.

Penni and Curtis value their commitments. The couple, who have been married for 22 years, are deeply involved in their community, their professions, and with the causes and people who mean the most to them. They call Dallas home and have long worked in the city’s thriving information technology field. Curtis is a software developer, and Penni is manager of the implementation department at a software company.

“I'm a natural organizer,” says Penni. “I went into programming first and gravitated toward project management. It was a natural progression from leaving coding to focusing on keeping all the parts moving.”

Ever since learning how PMIEF promotes project management education, she has been inspired. “My time and energy are focused on education,” she says. “I like PMIEF’s mission: serving and educating the world about project management principles — skill sets to help themselves in their everyday lives.”

From there, the decision to support PMIEF after their lifetime felt right, and including the bequest in their will was easy. “We asked ourselves ‘Who do we want to support?’ and it just made sense,” Penni says. “We believe in PMIEF’s mission now; why not support them at the end? It’s a natural fit.”

Curtis and Penni James are among the many generous individuals who have taken steps to give to PMIEF through their estate plans. Are you interested in learning more about including PMIEF in your will? See here for sample bequest language you can use.
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PMIEF offers a variety of academic and professional development scholarships to help encourage and support emerging project managers ... and advance the profession into the future!

PMIEF Academic Scholarships
These support qualified individuals who wish to obtain degrees from accredited academic institutions. Learn more here.

PMIEF Professional Development Scholarships These support professional development for project managers, nonprofit staff, school administrators and teachers. Learn more here.

Meet our 2017 PMIEF Scholarship Recipients here! These deserving individuals gain priceless skills that last a lifetime — all thanks to PMIEF’s generous donors!
SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE YOU CAN USE

Including PMIEF in your will is a way to leave a legacy of project management education, while multiplying the impact you can have for decades to come.

Below is sample language for leaving a charitable bequest to PMIEF. Always consult your advisor on language that is appropriate for your intentions:

“I, [name], of [city, state/province, ZIP/postal code, country], give, devise and bequeath to the Project Management Institute Educational Foundation [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of the property] for its unrestricted use and purpose.”

Learn more about planning a Legacy Gift to PMIEF.