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BRAZILIAN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS LEARN LIFE-TRANSFORMING SKILLS

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Andre De Francesco, PE, PMP®

Andre De Francesco joined PMI in 2003 when he received his PMP® credential and has been a PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) donor ever since.

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BRAZILIAN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS LEARN LIFE-TRANSFORMING SKILLS

Students graduating from the Nokia Teaching Foundation Technical School in Manaus, Brazil, are heading into their university and professional lives better equipped for success because of the program "Project Management to Transform," conducted by volunteers from the local PMI Manaus Brazil Chapter and using materials from the PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF).

Directly after the training, one student working on his university applications said he would use what he learned to help him get accepted into university. This is a great indicator that the program achieved what it set out to do: help young people develop the skills of project management for success in all areas of life.

"Project Management to Transform" launched with a five-day training of 26 teachers in March 2015, followed by another event in April when the trained teachers then joined with PMI volunteers to teach project management to students. Currently, 120 students have benefited from this training, with plans to include more students in the future.

It is a project that Ana Carolina Gaeta, Project Manager at Quartz Diagnostic Engineering & Management, was very excited to be involved in. She said, "Since learning about project management in college, I have wanted to teach project management to high school youth. I have seen that knowing project management can be used to make everything easier in our personal and professional lives."

Gaeta serves as the Special Projects Director and PMIEF Liaison for the PMI Manaus Brazil Chapter. She was joined by Thiago Maron and Vitor Kurahayashi to teach the “Project Management to Transform” program at the Nokia Teaching Foundation.

The Nokia Teaching Foundation (the Brazilian name is Fundação Nokia de Ensino) is Nokia’s biggest social project in the world. Located in the city of Manaus in the Brazilian Rainforest, where Nokia also has a factory, it is one of the best educational institutes in the northern region of Brazil. Currently supported by Microsoft, the Nokia Teaching Foundation has major importance for the community, as many students do not have the financial resources to pay tuition. Depending on their family income, students can receive substantial discounts on an education that prepares them for jobs in the Manaus Industrial District.

Vitor Kurahayashi, President, PMI Manaus Brazil Chapter, approached the headmaster of the Nokia Teaching Foundation with the idea of offering project management training. The headmaster then arranged a meeting with their board of directors to present the collaboration opportunity. Because the Nokia Teaching Foundation has great interest in providing quality education for both teachers and students, they were very excited to approve the program.

Volunteers translated the Project Management Toolkit for Teachers™ resource; created a theoretical project for the design of a souvenir using Nokia Teaching Foundation colors; a Foundation mascot, and, developed training videos with segments from Ricardo Vargas, a great Brazilian project manager. The training was very comprehensive and also included warm-up activities related to each project phase they were working on (defining, planning, doing and reviewing) and case studies.

In addition to making plans to offer the training again at the end of this year, the trained teachers commented that they will use the Toolkit on an ongoing basis and recognize many ways to apply project management and teach it to their students. Gaeta also expressed a desire to provide this training to other public schools where most students will not have the opportunity to attend a university that offers this training. She said, "No matter what your goals, they can be better accomplished with project management."
DONOR SPOTLIGHT:
Andre De Francesco, PE, PMP®

Andre De Francesco joined PMI in 2003 when he received his PMP® credential and has been a PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) donor ever since. He is passionate in his belief that project management education can bring about social good. He acts on that belief through his contributions to PMIEF.

"Project management is a very important discipline that has application in many industries and situations. It is a very valuable tool to use to provide help and to support the development of populations that have less," De Francesco says.

De Francesco has worked for Shell, a global group of energy and petrochemicals companies, for 24 years and is currently working as a construction lead on an off-shore floating platform. Even though he is originally from Brazil, the majority of his years with Shell have been spent working abroad, with a recent return to Rio de Janeiro.

"In Brazil, we don't have a culture of donating and supporting others, but I think it's important to provide opportunities for those who don't have the same conditions and ways to achieve a better way of living," De Francesco states. "It is part of social responsibility to do that."

Along with the value he places on project management, De Francesco is also motivated to give by his deep sense of gratitude. "I consider myself very lucky. I had the opportunity to go to a good public school in Brazil that placed no [financial] burden on my family. I feel a sense of responsibility to help others because of this. If anyone feels satisfied with the advantage their education brings to their life, it is natural to provide this education and new ways of thinking to others who did not have the same opportunities."

Along with his contributions to PMIEF, De Francesco has passed on project management principles to his own family and has seen the impact.

"I share these principles because they provide a way to allow others to achieve. My daughter is an anthropologist working in the Amazon tropical forest where there are projects to help communities there. She and I have had many interactions that have allowed me to share project management ideas with her. These ideas can be taken to the fishermen, those who gather rubber, or work in a body shop. There are people who are relegated to public support who can learn to work together, create, plan, and achieve common objectives to improve living conditions. And I have seen the results of people receiving the advantages of learning project management principles," says De Francesco.

Given De Francesco's long-standing commitment to the Educational Foundation, there is no question that he assigns great value to project management and, like other project managers grateful for the impact of project management skills in their lives, is very happy to support the work of PMIEF.
Scholarship Application Reminder

Global scholarships for professional development are awarded annually in varying amounts.

- The Project Management Institute has donated [PMI Chapter Milestone Professional Development Scholarships](http://pmief.org) to chapters that have reached their 30-year, 35-year, and 40-year milestones.

- Several former PMI Communities of Practice have donated [professional development scholarships for project management practitioners](http://pmief.org).

**Deadline: July 31**

Descriptions, criteria, and applications are available at [PMIEF.org](http://pmief.org).

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