TEACHER INSPIRES STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUCCESS

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: PAUL AARON, PMP

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Learn how our helpful resources can support classroom learning for students around the globe.
TEACHER INSPIRES STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUCCESS

On October 5, 2017, we celebrated World Teachers’ Day, to recognize the important role that teachers play across the world. Terry Walker, an experienced marketing teacher in Southport, North Carolina, is a shining example.

Helping students learn project management skills comes naturally for Terry. One opportunity he helps students take advantage of is the Project Management Fundamentals digital badge — a unique way for students to learn and demonstrate their PM competence.

“I was part of the team that developed the project management curriculum for North Carolina high schools,” Terry says. “When I found out about the digital badge program, I thought it was a great way to help students share their achievement.”

The Project Management Fundamentals digital badge is awarded to students who pass a knowledge test of basic project management concepts. The test is hosted and proctored by NOCTI, the largest provider of industry-based credentials and certifications across the United States.

What's a digital badge? Designed for students 12-19 years and available at no cost to them, it is a powerful new tool that recognizes competence in project management principles, as opposed to achieving a certain number of classroom hours. Students can achieve proficiency in a variety of ways, whether through a formal course or an organized extra-curricular activity. Students who understand project management at the level represented by PMIEF’s Project Management Skills for Life® guide are well prepared for achieving the digital badge.

The digital badge contains embedded information, including the issuer and the specific criteria for earning that badge. This information can be easily shared with interested parties through job postings, social media (for example, LinkedIn), and other websites.

“I like to implement new content in order to keep students engaged,” Terry reflects. “We developed a service project around household essential products for families receiving food assistance, a project that allowed students to give back to needy families. I’m hopeful we can expand on it for many classes going forward.”

Terry is devoted to building career- and college-ready students, and project management plays an important role. “It’s been quite a learning experience for these students,” says Terry. “I think one reason they get into it is because it’s different than their standard classes, they like the projects, they like the presentations, and they understand pretty quickly they have the opportunity to build real-world skills.”

PM skills learned throughout the service project prepared students for digital badge testing. “What I like about the digital badging program is that students can achieve something relevant they can use the rest of their life,” Terry says. The global demand for project management skills makes the digital badge program a valuable stepping stone to student performance, future college admissions and career success.

“I help students understand that no matter what they end up doing, these are 21st-century skills and they're going to end up doing project work and group work, that's the way things are.”

Under Terry's guidance, the program at South Brunswick High School has resulted in 46 students obtaining the badge. Nationally, 465 students have earned the certification.

In addition to the student badge, PMIEF also offers a digital badge for teachers. Designed to demonstrate teachers’ ability to use project management for student learning, the badge differs from the student badge. The teacher badge is not evidence of project management proficiency itself; rather it recognizes their competence in using project management in the classroom. Teachers who apply project management skills in their classroom setting are eligible to submit for the badge. The digital badge for teachers is administered by Digital Promise and is hosted on the bloomboard.com platform. Because of the association with Digital Promise, teachers in some states can earn CEUs for earning a project management digital badge.

In commemoration of World Teachers’ Day on October 5, we recognize the work of Terry Walker and many others who use Project Management for Social Good® to help students learn project management skills for their future success.

Click here to learn more about our student digital badging program.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT: PAUL AARON, PMP

Paul Aaron spent his career in the military and in the Department of Energy (DOE) mentoring others and helping them achieve success.

In 2000, the DOE was facing project management challenges. “My role within the DOE was focused in Environmental Management, basically cleaning up nuclear waste sites,” says Paul. “We had a deficiency in succeeding at completing critical projects. We had to roll up information from all of the clean-up sites and report it to Congress. And there was good evidence that we needed people who were certified in project management in order to do it well.”

The organization sought to get 500 people certified as Project Managers and Paul was one of them. “If we took the course we had six months to pass the exam,” Paul says. Which he did. Paul passed the PMP exam and, shortly after that, decided he wanted to do a little more. He reached out to his local chapter, PMI Washington DC Chapter, and volunteered to help.

“They had a need for someone to manage the certification program. And as I started to learn more, I found out there was also an organization called PMIEF,” says Paul. “I heard they did good work and they were interested in training young people and getting them involved. That really appealed to me.”

Paul grew up in Florida, in the segregated south, and knew firsthand what it felt like to have unequal access to the tools of success. He thought PMIEF was an organization he could contribute to and have great impact on future generations.

“I’ve been a mentor my whole career, whether in the Air Force or at the Department of Energy. In order to relate to different kinds of people I had to learn some things, I had to unlearn some things, I had to develop skills at how to manage people and manage critical assets,” he says. “My project management skills played a huge role in how to smooth things out between different people, how to take the time and give people the tools they need and make everyone accountable for their part.”

Paul has seen the light bulb go on for people when they’re exposed to project management. He believes strongly in the discipline of creating a win-win situation to achieve positive project results.

“PMIEF does so much to affect the next generation,” according to Paul. “When I see children in different parts of the world, I see young folks who don’t have the same opportunities as many others do. Education is the currency they need.”

Paul believes strongly in the power of project management education. He has been a donor to PMIEF each year since 2004, and he served for two years as a Board member for his local chapter.

Today Paul is enjoying retirement from his role at the DOE, but he still holds PMIEF in extremely high regard and continues to be a loyal annual supporter.
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Don’t forget PMIEF when you renew your PMI membership for 2017!

Your kind support to PMIEF when you renew your PMI membership helps sustain our important work. A gift today of $25, $50, $100 or more will make project management knowledge and resources available to those who otherwise would not receive them.

Your partnership makes an incredible difference. Through your partnership, you directly help bring transformational learning resources to youth, teachers and nonprofits around the globe, leveraging project management for social good®.

You’ll also help PMIEF fulfill our mission: to inspire and empower people to realize their potential and transform their lives and communities through the use of project management knowledge. And you’ll raise up the next generation of project managers ...

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PMIEF STUDENT AND TEACHER RESOURCES

PMIEF provides a diverse group of versatile resources for both students and teachers, in order to support acquiring PM skills in the classroom. These important tools address project management learning and teaching from a variety of perspectives. As you explore bringing project management into the classroom, the following two resources can be highly useful:

**Project Management Skills for Life** is a guide for students that presents an introduction to the essentials of project management. Organized in a course format, Project Management Skills for Life helps teams effectively create a plan, organize activities and train individuals to complete projects of all types. Learn more and download this useful resource [here](#).

**Project Management Toolkit for Teachers** gives teachers a user-friendly resource to teach students the universal skills of project management. Organized modularly, the toolkit provides teachers an understanding of how students can leverage project management in their classroom projects, a complete set of tools for integrating project management skills into their classroom, and guidance for teaching students to co-manage projects using the contained materials. Learn more and download this useful resource [here](#).

In addition to these tools, PMIEF provides a variety of other valuable content including case studies, practice guides, workshop information, and PM career exploration. [Click here to learn more](#).