Resources to Build Project Management-Knowledgeable Youth

The need is there: The Economist Intelligence Unit says “95 percent of executives identified project management as the single most important skill for their current and future success.” The Anderson Economic Group reports, “32.6 million employees with project management skills will be needed in 2016.”

While learning project management skills is important to employers, it is equally important to students. Project management in education helps students learn and practice important 21st century skills through hands-on, real-world projects, helping to prepare them for success in any career they choose.

Whether to satisfy employers or to help students become college- and career-ready, it is essential to provide teachers with the tools and training they need to successfully bring project management into their classrooms. The PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) is building programs and resources to accomplish this.

Project Management Classroom Resources

Despite the demand from employers, project management in K-12 education is still relatively unknown, although the efforts of PMIEF and PMI volunteers are starting to change that. Because project management in education is so new, there were very few resources available for teachers. For the past several years, PMIEF has been working to fill that void and has developed a variety of classroom tools.

The Foundation offers an assortment of resources, from simple short courses to in-depth curricula that contain enough content to offer a semester-long project management course. Content is available for children ages 6–19.

Examples of PMIEF’s resources include:
- Project Management Skills for Life®—a basic 4–8 hour introduction to project management
- Careers in Project Management™—a guide to career opportunities
- Project Management Toolkit for Teachers™—robust curricula, case studies, assessments, and so forth
- 21st Century Skills Map—Project Management for Learning™—a cross between 21st century skills, project management skills and career pathways

New career and technical education resources are under development and will be piloted in the third quarter of 2015.

This is just a sampling of the resources that are available. All PMIEF resources are available on PMIEF’s website, www.pmief.org, and can be downloaded at no cost for non-commercial use.

Teacher Training

Understanding the importance of training teachers, PMIEF has developed both virtual and face-to-face teacher training.

Each of the teacher training courses integrates the best practices of project-based learning with the skills and tools of project management. The content is specific to the needs of teachers and was developed to help teachers integrate project management into the classroom.

Both the onsite and online training modules contain several key elements:
- Project management tools and knowledge
- Information on the value of project management in a project-based learning environment
- Options for using the “teacher toolkit” in the classroom

Continued on page 17
PMIEF has contracted with eNetLearning to facilitate the virtual classes. eNetLearning charges a US$85.00 facilitation fee, and CEUs or graduate credits are available for teachers taking the classes. Scholarships are available for this course. To view the course overview and registration information, please visit www.enetlearning.org.

For information on the face-to-face training and scholarships, please contact PMIEF at pmief@pmi.org.

After attending the virtual class, one of the teachers gave a great analogy, saying, “Project management is like learning to ski. The excitement of reaching the bottom of the hill (or the final product) is there, but we must keep our eyes on the slope (or the step-by-step project management process) in front of us to ensure that we will actually make it to the bottom.”

Building Project Management-Knowledgeable Youth

Teaching today’s students the life, learning and professional skill of project management will not only satisfy the needs of employers and fill project management jobs, but will also provide our students with a practical life skill that can be applied anywhere.

Help more children learn the value of project management skills. Make a gift to PMIEF now—www.pmief.org.

Recognizing that teachers are an essential component in building PM-Knowledgeable Youth, PMIEF has developed educational resources and training opportunities for teachers. Please visit www.pmief.org to learn more.