Building Youth Entrepreneurship in Argentina with Project Management

PMIEF continues its efforts to provide project management training and tools to organizations and schools around the world. This is shown in its work with Gerardo Blitzer, PMP, a regional program/project manager at Hewlett-Packard, and with PMI volunteers from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Together, the group is planning a partnership with Junior Achievement to share project management best practices with youth and the organization as a whole.

Mr. Blitzer is a member of the PMI Buenos Aires, Argentina Chapter and has held the roles of PMIEF liaison, director of volunteers and director of community relations. Among other things, he has been responsible for promoting project management best practices in the community with a special focus on schools, nonprofits and universities.

As part of his role with Hewlett-Packard, Mr. Blitzer volunteers with Junior Achievement Argentina Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on building youth entrepreneurship. As his responsibilities with the PMI chapter grew, Mr. Blitzer realized an opportunity for PMI members to provide guidance and knowledge sharing for youth participating in Junior Achievement.

In 2013, Mr. Blitzer and four PMI volunteers delivered an “Introduction to Project Management” workshop for 25 secondary school students who were involved with Junior Achievement’s “Company” program.

“We understood that they had little or no experience with project management. We wanted to share best practices, but the challenge for us was to prepare the material without getting too technical,” said Mr. Blitzer.

They decided to adapt and use a no-cost learning resource from the PMI Educational Foundation called Project Management Skills for Life®, an introductory guide focused on the basics of project management and the tools and techniques for leading successful projects. Based on this material and survey answers received from the youth prior to the workshop, the PMI volunteers focused their training on creating a work breakdown structure and managing risk factors.

“I believe it is important for youth to understand that planning is important. I think about it a lot because it’s something I do all the time, every day of my life. Whatever they do, during or after school, they need to understand that they have to be prepared to handle things that may unexpectedly come up,” said Mr. Blitzer.

In addition to planning more youth workshops for the coming year, Mr. Blitzer and the other PMI volunteers have proposed an independent partnership with Junior Achievement.

The goal is to share the best practices of project management in order to improve the organization’s operations.

Currently, both programs continue to develop their partnership for a March launch. The PMI volunteers are focused on a long-term program in which they can deliver more classes, analyze the outcomes and lessons learned, and, based on the needs of youth participants, continue to modify the relevance of the material offered.

Project Management Skills for Life
Visit pmief.org to learn more about our downloadable resource Project Management Skills for Life®. It provides a basic understanding of project management concepts that will help students effectively create a plan, organize activities and train individuals to complete simple to very complex projects.

Correction
In the listing of PMIEF 2014 scholarship recipients published in January PMI Today, we incorrectly identified the school affiliation of one of the recipients. Chris Wacaster, the winner of the PMI Minnesota Chapter’s Robert Yourzak Scholarship Award, is involved with the Masters in Project Management program at George Washington University, not Skema University. PMI Today regrets the error.