

Project Management
for Social Good.



PMIEF Recognizes Award Recipients Who Advance Project Management

The PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF), a nonprofit charitable organization, recognizes the advancement of project management through its awards program. Student and professional award recipients are honored for their contributions to the project management profession through scholarly research and the practical application of project management skills both inside and outside the workplace. Current awards include:

- The Kerzner Award for Excellence in Project Management
- The Donald S. Barrie Award
- The James R. Snyder International Student Paper of the Year Award

The Kerzner Award, sponsored by the International Institute for Learning, Inc., recognizes project managers who most emulate the professional dedication and excellence of Harold Kerzner, MS, MBA, PhD. The award will be presented to this year's recipient, Sarina Arcari, PMP, at PMI® Global Congress—North America (11–13 October 2015; Orlando, Florida, USA).

"Projects are the vehicle by which industry, medicine, academia, arts and governments innovate and evolve. Projects change the world and the world is changing ever more rapidly each year," said Ms. Arcari. "Project management skills are not only important for businesses wanting to achieve results, they are critical life skills that propel our civilization forward.

"Much of what prevents people from completing their work is a combination of not knowing where to begin, not

taking the time to document the steps required and not establishing a timeframe within which to achieve their objective," she continued. "All of this discipline is captured within project management methodologies. Project management methodologies allow people to take very large and daunting objectives and break them down into manageable, achievable tasks, while ultimately accomplishing more than they initially imagined possible.

"For me, the discipline of project management and the tools and resources found within the PMI community have allowed me to help my company develop a core competency in strategic execution that has enabled unprecedented growth and evolution for our organization," stated Ms. Arcari. "To be recognized by a jury of one's peers and honored as the recipient of the 2015 Kerzner Award is both humbling and inspiring. It confirms my belief in our profession and the value it can lend to any organization that embraces it. I am so grateful to PMI for creating such a dynamic community of world changers and for challenging us to continually evolve and innovate our profession."

Ms. Arcari was selected from among five outstanding finalists, all of whom are Project Management Professional (PMP)® certification holders. Each finalist was asked to describe the most significant contribution he or she has made to his or her organization as a result of his or her project nominated for the 2015 Kerzner Award. Below are the finalists' professional roles and brief summaries of their contributions:

Sarina Arcari, PMP (2015 Kerzner Award Recipient)

Government Business Division IMO,
Anthem, Inc.

Ms. Arcari's contributions to her organization are the design, development and implementation of a strategically aligned project management office. When she was hired in 2008, there was no formal project management discipline in place in the company. While their project management methods had been mostly successful, they were not scalable or repeatable and could not meet the impending challenges related to healthcare reform in the United States.

Ms. Arcari used best practices and PMI resources, such as *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)*, for developing processes as well as for building a career ladder that was compliant with PMI PathPro® and with salaries based on the PMI Salary Survey. Due to her efforts, the executive leadership team named the PMO the number-one strategic objective of the enterprise. The PMO has enabled greater than 30 percent growth in the five years since it was implemented.



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Curtis Heckelman, PE, PMP

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Curtis Heckelman is the program manager for the US\$10 billion Korea Relocation Program. He undertook and led the program management organizational analysis (PMOA), which resulted in the establishment of the program management office. The PMOA assisted the Far East District Organization in determining the appropriate approaches, resources and processes that would align strategic, tactical and operational project management office functions. The PMOA describes and documents the overall management approach and organizational breakdown structure for the program, and includes positions, position descriptions, roles and responsibilities, as well as reporting matrixes. The PMOA also describes the primary interaction among agencies and stakeholders within the program.

Daniel Long, PMP

*Applications Analyst, ASG
(Former Company)*

As the director of infrastructure support services for a global software company, Daniel Long led a project team through eight acquisitions in 28 months. This involved onsite visits to multiple offices in multiple countries to determine the current state of the acquired company's network, telecommunications, software, and infrastructure, as well as to determine the workload and skill set of IT human resources. As the companies were investigated, a series of common issues in the execution phases began to emerge and, in documenting these issues, a standard series of questions was created specifically to mitigate the problem of insufficient data gathered in previous acquisitions. By incorporating this document into the initial interview process and building upon it via the lessons learned closing process, this document was continuously refined to the eventual creation of a comprehensive

questionnaire used when gathering requirements from the acquired companies.

Roderick Ramos, MIR, MTM, PMP

*Senior Project Manager,
General Electric Energy*

The project Roderick Ramos recently completed is a system integration project that implemented the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Integrated Solution project for the biggest electric distribution company in the Philippines. This highly anticipated and highly publicized project provides not just the advanced infrastructure but, more importantly, it provides the pre-paid electric service that revolutionizes the way Filipinos consume energy. Thus, with about 6 million households, this project has a direct impact on the country's level of capital. Through this advanced project, people will now have the ability to effectively monitor and control their energy spending and are now empowered to do so through their mobile phones, PCs and other devices.

Naresh Saharya, MS, PMI-ACP, PMP

Managing Director, Navatas Solutions Inc.

Naresh Saharya is a program director, working for a federal contractor that specializes in healthcare. In August 2010, he was recruited to spearhead the most visible and challenging project of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This project was termed the Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation System (esMD).

The requirements for the project emanated from the fact that CMS's office of financial management estimated that Medicare and Medicaid Programs annually issued billions of dollars in improper payments (approximately US\$58 billion for 2010). Most improper payments can only be detected through a manual

process comparing a claim with the medical record. In spite of extreme challenges and risks, the project team accomplished the successful development of the esMD Gateway. The CMS administration announced that the government-wide error rate decreased to 4.35 percent in the fiscal year (FY) 2012, having steadily declined from its high-water mark of 5.42 percent in FY 2009.

Student Paper Awards

The James R. Snyder International Student Paper of the Year Award

recognizes excellence in student development of original concepts in project management. Papers are selected based upon the research and creative effort that are best directed toward advancing the concepts, tools and techniques of managing project-oriented tasks.

Linda Agyapong, PMP, of Capella University is the 2015 recipient of the award. Her paper, "Impact of Quality and Risk Management on Information Technology Project Success," addresses the increased rate of project failure affecting the IT industry today.

The Donald S. Barrie Award, sponsored by the former PMI Design-Procurement-Construction Specific Interest Group (SIG), recognizes outstanding research by a student or practitioner that advances the field of design or procurement in the engineering and construction industries.

Ermal Hetemi of Eastern Michigan University is the 2015 recipient. His paper, "Attitudes Toward Integrated Project Delivery (IPD)," emphasizes the improvements done within construction processes and discusses the innovative features of IPD compared to other delivery methods.

Presentation of Awards:

The three award recipients will attend the PMI® Global Congress 2015—

North America and will be recognized at the PMI Professional Awards Gala and Reception on Saturday, 10 October. Additionally, Ms. Arcari will present “PMO Mastery—Six

Essential Elements for Exceptional Performance” at congress.

For more information about these awards and how to apply, please go to the Scholarships, Grants and Awards

section of the PMIEF website at **pmief.org/scholarships-grants-and-awards**. Questions can be addressed to **pmief@pmi.org**. College and university students as well as project management practitioners are encouraged to apply.