

Digital Student and Teacher Badging Now Available

In today's competitive business world, employers are looking for prospective employees who have skills that they value. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit report published in 2012, 95 percent of executives identified project management as the single most important skill for their current and future success. It is clear that employers value project management skills.

Badging has become very popular because it is a visual representation of achievement that can be shared across the web. These badges represent a detailed picture of a person's lifelong learning. Digital badges also contain information about the issuer and what the student needed to learn to attain that badge, which provides a clear picture of the applicant's skills and knowledge.

For those reasons, the PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) has implemented a badging program for students and a badging/micro-certification program for teachers.

Badges Aid Applications

If a student attaches a project management badge to a job application, employers are apt to give that application greater consideration. Digital badges can also help students who are applying to college. Skills that students learn through project management include time management, organization and planning. If a college admissions person understands the value of project management, they are more likely to admit students who include a digital badge on their application.

A student earns a Fundamentals of Project Management Badge by passing a knowledge test that contains questions that align with PMI standards. A study guide is available to help students prepare for the exam.

Teachers can earn badge/micro-certifications that give them an opportunity to demonstrate their expertise in using project management in the classroom. What differs for the teachers is that they submit evidence of student learning projects to demonstrate what they are teaching in the classroom.

A teacher also submits both student and teacher reflections.

Sometimes those reflections are positive. For example, "We just finished an engineering project which went extremely well. The students

demonstrated good project skills and were able to master the learning objectives." Other times, projects have not gone as expected and teachers reflect on what they will do differently in the future, or perhaps say they would not repeat the project.

The student reflections have been very interesting. Students are overwhelmingly positive about the value of learning project management. Most profess that it has been extremely useful both in and outside of the classroom.

Badging is available to students and teachers everywhere around the globe.

We are seeing both students and teachers from multiple countries express interest. Currently badging is available in English, but will most likely be expanded to other languages as the program matures.

PMIEF is partnering with NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) to facilitate in the badging process. NOCTI is the largest provider of industry-based credentials and partner industry certifications. It was chosen for their breadth of services and experience.

Both the student and teacher badging align with Mozilla Open Badging Standards, which means that the badges can be posted anywhere and that whoever is viewing the badge will see common information. This makes it very easy for an employer or college admissions officer to understand the student's skills.

At this time, badging is available at no cost for both students and teachers. In many U.S. states, teachers can earn Continuing Education Credits (CEUs), making the badge/micro-credential very valuable to teachers. Eventually PMIEF expects that all states will award these credits.

We encourage you to visit our website, pmief.org, to learn more about badging for both students and teachers, and to view additional no-cost resources to help prepare students to be college and career ready.

