



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2025

*Navigating the Now:
Empowering Project
Managers for Tomorrow*

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

ANAHEIM MARRIOTT SUITES | 7:30 AM - 6:30 PM

Printing sponsored by International Institute for Learning (IIL)



AT A GLANCE

7:30 AM	REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST & NETWORKING
8:30 AM	PMI OC CHAPTER PRESIDENT
9:00 AM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER (Amir Khamesh)
9:50 AM	BREAK
10:00 AM	CONFERENCE SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS
10:50 AM	SNACK BREAK
11:00 AM	CONFERENCE SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS
11:50 AM	LUNCH NETWORKING MUSICAL SPONSOR OVERVIEW
1:20 PM	FEATURED SPEAKER (Trina Schaetz)
1:50 PM	BREAK
2:00 PM	CONFERENCE SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS
2:50 PM	SNACK BREAK
3:00 PM	CONFERENCE SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS
3:50 PM	BREAK
4:00 PM	CONFERENCE SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS
5:30 PM	NETWORKING / HAPPY HOUR

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



WELCOME TO PMI ORANGE COUNTY'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – PDD 2025!

Dear Attendees,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Professional Development Day, presented by the PMI Orange County Chapter. This year's event reflects our chapter's remarkable growth, bold innovation, and continued commitment to advancing the project management profession.

The theme for this year's PDD, ***“Navigating the Now: Empowering Project Managers for the Future,”*** captures the essence of our work equipping professionals to lead confidently today while preparing for what's next.

Our chapter continues to embrace transformative change. We've explored AI learning, championed sustainable delivery, and equipped our community to lead in an increasingly complex, tech-driven world. We also deliver high-impact programs and events that provide lasting value to attendees empowering project professionals at every stage of their careers.

Our vision, mission, and core values continue to guide our journey. In alignment with PMI's Next strategy, we're building a future-ready community equipped with the right tools and the mindset to thrive in a constantly evolving landscape. Whether you're exploring generative AI, advancing sustainability, building PMOs, or leading agile transformations—PMI-OC is here to support you and your teams.

Today's agenda features a dynamic lineup of speakers from diverse industries, offering real-world insights on innovation, technology, future-focused leadership, and sustainable practices. Each session is designed to prepare you for what's next.

I want to thank our incredible speakers, generous sponsors, the dedicated PDD team who made this day possible, and all of our chapter volunteers. Your energy, passion, and commitment continue to fuel our chapter's success.

As we gather today, I encourage you to embrace new ideas, build meaningful connections, and invest in your career growth. Let's elevate not just our careers, but the profession as a whole.

At PMI, our purpose is clear: we maximize project success to elevate the world. **Project success starts with us. Let's shape the future together.**

Thank you for being part of PMI Orange County.

Kind regards,

Robbin Mackenzie Thomas
President, PMI-OC

About PMI-OC

PMI-OC Vision

What we aspire to be

The PMI Orange County Chapter will be recognized as a dynamic and innovative organization of Project Management Professionals dedicated to serving the Orange County community through the advancement of Project Management.

PMI-OC Mission

Who we are, What we do

PMI-OC's mission is to provide a forum for professional project managers to promote and achieve project management excellence through

- career opportunities
- providing training to attain/ maintain certifications
- networking and social interactions
- showcasing best practices

We promote project management by providing services, tools, and knowledge to project sponsors, project managers, team members, and the community.

PMI Culture Values

Make It Easy

We are easy to deal with.

When things slow us down, we find a better way.

We prioritize the impact that matters most and take the most direct route to it.

Aim Higher

We set the standard in top quality work to create the greatest impact for the PMI community.

We lead the way by thinking long-term and acting in the short-term.

We fearlessly take ownership of what we do, knowing every action counts.

Be Welcoming

We create genuine belonging for all, because our differences make us stronger.

We act with humanity, showing care, empathy and respect for others' needs.

We assume good intent and seek to understand, not judge.

Embrace Curiosity

We are always seeking ways to better serve the PMI community.

We see challenges as opportunities to innovate, and take them.

We feel able to fail fast in order to get it right.

Together We Can

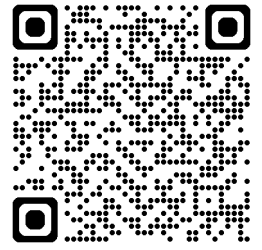
We build deep, trusting relationships that help us work towards our mission together.

We use our shared purpose to unite us as a community and drive us forward to create impact.

We act in alignment with our global goals, while being empowered to deliver locally.

Why Join PMI-OC?

- Over **1900** members, representing over **700** companies
- Networking and career building opportunities with people that work in and around where you live!
- Discounts on PMI-OC sponsored training and events
- Leadership development through volunteering with the chapter

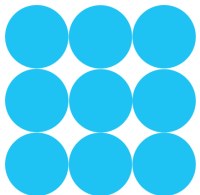


We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help keep our chapter running effectively and efficiently. Learn new skills, network with fellow Project Managers and earn valuable PDUs to maintain your credential.

Join us!

Visit our website to learn about open volunteer opportunities!

www.PMI-OC.org



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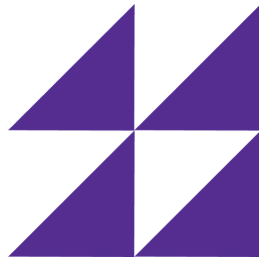
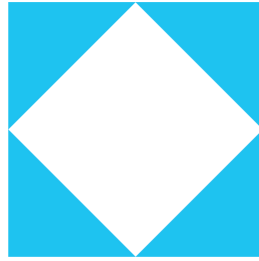
Elizabeth Blush
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Operations*



Dr. Vazi Okhandiar
*Vice President of
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Niketa Mehta
*Vice President of
Strategy*



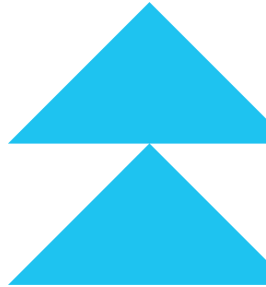

PMI-OC COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS



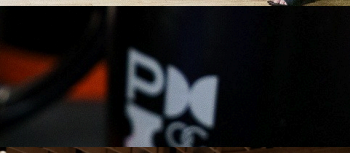
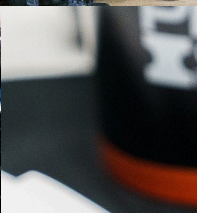
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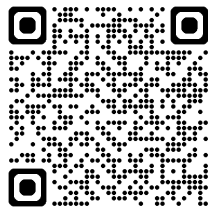
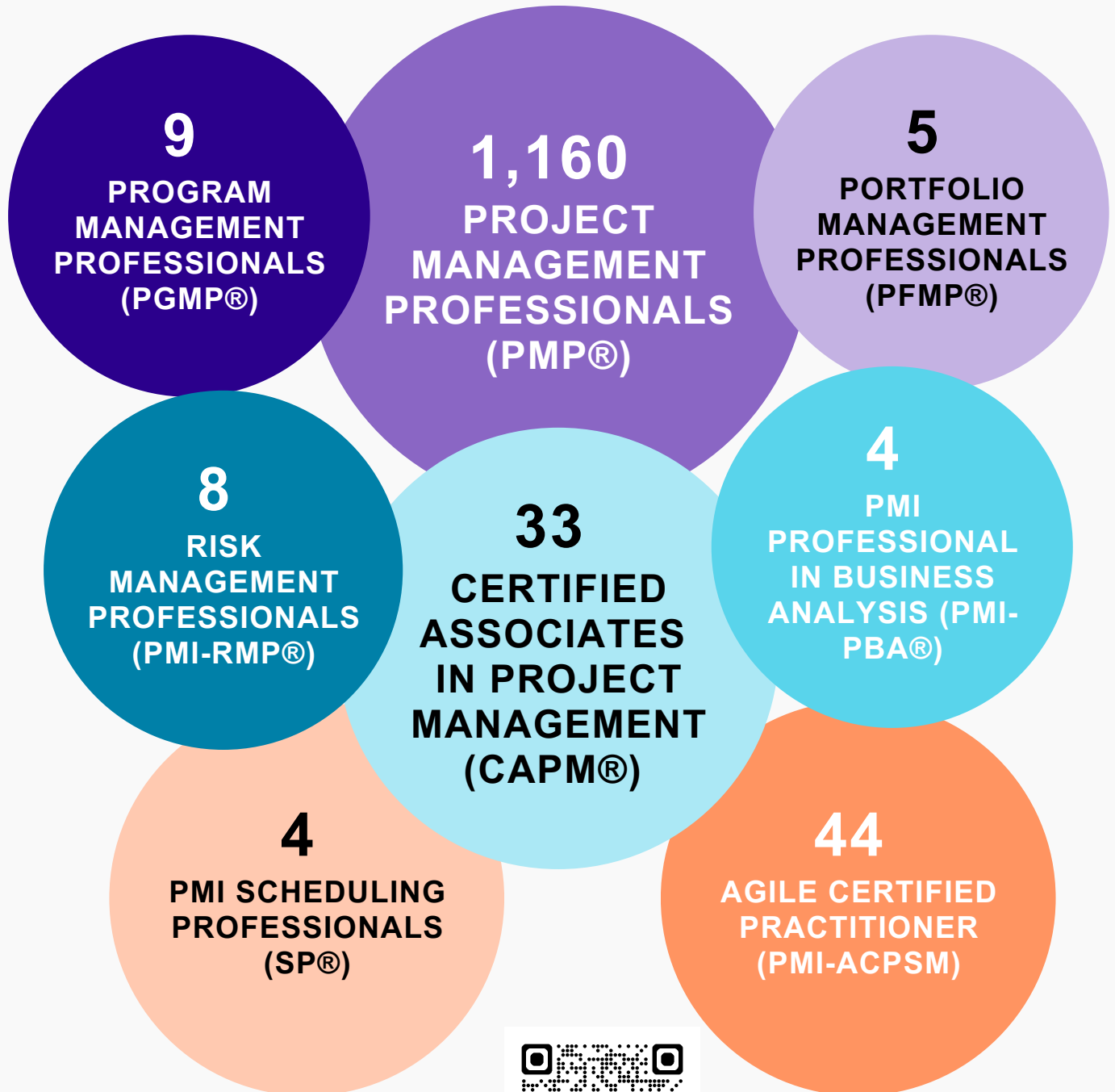






Fun Facts

Founded in 1989 • 1,960 Members



pmi-oc.org/join-pmi

About PDD 2025

Navigating the Now: Empowering Project Managers for Tomorrow

PDD 2025 features a schedule of seminars that will champion career growth, enhance your knowledge, assist you in the use of PM tools, and support your growth in new areas of project management.

As an attendee, you have the opportunity to customize your professional development track while earning up to 6.5 PDUs towards earning or maintaining your PMI credentials. Our sessions are in alignment with the PMI Talent Triangle: Ways of Working, Power Skills and Business Acumen.

Plan Your Professional Development!

The PMI Talent Triangle® |

To prepare for a future that is coming faster than ever, we see the power of melding the core insights of project management with three skill categories: a diverse understanding of Ways of Working, Power Skills, and Business Acumen.

The PMI Talent Triangle highlights these skill sets, and provides a valuable framework to help you navigate your ongoing professional development.



Visit our website to learn about additional educational opportunities: www.PMI-OC.org

Meet our Speakers!

2025 KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Amir Khamseh

Amir Khamseh's love and passion for the value a PMO brings to the business has been the driving force throughout his career. Leveraging his background as a product design and development engineer, and his experience as a project, program, and portfolio manager, Amir has led cross-functional teams in multiple industries—aligning product and service outcomes with the strategic objectives of the organizations he serves.

Amir served on the board of PMI Orange County for nearly nine years, holding roles as VP of Finance and Chapter President. He holds the PMP®, PgMP®, and PfMP® credentials from PMI, as well as a Certified ScrumMaster (CSM) designation from Scrum Alliance.

His academic achievements include a bachelor's degree in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin, a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan, and an Executive MBA from the University of California, Irvine's Paul Merage School of Business.

Amir began his career in design and development within the Aerospace (NASA) and Automotive (Chrysler) industries before transitioning to PMO leadership in the Medical Device and BioPharma sectors, working with organizations such as Johnson & Johnson, St. Jude Medical, Edwards Lifesciences, Royal Philips Medical, and Cryoport Systems.

Outside of work, Amir has been happily married for nearly 31 years and is a proud father of two adult children.

Linkedin: <https://tinyurl.com/52uet5p7>

FEATURED PRESENTATION

Wear Your Cape to Work: Uncover Your Project Management Superpowers

Every project manager has superpowers: unique strengths that make them invaluable when the pressure is on. The real challenge is recognizing those strengths, understanding the impact they have, and leading with them intentionally. In this inspiring and practical session, you will learn how to identify the qualities that set you apart as a project leader, reframe them as the source of your influence, and use them to inspire confidence in yourself and your teams. These same skills will help you articulate your value in interviews and job applications, making your strengths clear to potential employers.

You will leave with a clearer sense of your leadership identity, renewed confidence in your value, and practical ways to leverage your strengths to create lasting impact.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the personal strengths and experiences that define your unique value as a project manager.
- Apply your strengths in daily project work while helping your team recognize and leverage their own.
- Lead authentically by aligning your decisions, actions, and influence with your unique strengths.
- Tell your story by learning how to craft a compelling leadership narrative that showcases your strengths in projects, career opportunities, and professional networking



Trina Schaetz

Director of Marketing & UX | Podcast Host at Project Insight

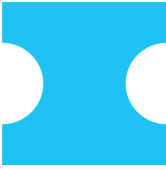
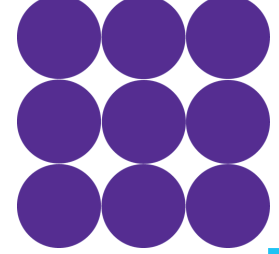
Trina Schaetz is the Director of Marketing and User Experience at Project Insight, a leading online project management platform for growing companies. Project Insight helps organizations centralize and automate project work across expanding teams and multiple software tools, enabling leaders to leverage real-time data for confident, future-focused decisions.



Known for her energy, warmth, and genuine delight in celebrating the strengths of others, Trina finds joy in creating authentic connections and spotlighting the people behind the projects. She believes that being our best at work starts with recognizing our own strengths, and that we all share a responsibility to help others bring their best too. A strong advocate for personal and corporate social responsibility, she sees every role as an opportunity to make a positive impact.



SPEAKER'S PAGE



Meet our Speakers!



Dr. Amy Altomare
*Program Director of Clinical
Quality, Strategy and
Optimization, City of Hope*



Andy Tien
*VP Marketing Strategy,
Senior Specialist
City National Bank*



Emily Woodman-Nance,
PMP
Co-Founder, Paradigm



Firoze Musthafa
*Vice President, Global delivery
mLogica LLC*



Francisco T. Avalos
*Consultant at Teissier
Consulting Services, LLC*



Jen Garcia
*AI Tools Instructor & Project
Management Podcast Host
at Caltech CTME*



Kamal Kaul
*Sr. Project Manager
IKON Project Management
Services*



Katherine Ajk
*Business Transformation and
Process Excellence Leader
Operations Excellence and
Business Transformation*



Kristine A. Hayes Munson,
MBA, PMP, CIA, CISM
*Managing Director
State Street*



SPEAKER'S PAGE

Meet our Speakers!



Joy Toney
*Sr. Program Consultant
AIM For Change LLC*



Mai Tran
*VP of Membership
PMI Orange County*
Deborah Gibbs
*Director of Digital Media
PMI Orange County*



Manish Bhardia
*Chief Executive Officer
Aimey.ai*



Nicholas Beaudoin
*Director of AI
Caltech CTME*



Rick Hefner, PhD
*Executive Director, Caltech
Center for Technology &
Management Education (CTME)*



Tim Rumbaugh
*Vice President, Program
Management, Edwards
Lifesciences*



**Victoria Leigh Julien, MPA,
PMP**
*Founder
Julien Success Coaching*



Victoria Perry, MBA, PMP
*AVP, Investment Operations
Manager
Capital Group*



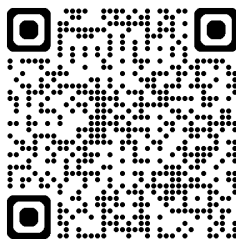
Sabrina Adewumi, PMP
*Creative Strategist &
Project Manager
SADE Studio*



Sreeram Balasubramanian
*Sr Director - Ceramics R&D
Glidewell Dental
Laboratories*

DETAILED SCHEDULE

TIME	CHAPMAN	HARBOR	LANDMARK	CRYSTAL
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST & NETWORKING				
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM PMI OC PRESIDENT				
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Amir Khamseh <i>The Future of the PMO: Leveraging AI While Leading with Human-Centered Skills</i> (1 PDU) Location: Crystal Ballroom A-E				
10 MINUTE BREAK				
10:00 - 10:50 AM	<u>AI and Agility</u> <i>Kamal Kaur</i> Level: Intermediate PDU: Ways of Working (1)	<u>Leading Collaborative Teams: Compassion, Clarity, and Courage</u> <i>Victoria Perry</i> Level: Intermediate PDU: Power Skills (1)	<u>How can blockchain improve transparency and trust in project management</u> <i>Francisco T. Avalos</i> Level: Intermediate PDU: Power Skills (0.5), Business Acumen (0.5)	<u>Your Social Location: Your Decisions</u> <i>Kristine A. Hayes</i> Level: All PDU: Power Skill (1)
10 MINUTE BREAK (Snacks Provided)				
11:00 - 11:50 AM	<u>Managing the New AI Team</u> <i>Nicholas Beaudoin</i> Level: Intermediate PDU: Ways of Working (0.5), Power Skills (0.5)	<u>C.R.E.A.T.E. Your Future: A Framework for Navigating Career and Project Crossroads with Creative Thinking and AI</u> <i>Sabrina E. Adewumi, PMP</i> Level: Beginner - Intermediate PDU: Power Skills (1)	<u>Managing AI Risk to Community Ecosystems and the Environment</u> <i>Joy Toney</i> Level: Beginner PDU: Ways of Working (1)	<u>The Dual Advantage: Combining Marketing with PMP Skills for Career Growth</u> <i>Andy Tien</i> Level: Intermediate PDU: Power Skills (0.5), Business Acumen (0.5)
11:50 AM - 1:00 PM LUNCH & NETWORKING MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY THE PMI-OC ENSEMBLE <i>PDD 2025 Drawing - See full selection of prizes in the Crystal Ballroom!</i> 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM SPONSOR OVERVIEW Location: Crystal Ballroom A-E				
1:20 PM - 1:50 PM FEATURED PRESENTATION: Trina Schaetz <i>Wear Your Cape to Work: Uncover Your Project Management Superpowers</i> (0.5 PDU)				
10 MINUTE BREAK				



PMI-OC.ORG/PDD25-SCHEDULE

DETAILED SCHEDULE

TIME	CHAPMAN	HARBOR	LAMDMARK	CRYSTAL
2:00 - 2:50 PM	<p><u>AI Project Accelerator: A Practical Six-Step Workflow</u></p> <p><i>Jen García</i></p> <p>Level: Beginner - Intermediate PDU: Ways of Working (0.25), Power Skills (0.5), Business Acumen (0.25)</p>	<p><u>Transforming to an Agile Organization</u></p> <p><i>Katherine Ajk</i></p> <p>Level: Advanced PDU: Ways of Working (0.5), Power Skills (0.5)</p>	<p><u>Smarter Project Management with the Help of AI</u></p> <p><i>Emily Woodman-Nance</i></p> <p>Level: Beginner PDU: Ways of Working (0.25), Business Acumen (0.25), Power Skills (0.5)</p>	<p><u>From Lab to Launch: Leading Innovation and Technical Execution in Complex Product Development</u></p> <p><i>Sreeram Balasubramanian</i></p> <p>Level: Intermediate (1) PDU: Ways of Working</p>
10 MINUTE BREAK (Snacks Provided)				
3:00 - 3:50 PM	<p><u>Agentic AI in Project Management: Beyond Automation</u></p> <p><i>Manish Bhardia</i></p> <p>Level: Beginner - Intermediate PDU: Business Acumen (1)</p>	<p><u>AI is Not Your Next Step – Get Your House in Order First</u></p> <p><i>Tim Rumbaugh</i></p> <p>Level: Intermediate PDU: Ways of Working (0.5), Business Acumen (0.5)</p>	<p><u>Project Support Center: Supporting Sustainable Change</u></p> <p><i>Dr. Amy Altomare</i></p> <p>Level: Intermediate PDU: Ways of Working (1)</p>	<p><u>AI-Augmented Hybrid Delivery Models for Large Enterprises</u></p> <p><i>Firoze Musthafa</i></p> <p>Level: Intermediate PDU: Ways of Working (0.5), Power Skills (0.5)</p>
10 MINUTE BREAK				
4:00 - 4:50 PM	<p><u>AI for Project Managers: What You Need to Know to Stay Relevant</u></p> <p><i>Rick Hefner, PhD</i></p> <p>Level: Intermediate PDU: Ways of Working (1)</p>	<p><u>Train with Impact: Leveraging Emotional Intelligence and Strategic Communication for Effective Knowledge Transfer in Project Environments</u></p> <p><i>Victoria Leigh Julien</i></p> <p>Level: Intermediate PDU: Ways of Working (0.5), Business Accumen (0.5)</p>	<p><u>Introduction to the 5 Essential Skillsets for Managing International Teams</u></p> <p><i>Mai Tran & Deborah Gibbs</i></p> <p>Level: Intermediate PDU: Power Skills (1)</p>	<p>Open Forum</p>
<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>Location: Crystal Ballroom A-E</p>				
<p>5:30 - 6:30 PM NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR</p> <p>Sponsored by Marriott</p> <p>Location: Route 22 Restaurant & Bar</p> <p><i>PDD 2025 Drawing - See full selection of prizes in the Crystal Ballroom!</i></p>				

PMI-OC PDD ENSEMBLE



Left to Right: Nathan Hester, Niketa Mehta, Joyce Hester, Mai Tran, Forrest Parson, Neda Pelar



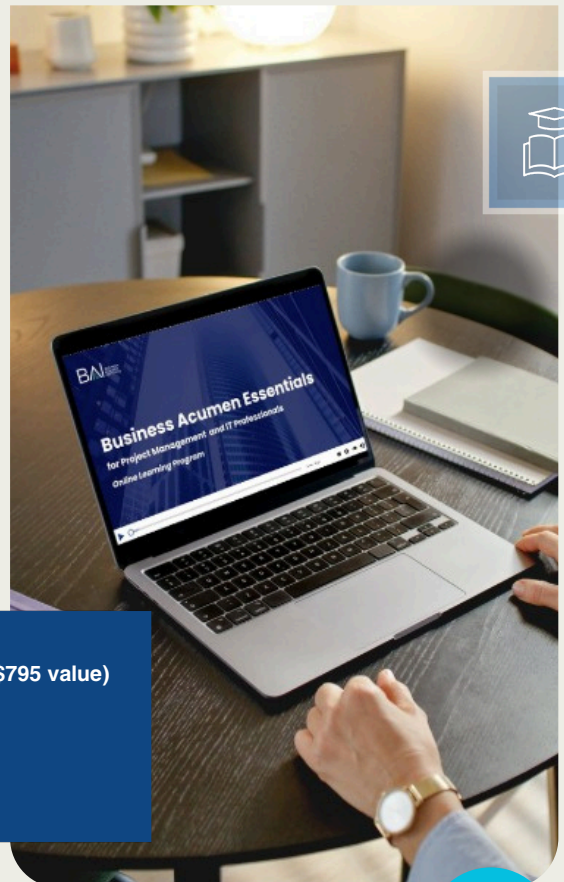
MOVE FROM PROJECT MANAGER TO BUSINESS LEADER

For today's project managers, technical skills aren't enough. **Business acumen** is what transforms delivery into leadership — and turns projects into outcomes executives care about. That's exactly what you'll build in the **Business Acumen for Project Managers online certification course** from the Business Acumen Institute.



SCAN HERE

- ✓ Win 1 of 10 prize bundles – Book + Certification Course (\$795 value)
- ✓ All Attendees Save 90% – Course + Book for just \$99
- ✓ One Week Only – Offer ends 10/04/25



Join us after the final session for

Networking Happy Hour

5:30 -
6:30 PM

Route 22 Restaurant & Bar/
Crystal Ballroom A-E

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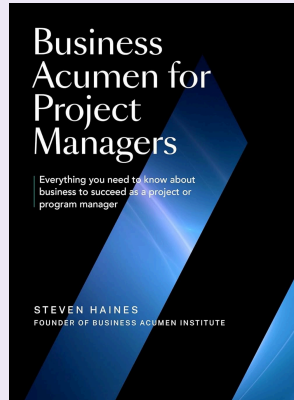


- Build relationships with fellow Project Managers who live and work locally!
- Expand your personal and professional network!
- Meet and interact with our expert speakers!
- Learn more about products and services provided by our generous sponsors!

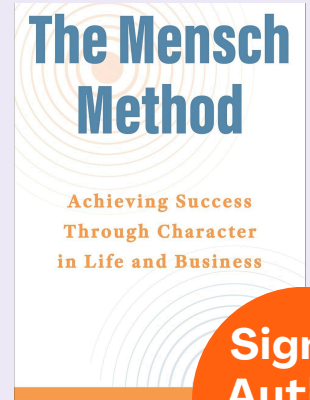
Featured Authors



Steven Haines



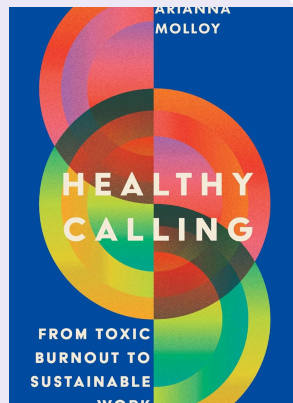
Todd Zive



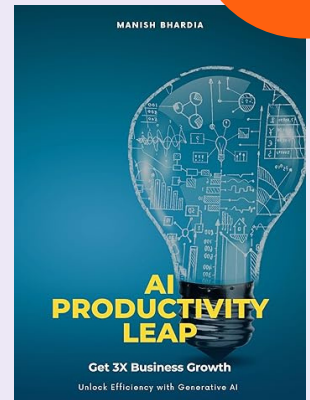
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Arianna Molloy



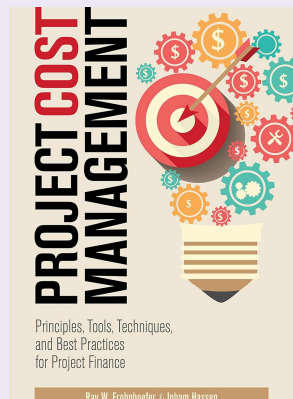
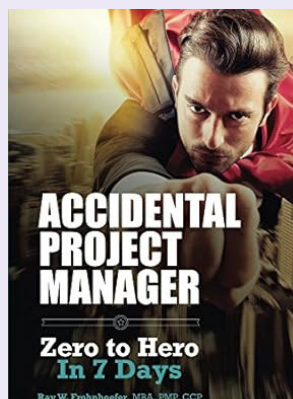
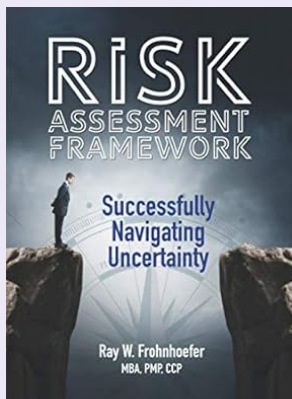
Manish Bhardia



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Jonathan Seitz

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Proven to Create
Lasting Changes**



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Narmela Sargis (2015)
Pauline Tsang (2020)
Carissa Lombardi (2021)
Heidi Santos (2021)
Kassandra Nwadigo-Cobb (2022)
Robbin Mackenzie Thomas (2023)
Sarita Murillo (2023)
Mai Tran (2024)
Roderick Conwi (2024)
Ben Parkins (2025)
Christine Than (2025)
Eric Chen (2025)
Niketa Mehta (2025)





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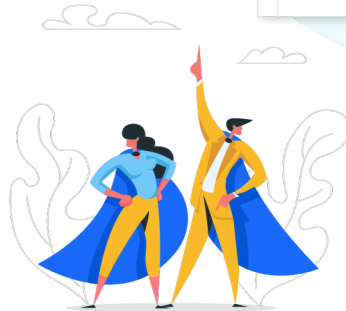
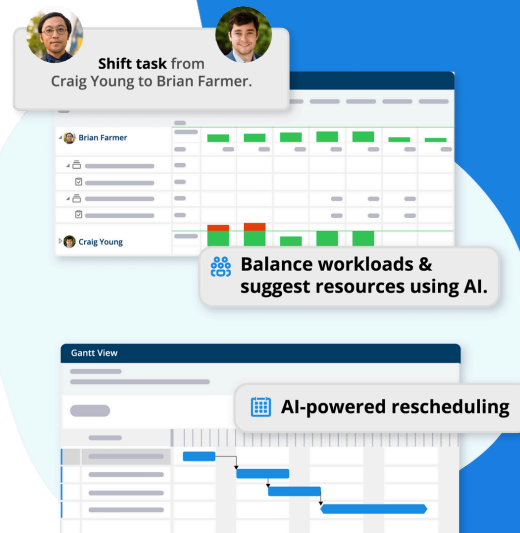
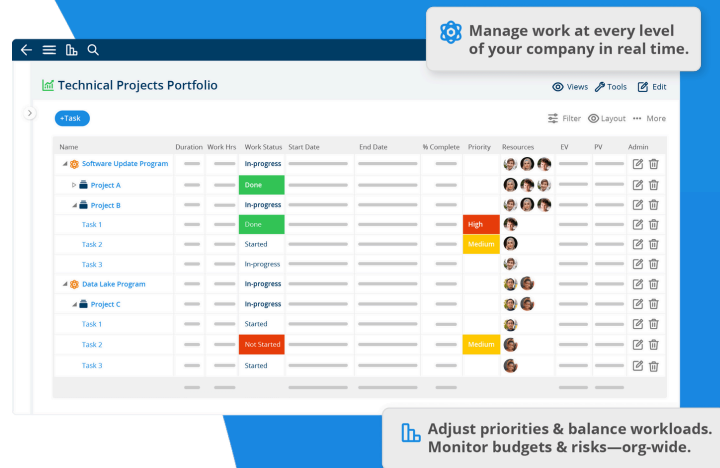
Upcoming PDU Webinars:

•SEPT - Time Management •OCT - Scheduling •NOV - PMI Global •DEC - Process Improvement Projects



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MLOGICA

2025 PMI OC CONFERENCE



**AI-Augmented Hybrid Delivery
Models for Large Enterprises**

Firoze Musthafa
VP Global Delivery - mLogica

MLOGICA AT A GLANCE



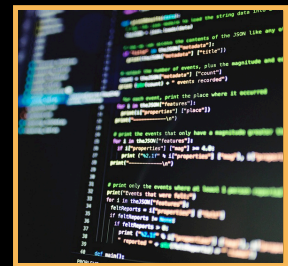
**20 Years
Of Experience**



**300,000+
Refactored DBs**



**1,000+
Successful Projects**



**250 MIL Lines
Of Code Migrated**

Key Discussions & Insights

- ✓ AI Bridges Waterfall & Agile Delivery
- ✓ Harmonizing Reporting
- ✓ Mapping Dependencies

mLogica is a global leader in digital transformation and mainframe modernization, combining AI-powered automation with customizable strategies, specialized methodologies, and expert services to deliver scalable, low-risk, and cost-effective enterprise modernization.

MODERNIZE. AUTOMATE. EVOLVE.



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International Institute for Learning (IIL) is a leader in the development and delivery of customized learning programs, online conferences, professional certification credit and preparation courses, organizational learning solutions, and consulting.

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Why IIL

For over 30 years, the International Institute for Learning has been a global leader in high quality education, training, and organizational learning for more than 2 Million individuals.



Global Reach

With strategically located offices around the world, serving 100+ countries in 20+ languages



Scalable

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IIL's curriculum can be tailored to corporate needs, understanding market trends in specific industries.



Study Materials

Utilize IIL's free resources, including white papers, the bookstore, LinkedIn groups, and the Thought Leadership Newsletter.



30+ years of experience

When it comes to business agility and resiliency with changing economic trends, trust IIL.



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IIL is a Project Management Institute (PMI)[®] Authorized Training Partner (Premier Level).



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FEATURES

Task Management

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Calendar Integration

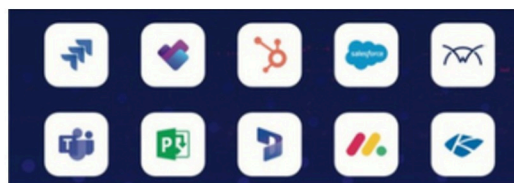
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Training will be held online and led by IIL.

Apply by Jan. 8, 2026



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pmi-oc.org/pmp-prep-class

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UPCOMING EVENTS

10/14	October Dinner Meeting - In Person (1 PDU)
10/16	PMI-OC Virtual Book Club Meeting
10/18	Advanced Topic Seminar (monthly) <i>"The Evolution of Project Management Tools"</i> (4 PDUs)
11/01	Advanced Topic Seminar (monthly) <i>"Elevate Your Leadership: Drive Results with Purpose and Influence"</i> (4 PDUs)
11/13	IAG - <i>"The Art of Project Management - Utilizing Intelligent Transportation Systems"</i>
12/9	PMI OC Holiday Toy Drive and Dinner Meeting
12/13	Advanced Topic Seminar (monthly) <i>"Layering Funding Opportunities for Sustainability Projects"</i> (4 PDUs)
01/10	PMP/ CAPM Exam Prep Workshop (Saturdays)

Visit our website to learn more about upcoming networking events and educational programs!

www.PMI-OC.org

See you soon!

PMI-OC.ORG/EVENT-LISTING





PMI-OC Holiday Toy Drive & Dinner Meeting

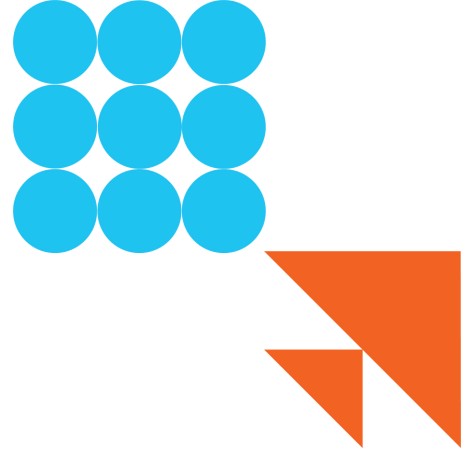
December 9th

DOUBLETREE IRVINE SPECTRUM • 5:30 PM – 8:30PM



STAY UPDATED AND INFORMED

WWW.PMI-OC.ORG



PDD 2025 EVENT TEAM

President Robbin Mackenzie Thomas

VP Programs Dr. Vazi Okhandiar

Director, PDD Rhoda Williams

Speaker Coordinator Jude Francis

Marketing Coordinator Daphne Rosalis

Sponsorship Coordinator Colleen Abello

Event Volunteers	Abhishek Udanshiv	Deborah Gibbs	May Nguyen
	Amol Chitte	Eric Chien	Mina Moe
	Andy Tien	Forrest Parson	Narmela Sargis
	Anita Arvizu	Gordon Perry	Nathan Hester
	Arielle Hall	Isabel Lachin	Neda Pelar
	Armstrong Garette	Jake Lowe	Niketa Mehta
	Ashley Tran	John Kienstra	Omolara Babatunde
	Bill Noyes	Joyce Hester	Parth Gohil
	Brandon Klopot	Juan Sanchez	Paya Ebrahimi
	Brianna Campbell	Kamal Kaur	Philippe Diara
	Chaderick Spain	Mai Tran	Sabrina Adewumi
	Chris Cruz	Martina Donofrio	Tim Luke

Ensemble Performers

Forrest Parson	Nathan Hester	Niketa Mehta
Joyce Hester	Neda Pelar	Mai Tran

Thank You!

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