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# Lehigh University

## Project Management Certificate Program News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2007

### Lehigh University's Certificate Program.....Now a PMI Registered Education Provider (R.E.P.)

Registered Education Providers (R.E.P.s) are organizations approved by the Project Management Institute (PMI) to offer project management training for Professional Development Units (PDU). Currently there are over 700 organizations from 55 countries in the PMI registry. In January 2004 PMI implemented new criteria and requirements for approving R.E.P.s. The following are key criteria and requirements that R.E.P.s must now meet:

- Must be a legal entity
- Must have offered project management training for at least one year

- Must submit at least one sample course for review
- Must have a Project Man-



Lehigh University Campus

- agement Professional (PMP) review the content of each course submitted into the R.E.P. database
- Must show evidence of appropriate course selection, design and delivery

- Must show evidence that content of courses is substantially consistent with PMI standards or is clearly noted as offering an alternate theory
- Must show evidence of instructor qualifications appropriate to topics taught
- Must use PMP certified instructor to deliver PMP exam preparation courses
- Must make accurate representations of course objectives
- Must be reviewed by a designated PMI reviewer before acceptance as an R.E.P. and once every three years thereafter.

### Becoming a PMI Project Management Professional

We are finding that more companies today are requiring their Project Managers to earn the Project Management Professional (PMP) credential from PMI. The PMP designation following your name tells your employer, your client and your project team that you are a member of a very select group of individuals. By earning the PMP status you have demonstrated a high

level of competence in your profession.

For starters, in order to earn your PMP credential you must meet a number of requirements in both education and actual project management experience. PMP applicants must: a) have earned a high school diploma or equivalent b) have 7500 hours experience in a position of responsibility leading

and directing specific tasks and 60 months of project management experience c) 35 hours of project management education. Hours of experience may vary if the applicant has a baccalaureate degree. Visit PMI's website ([www.pmi.org](http://www.pmi.org)) for the current requirements.

There are Projects and then there are PROJECTS!



The Three Gorge Dam is the largest dam in the world, as wide as the Golden Gate Bridge and twice as tall, capable of generating 18 gigawatts of hydro-electric power.

Locks as seen from downstream

*“There can’t be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full”*  
-Henry Kissinger



Dennis W. Foster, PMP

From page 1..Lehigh University’s Certificate Program.....Now a PMI Registered Education Provider

Members of the R.E.P. program represent the complete range of organizations serving the professional development needs of the project management community. In addition to nearly 600 commercial training providers, there are 70 universities and colleges, 60 corporate and government internal training centers. In addition, over 280 Chartered PMI Components (Chapters,

SIGs and Colleges) are authorized to issue Category 3 PDUs for their programs and events.

It is important to know that all R.E.P.s, no matter their category, are subject to the same quality assurance requirements. For administrative purposes, PMI has created specific categories of R.E.P.s, but no matter if the R.E.P. is a school or a commercial provider, they are

treated equally. For example, the category of “Global Provider” means that the provider can list more than three courses in the PMI database and has opted for a higher level of service.

Lehigh University submitted all of the required documentation in October 2006 and was granted a Global Provider status, effective December 1, 2006.

## CONSIDER AN MBA

Thinking about turning that Project Management Certificate into a full business degree? Consider this: you are already one third of the way there! The Project Management certificate is designed to allow students to leverage the project management credits earned into the MBA at Lehigh upon full application and acceptance. Simply complete the application process started as a non degree student by submitting an essay, two letters of recommendation, a current resume and a GMAT score. The professionals in the Graduate Programs Office can help you with the process by providing guidance and suggestions for making the rest of your application competitive. For more information call 610-758-5280.

## Meet the Faculty: Dennis Foster, PMP

In each of the next few editions of this Newsletter we will be featuring one of the members of our faculty.

Meet Dennis W. Foster, PMP, who has been with our program since day one.

Dennis is an independent Project Management Consultant and teacher. and brings more than twenty five years experience in effectively applying all areas of project management techniques. He has worked extensively with fortune five hundred companies,

throughout the world in effectively applying project management principles to opportunities in the areas of IT, Engineering Design Procurement and Construction, Mergers and Acquisitions, Organizational Change, Project Management Offices, and numerous project support functions.

Dennis has broad experience both working as and managing organizations responsible for Project Management and Project Services. His project sup-

port service experiences are many and varied and include large project control organizations, project management systems and tools, Project Portfolio Management Processes, Project Management Offices, and Project Manager development processes.

Dennis received his Project Management Professional Certification in 2002.



## Student Testimony

Los Alamos National Laboratory, home of the Manhattan Project, recently placed requirements on current and future Project Managers to hold the Project Management Institute's (PMI's) Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification. Although certified in 1998 as a PMP, I was made aware that the PM Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) had since become an ANSI standard. When the *third edition* to the Guide was released, I received a copy on CD as a sustaining member of the Institute. There were clearly enough enhancements to the document that I was moved to seek a formal education approach to keep up with my colleagues in the latest leadership skills, tools and techniques, and ethically-based problem solving methods.

After looking through a list of on-line campuses that offered solid training in the "application" of PMI principles, I looked deeper into this big little school in Pennsylvania. Not

only was Lehigh the first university I found having their lesson plan already formulated from the *third edition*, but they were ranked higher overall by Business Week than any of the other competitors. I immediately called the Program Director with challenging questions regarding the program information on the website, and subsequently turned to the Laboratory to fund a year of maintenance to my education.

Lehigh's program included three on-campus sessions that crystallize team building essentials through exposure to actual projects in various other industries. These "Cohorts" challenged my perceptions of projects, customers, and what proper management truly is. As I moved through the coursework at a stimulating pace set by extremely successful certified instructors, I put my Los Alamos project together, and ultimately finished on budget, and ahead of schedule. Beyond this, I was part of a

four-person team that worked on an actual project in the pharmaceutical industry that taught me how standardized project inputs, outputs, and tools and techniques could apply to any project, and must.

Since completing the Lehigh Certificate Program, I'm working on teaching principles through the language of the Project Management discipline to my team members, and even my humble manager. Part way through the Lehigh program, I was also elected Vice President of Programs in my local PMI chapter. Serving on the Board of Directors has provided a professional status that I've wanted to develop necessary leadership skills that are required in large international organizations.

Korwyn B. Christensen  
Technical Staff Member  
Los Alamos National Laboratory

*"Lehigh's program included three on-campus sessions that crystallize team building essentials through exposure to actual projects in various other industries. "*

## The Director's Corner: Dennis S. Praedin

Well, our Project Management Certificate Program has completed its third year of operation....Whew!! ....Wow, has it gone fast!! To date, nine cohort groups of students have gone through the program and our tenth group is scheduled to start on January 29th, 2007.

The past three years have been a great experience for me personally. I have had the opportunity to meet dozens of energetic, focused students and watch them embrace the principles of Project Management.

Our students have come from a wide variety of industries and disciplines. Based on the survey feedback we have received, our program graduates have been able to quickly apply these newly acquired principles and skills not only in their jobs but their personal life as well. Several have gone on with their pursuit of Project Management by sitting for the PMI Project Management Professional exam.... And passing the exam on the first try! Still others have received promotions into Senior Project Manager positions, while some have even established a Project Management Office within their firms.

Going forward, our mission remains the same as we continue to grow and improve our program...to have "Students learn best practices and apply them to real-life work situations in order to improve their ability to complete projects on time, at or under budget, in a way that meets or exceeds goals, and satisfies key stakeholders".

If you are an alumni of our program please send us an email and keep us posted on how your Project Management experience at Lehigh has enabled you to 'leverage your future'.

All the best, ...Dennis

**College Of Business & Economics**

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Lehigh University, offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate level programs. Our Project Management Certificate program, which is administered through the Graduate Programs office, consists of an 8 course, 12 credit program which is offered within the College of Business and Economics. Courses are offered in a fixed sequence, cohort-based format. Three courses are delivered via face-to-face sessions and five courses are offered via internet based distance learning. Students, taking the courses for college credit receive a transcript and a Certificate from Lehigh. Students not taking the courses for college credit, receive a Certificate of Completion from Lehigh.

**Lehigh’s Certification  
 Programs.....Leveraging Your Future**

[www.lehigh.edu/projectmanagement](http://www.lehigh.edu/projectmanagement)

**Project Management Certificate Program Cohort #10 Starts January 29, 2007**

Course ID	Course Title	Credits	Dates	On Campus?
PMGT401	Course Framework and Project Leadership Assessment	One	January 29 through March 2, 2007	NO
PMGT402	Skills and Abilities for Effective Leadership of Teams	One	March 9 & 10, 2007	YES**
PMGT403	Initiating the Project and Planning the Scope and Schedule	Two	March 26 through May 18, 2007	NO
PMGT404	Planning Resources, Communication, Quality and Risk Management	Two	May 29 through July 20, 2007	NO
PMGT405	Project Leader Communication Expertise and Evaluating Team Performance	One	August 3 & 4, 2007	YES**
PMGT406	Implementing and Managing Projects	Two	August 13 through October 5, 2007	NO
PMGT407	Controlling Performance and Assessing Outcomes	Two	October 15 through December 7, 2007	NO
PMGT408	Problem Solving, Decision Making and Ethics	One	December 14 & 15, 2007	YES**

\*\* - Friday and Saturday on Campus at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

**Project Management Certificate Program Mission Statement**

**“Our mission is to develop the Student’s Project Management knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to manage a wide variety of projects successfully using a modular curriculum delivered through innovative learning environments”.**

Students learn best practices and apply them to real-life work situations in order to improve their ability to complete projects on time, at or under budget, in a way that meets or exceeds goals, and satisfies key stakeholders. This is accomplished by providing instruction that adheres to PMI’s documented knowledge areas and processes. In addition, the program is built on coherence across leadership competencies by stressing the soft skills and still contextualizing them into the process discussion. A separate organizational unit was established to administer and monitor the Project Management Certificate program at the University. This organization administratively reports to the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs in the College of Business & Economics.