

# The Measurable News

The Magazine of the Project Management Institute's College of Performance Management

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## From the President: Much Has Been Accomplished — Much Is Left To Do

Effective 1 January 2008, a new Governing Board for the Project Management Institute's College of Performance Management (PMI-CPM) will take effect. As such I will be leaving the post of President. I have been fortunate to have this position for the past three years. It has been an exciting and challenging job but has also been rewarding. The Governing Board has been wonderful to work with, and as a Board, I believe we have accomplished much.

For example, we have worked hard to enhance member benefits. In doing so, we have updated the CPM Strategic Plan to focus on specific actions and milestones (i.e., Balanced Scorecard) and established realistic goals and objectives on which we can be measured to identify success. CPM has also approved the update of our awards program. We are trying to capture more categories to increase recognition of those who have proven themselves in the work environment and/or as a volunteer to the organization. In addition, we have developed a Strategic Partnering Agreement template that allows CPM to work with other PMI components as well as other societies including the Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis (SCEA), the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), and the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE). This template ensures CPM and the partner organization are exchanging products and services and jointly providing educational programs to those participating.

We have continued to disseminate information to the project planning and control community. To improve this effort we have revamped the CPM website, activated the Electronic Library, and established a sustained sponsorship program. Our increased outreach efforts have helped to support professional development days for PMI components and specific PMI conferences throughout the world. We believe these outreach programs are so critical that we have created the position of Director for Corporate Communications whose responsibility is to find opportunities for CPM to share its knowledge, to increase community awareness, and

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to publicize the activities and accomplishments of the organization. The result will be increased professional growth opportunities for our members and the community at large.

A huge part of our success is the ongoing effort to improve and promote the CPM Professional Educational Program (PEP) and its certificate program. To date we have more than 400 participating, and more than 30 have completed the requirements to receive this certificate. As part of this effort, we are now moving toward CPM ownership of the PEP training materials without losing the knowledge and experiences of the subject matter experts teaching them. In addition, we are vigorously pushing PMI to recognize Earned Value Management (EVM) as a certifiable skill and to get their approval to establish a certification program in EVM.

We are, therefore, promoting EVM and project planning and control as a discipline that Program Managers require in their day-to-day activities. CPM has helped to create an EVM Community of Practice (CoP) in the U.S. and abroad. Specifically, CPM has helped to create and co-chair the EVM Community of Interest (CoEye) that supports U.S. Government agencies gain knowledge and expertise in the field. The EVM CoEye has been a huge success, with more than 300 participants and over 50 Federal Agencies (departments) participating. In addition, CPM has developed the Global Advisory Committee, composed of EVM leaders from countries around the world, to advise the CPM Board in training, promotion, and implementation of EVM on a global basis. Our efforts to support the community have led CPM to Australia to support their EVM Standard Update and Japan to provide advice to their government agencies in the development/implementation of EVM.

While much has been accomplished, much is left to do. The new Governing Board will have just as many challenges and opportunities for success. One of the most important opportunities is the ongoing Virtual Community initiative established by PMI. This initiative will have a tremendous impact on how CPM operates and manages in the future. However, a major concern is the potential loss of

autonomy and authority to deliver quality, comprehensive education, information, and training to our membership. It is critical that CPM be involved in PMI Virtual Community discussions to help shape the future of PMI and CPM.

Clearly CPM cannot be successful without the volunteers who take the time to make the activities offered come to life. By improving the use of volunteers in the coming years, more can be accomplished, and more people will be able to move in to leadership positions to continue the success of the organization. The new Board must consider activities started or approved by the Board, such as improving the use of the E-Library, maintaining our Outreach Program through more professional development and marketing/advertising activities, following through with an independent PEP development (CPM ownership), and continuing to push PMI on EVM certification. Just as important, however, is recognizing that EVM is not just a U.S.-based competency but is also a global one. It is for this reason, the new Governing Board must continue to reach out to international members and support international activities such as conferences in Japan, the UK, India, and Turkey to name a few.

As I said, a lot has been accomplished, but more must be done. I want to thank each member of the outgoing Governing Board – **John Singley, Doug Fisher, Barry Schuler, Susan Wood, Ray Stratton, Frank Anbari, Dale Gillam, and Eleanor Haupt** for all their support. Most importantly, I would like to thank **Gaile Argiro**. Without her support, we would not have been able to do half of what has been accomplished. She is an outstanding individual who believes in what CPM is doing and makes sure it happens.

I wish the best for the new Governing Board and new President John Singley. He has been a part of this success for many years, and I have great faith that the future will be bright under his leadership. I am now moving to the role of Past President. In this position, I will continue to be active in helping to form, shape, develop, and promote EVM and project planning and control to the community. Thank you all for a great three years!

Neil F. Albert