



## Educational Foundation

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# Bringing Project Management to Detroit Schools PMIEF Funding Helps Expand Student Competition

Our futures depend on the skills of the next generation of the workforce. Proven ways to build those skills include student competitions and school-based programming. The “Bridges to the Future Project,” supported by the PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF), employs both of these proven techniques—and more.

The Future City® Competition uses project-based learning to engage teams of students, ages 11–14, in building their version of a future city, while at the same time teaching math and science.

Held throughout the United States, these competitions engage youth, get them excited about learning, provide an enriching experience and ultimately increase the likelihood that students will participate and learn new skills, including project management.

Recently, through a grant of financial support, the PMIEF helped the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD) expand its involvement with the Detroit Future City Competition through ESD’s new “Bridges to the Future Project.” This new program uses the Future City Competi-

tion not only to engage youth, but also to provide teachers with hands-on, real-life project-based learning examples that they can bring into the classroom.

PMIEF’s support helped ESD to:

- Develop new partnerships with Michigan schools, universities, local businesses and PMI chapters;
- Provide mentored school-based programs for “at risk” youth;
- Serve a total of 28 Detroit middle schools (270 students and 30 teachers), an increase of 50 percent over last year;
- Triple the number of schools participating in the competition;
- Engage local PMI chapters to help incorporate project management into the learning experience;
- Train teachers and students in project management;
- Provide better orientation materials and introduce project management principles, making the competition more organized and more accessible to more schools;
- Use mentors (one for each student) and tutors to provide real-world experience and positive role models; and
- Provide a one-day youth symposium where students shared their future vision of Detroit.

Although the PMI Great Lakes Chapter (PMIGLC) has been involved with the Future City Competition for a number of years, it recently became one of ESD’s business partners in this new endeavor. PMIGLC participated in the 2010 teacher orientation, presenting project management principles to help teachers execute the Future Cities model. Teachers attending the session recognized the



PMI Great Lakes Chapter Past President Ravi Krishnaswami and Vice President for Outreach Rose Tyler recently accepted an award from the Engineering Society of Detroit for the chapter’s support of the ESD’s “Bridges to the Future Project.”



value of project management and asked for additional training to help them incorporate project management skills into their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) educational programs, particularly as it relates to the Future City Competition.

As a result of their work with the Detroit Future City competition, PMIGLC was named ESD "Partner of the Year" and has been the most active member of ESD's affiliate council organizations. Their work and that of ESD provide a model that can be replicated in Future City programs throughout the United States. Last year 33,000 students from 1,000 schools participated in the competition nationwide.

The success of the program also led Detroit public schools to recognize the value of project management. The school system intends to integrate the Future City project into its STEM curriculum. In the near future, teachers and students throughout Detroit will be introduced to project management.

ESD's future plans for this project include a focus on two major objectives: building the capacity for urban teachers to deliver STEM content to their students using the project management framework, and engaging local PMI members as volunteer mentors, speakers and trainers.

The grant to ESD is just one example of how PMIEF uses the funds provided by generous donors to help leverage project management for social good. For more information on PMIEF and its many other charitable activities, or if you wish to make a donation, visit [www.pmief.org](http://www.pmief.org).

## New Exam to be Released in January 2012

# Update Planned for the PgMP® Credential

The Program Management Professional (PgMP)® credential examination will be revised in January 2012, based on the recently completed Role Delineation Study (RDS) conducted by PMI.

Every five to seven years, PMI conducts an RDS for each of its credentials based on the role within program management that the credential serves. This ensures that the credential examinations continue to assess what is most relevant in the day-to-day work of project and program managers as the profession evolves over time.

The PgMP RDS enables PMI to identify the most current and critical elements of the professional practice of program management. The 2010 in-depth research study was divided into four phases:

- Establishing volunteer subject matter expert committees;
- Creating a draft role definition based on the current program manager role;
- Reviewing and refining the draft role definition; and
- Validating the definition of the role.

### Input From More Than 1,100 Program Managers

Feedback was collected from more than 1,100 program managers from 79 countries, 119 of whom hold the PgMP credential. The responses met the requirements for statistical relevancy and adequately reflected the profession in geographic, industry and other standard demographics.

Of those who participated in the study:

- 52.5 percent held the job title of program manager; and
- 76 percent of their work time is spent on program management tasks.

Participants had an average of 6.1 years of experience in managing programs.

The outcomes of the RDS provide PMI with a blueprint for updating the credential through the *PgMP Examination Content Outline*. The major outcomes of the PgMP RDS include:

- The three evaluations for the PgMP credential—the panel review, the examination and the multi-rater assessment—are being updated to reflect the changes to the role identified in the study.
- The new RDS restructures the program management performance domains and tasks.

### January Date for New Exam

The new PgMP examination will be released globally on 1 January 2012. This means that the last day to take the current PgMP exam is 31 December 2011.

Candidates who would like to take the current version of the examination are advised to schedule early to ensure they are able to obtain a test date before the updates.

More information about the changes to the PgMP examination as a result of the RDS can be found on the Updates to the PgMP Certification Exam page on [PMI.org](http://PMI.org).

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