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For Immediate Release
13 March 2009

**PMI NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER ESTABLISHES A SCHOLARSHIP
THROUGH THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
FOR STUDENTS PURSUING UNIVERSITY LEVEL PROJECT MANAGEMENT EDUCATION**
Chapter establishes an endowment to fund the scholarship in perpetuity

NEWTOWN SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA, USA – PMI North Carolina Chapter, located in Research Triangle Park, NC, has endowed a scholarship for individuals pursuing a university-level degree in project management or a related field through the PMI Educational Foundation. The newly established *PMI North Carolina Chapter Scholarship Fund* will be available for students starting their program in September 2009. This generous gift is the culmination of several years of hard work by volunteer leaders and members of the chapter who raised funds for this effort, supported by Debbie Okoli, MSPH, PMP, and 2008 president of the PMI North Carolina Chapter. The endowment is a proactive response to the growing need to support and sustain the project management profession.

“Project management is a noble profession,” Okoli said. “Extending the capability to foster it through education ensures that the society-at-large will continue to receive the many benefits that result from project management. The *PMI North Carolina Chapter Scholarship Fund* is but one way to assist the local community in a meaningful way. Having an endowed scholarship fund for secondary education recognizes that the PMI North Carolina Chapter cares enough to give back to the community now with the intent to build a community that has a strong future.”

Scholarships for continuing education are timely and necessary. As the world economic climate changes and demand grows for educated project management practitioners, the pool of talented professionals is not keeping pace. Of the 20 million people who engage in project management worldwide, no more than one million have ever received any formal training.

In 2008, a study conducted by Anderson Economic Group predicts that there will be 1.2 million job openings yearly in project-oriented occupations. The study also mentions that the growing supply-demand gap of project professionals will put the world’s economy at risk. By 2016, US \$194 billion, the amount projected to be spent in projectized industries, will be at risk due to the lack of skilled project managers.

“The *PMI North Carolina Chapter Scholarship Fund* aligns with our goals at the PMI Educational Foundation to promote economic, educational, cultural and social advancement through project management by making it more readily available to those who want to learn about the practice and the application of project management,” said Lewis M. Gedansky, PhD, Executive Director of the PMI Educational Foundation. “We are pleased to be able to support the building of the project management profession through this scholarship and to add this scholarship to our growing list of educational support opportunities. Ms. Okoli and her chapter colleagues deserve to be congratulated for their recognition of and contribution to the growth of the profession”

Following is additional detail about *PMI North Carolina Chapter Scholarship Fund* and how to apply.

- Applications are accepted online until 1 June 2009 at www.pmief.org
- The scholarship will be awarded in September 2009 and annually thereafter
- Scholarship amount is US \$2,500

In order to be considered eligible for this scholarship, applicants must be enrolled in or applying for an accredited academic degree program in project management or a related field benefitting from project management. First priority will be given to residents of North Carolina.

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About the Project Management Institute (PMI) Educational Foundation

The PMI Educational Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Project Management Institute (PMI), is a not-for-profit, non-political organization that champions project management knowledge and skills for educational and social good. Founded in 1990 by PMI, the PMI Education Foundation provides scholarships, confers awards, sponsors research, prepares and disseminates project management-related educational material and awards financial grants to support project management life skills and humanitarian programs. Visit pmief.org for more information.

About the PMI North Carolina Chapter

Since 1985, NCPMI has been promoting professionalism and serving its membership located in and around the Research Triangle Park region of North Carolina. NCPMI affords its membership with best-in-class educational offerings, quality programs designed to strengthen project management professionalism, and a variety of forums to network with practitioners, academicians, executives, and their colleagues in the ethical practice of Project Management. PMI North Carolina Chapter is an affiliate of the Project Management Institute, recognized globally as the premier organization for project management. NCPMI has more than 2,100 members and ranks among the largest not-for-profit professional trade organizations in the Research Triangle Park area. For more information *PMI North Carolina Chapter Scholarship Fund* or how to support the fund with contributions please visit <http://www.ncpmi.org>.

About PMI

The world's leading project management organization, PMI shares knowledge with nearly 500,000 members and credential holders in 170+ countries. Since its founding 40 years ago, PMI has impacted more than one million practitioners, businesses, governments, students and training organizations. Today, PMI's products and services range from world-class standards for project, program and portfolio management to five professional credentials, including the gold standard Project Management Professional (PMP®). PMI's exclusive Global Corporate Council and European Corporate Networking Group engage large multinationals and government organizations in endorsing the value of project management. The only project management association with an established academic research program, PMI has invested more than US \$14 million in support of dozens of research projects since 1997. Learn more at PMI.org.

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