



Southern Minnesota Section Newsletter

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Project Management

by April Horne

Excellence in project management has become a pervasive emphasis. Companies from all industries, as well as public sector organizations, are creating project management training and certification programs. Major universities are developing graduate degree programs in project management. As many as 20,000 professionals from various industries throughout the world have sought and obtained certification as licensed Project Management Professionals (PMP). Where did this sudden interest come from?

Industry surveys show that 85% of projects fail to meet their objectives in terms of schedule and budget. Technological advances and globalization have both contributed to the pressure to use our resources more efficiently in order to get more competitive products to the market faster. The stakes are higher than they've ever been. Missing a project schedule means missing a major market opportunity. There's no buffer in budgets for developing elaborate backup plans, and an overrun in one project impacts other projects.

At the January meeting, we will define project management and explore the trends that are leading organizations to emphasize the adoption of common project management methodologies, tools, training and certification programs. We'll also discuss the interest among professionals in obtaining certification, and describe how you can proceed with your own program to become a licensed Project Management Professional.

UM Rochester Presentation

A short presentation about the increasing presence of the University of Minnesota in Rochester will start off our January meeting. Dick Westerlund, Program Director of Business and Technology for UM Rochester, will discuss the changes underway and describe the programs and courses available in Rochester through the university's Institute of Technology and Carlson School of Management.

IEEE Section Meeting

April Horne, IBM

Project Management

Monday, January 15, 6:45 pm
Mayo Medical Sciences Building
(321 3rd Avenue SW, Rochester)

☞ Pizza & socializing at 6:30 pm ☞

☞ UMR presentation starts at 6:45 pm ☞

April Horne is the 2001 Enterprise Server Development Platform Manager at IBM Rochester.

She earned an engineering degree at the University of Illinois, and an MBA at the University of Minnesota. She received her PMP license in 1999.

A project manager for most of her 18 years with IBM, she has worked with teams from engineering, programming, marketing, service and manufacturing.



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