

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

April 30-May 1, 2026



PROJECT MANAGEMENT
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

A J CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Civil & Environmental Engineering Department



Agenda at a Glance

Thursday, April 30

- 8:00 Registration Begins
- 8:45 Welcome & Featured Speaker
ALAN ZUCKER
- 10:00 First Morning Sessions
- 11:00 Second Morning Sessions
- 11:45 Lunch & Networking
- 12:30 Featured Speaker
KANIKA TOLVER
- 1:30 First Afternoon Sessions
- 2:30 Second Afternoon Sessions
- 3:30 Third Afternoon Sessions
- 4:30 Featured Speaker
MICHAEL ALLISON
- 5:15 Networking Reception

Friday, May 1

- 8:00 Registration Begins
- 8:45 Featured Speaker
ED LINK
- 10:00 First Morning Sessions
- 11:00 Second Morning Sessions
- 12:00 Third Morning Sessions
- 12:45 Lunch & Networking
- 1:30 Featured Speakers & Workshop
DAN WARD AND LYNNE CUPPERNULL
- 3:00 Closing

Symposium Evaluation

We value your feedback. Be sure to complete the overall symposium evaluation at the conclusion of the event. Submit for a chance to **win free admission** to next year's symposium in April 29-30, 2027!



Access Free Wifi



Instructions

Connect to wireless access point "UMD-guest" and open a web browser. For detailed instructions see back cover.

Thursday
Friday

USER
pmsymposiumday1
pmsymposiumday2

PASSWORD
byfinheraips
gnemilergomi

Welcome to our 13th Annual Project Management Symposium!

Thank you for choosing to spend the next two days with us. That choice matters. In a world increasingly shaped by AI, attention is becoming one of the most valuable resources we have. We can now produce more analysis, more content, more plans, and more options than ever before. But all of that output still has to be understood, questioned, and directed.

That is where project managers matter.

Project management has always been about delivering value, managing risk, and being good stewards of resources. But underneath all of that is a deeper responsibility: helping organizations decide where to focus. Not every issue deserves the same attention. Not every risk is equal. Not every signal in a project system means the same thing.

Project management is inherently risky, and how we focus our attention on risks—and the resources available to address them—is often the difference between success and failure.

Good project managers learn to sense what is changing, what is working, and what is quietly becoming critical before it appears that way on a report. You've all seen projects that look green on paper but are already off track in reality. That kind of judgment comes from experience, from conversations, and from understanding how people and organizations actually behave.

That is why these next two days matter. You are here not only to hear presentations, but to learn from other people's experience, to test your own thinking, to build your network, and to sharpen your ability to see patterns in complex work.

AI will change how projects are planned, analyzed, and executed. But it will not remove the need for human judgment. If anything, it raises the standard for it. The more work we can generate, the more important it becomes to know where to place our attention.

Thank you for placing your attention here—on your development, on strengthening the project management profession, and on growing the community we've built together.

We look forward to spending these next two days together.



John Johnson
Professional Program Manager
University of Maryland
Project Management Center for Excellence



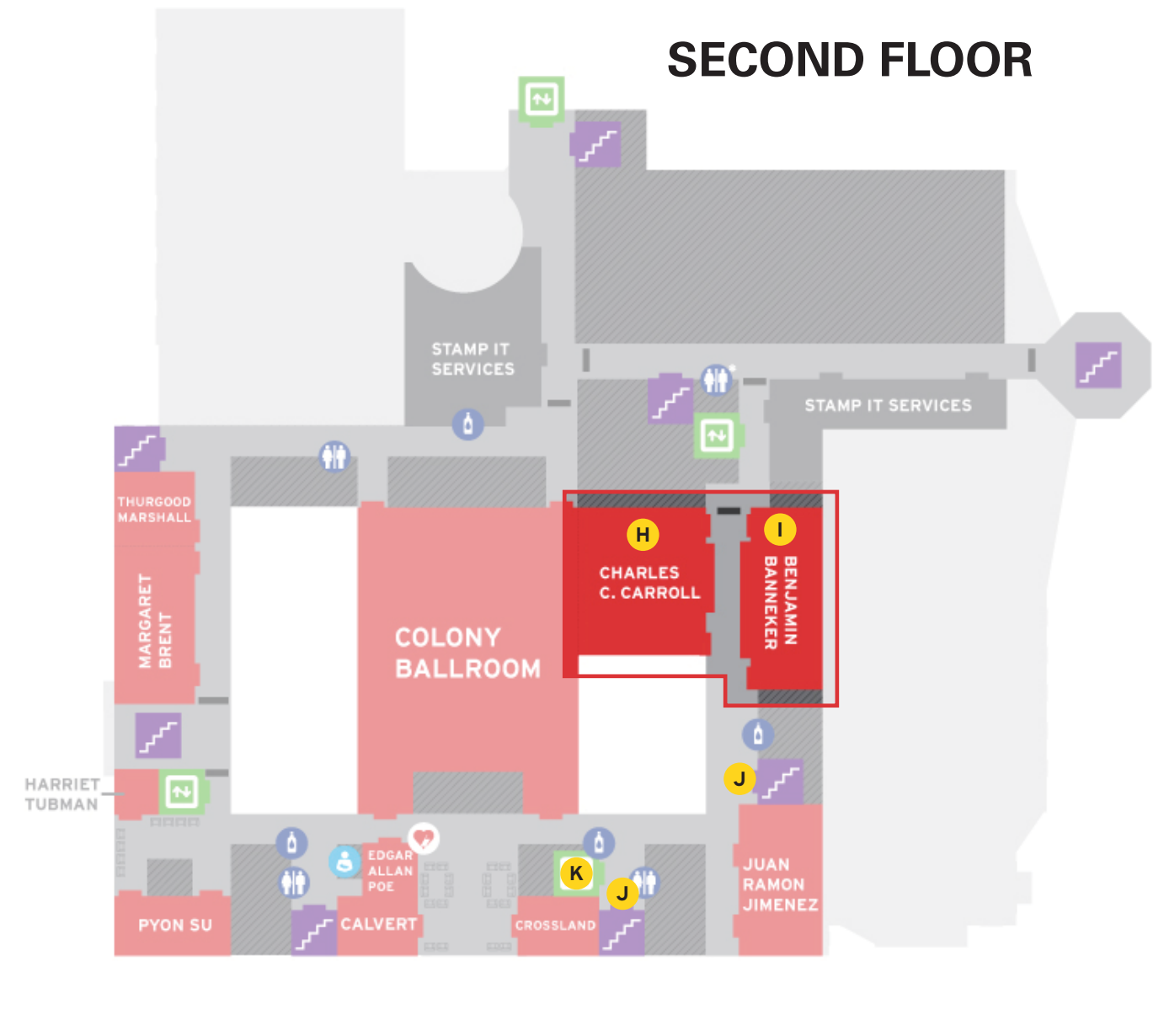
Kathleen Frankle
Marketing Manager
University of Maryland
Project Management Center for Excellence

Meeting Rooms

All symposium meeting rooms are shown in red below.



- A** People & Projects Track
- B** AI in Project Management / Agile Track
- C** Featured Speakers, Opening & Closing
- D** Registration
- E** Stairway to 2nd Floor
- F** Elevator to 2nd Floor
- G** Food & Drink



- H** Strategic Project Management Track
- I** Project Management Skills Track
- J** Stairway to 1st Floor
- K** Elevator to 1st Floor

Professional Development Units (PDUs)

Session Type	Description	PDUs
Live	Follow along with the live program (attend one session per time slot). There are eight (8) sessions on Thursday and five (5) sessions on Friday for a total of thirteen (13) sessions. The last session on Friday is worth 1.5 PDUs instead of .75.	12 sessions @ 0.75 PDUs 1 session @ 1.5 PDUs Total = 10.5 PDUs
Recorded	All live sessions delivered on April 30 – May 1, 2026, will be recorded. Once the Symposium has ended, the links to the recordings will be posted on the website. All participants will receive login information to access the recordings. Each recorded session is worth 0.75 PDUs. If you review all the recorded sessions, you can earn up to 18 PDUs (this number assumes you've watched all 13 live sessions discussed above, so it only counts the leftover regular sessions).	24 sessions @ 0.75 PDUs = 18 PDUs
On-Demand	These sessions are pre-recorded and are available to all registered participants starting April 22, 2026. Each on-demand session is worth 0.75 PDUs.	23 Sessions @ 0.75 PDUs each = 17.25 PDUs.
Virtual Workshops	4 workshops @ 4 PDUs each and 3 workshops @ 3 PDUs each = 25 PDUs.	25 PDUs if you participated in all 7 workshops
Totals	59 sessions @ 0.75 PDUs each 1 session @ 1.5 PDUs 7 workshops @ 25 PDUs Total PDUs = 71	

PDU COMPLETION CERTIFICATES

There are two types of PDU certificates available for the 2026 Project Management Symposium. You will need to complete the form(s) in order to receive a certificate(s). A PDF version of the completion certificate will be emailed to you. If you want credit for the PDUs from PMI, then YOU will need to enter each individual session you attended into PMI's Continuing Certification Renewal System – see instructions below.



PDU Certificate Request Form -
LIVE Event, April 30 – May 1, 2026

The PDU Certificate Request Form for Recorded & On-Demand Sessions will be available on the Symposium website after the event.

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT
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MANAGEMENT

At a Glance | Thursday April 30

8:00AM Registration: Lobby of Adele H. Stamp Student Union
Networking and Light Breakfast

8:45AM **Welcome & Featured Speaker: Alan Zucker**
Reenvisioning Project Management: Back to the Basics

9:45AM Break

Track	People in Projects - Leadership Trends Atrium (1107)	Strategic Project Management - Empowering Charles Carroll (2203)	Project Management Skills - Fundamentals Benjamin Banneker (2212)	AI in Project Management Prince George's (1211)
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10:00AM	LeaderSHIFT for Project Managers: Mastering Leadership Agility in the Age of AI – Coleman	From Ideas to Action: Embedding Project Management in Student Success Initiatives – Meersman	Decoding the PMBOK® Guide 8th Edition: What's New, What's Gone, and What's Next – Richards	AI in Project Management: From Reactive to Predictive – AI Agents That Detect Risk and Automate the Noise – Enjuweh
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10:45AM Break

11:00AM	The Power of Positive Leadership: Coaching Skills for High Impact Results – Berman Fortgang	Leading Engagement and Change in UMD's Policy-Driven Network Transformation – Prem and Gerratt	Leading Change in a Hybrid World: Cultural Agility and Remote Leadership – Jaques	Expediting Strategy Realization with AI-Enhanced Project Management – D'Mello
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11:45AM Lunch & Networking

12:30PM **Featured Speaker: Kanika Tolver**
Supercharging Agile Teams, AI Agents, and You: A Corporate Rebel's Playbook

1:15PM Break

Track	People in Projects - Resilience Atrium (1107)	Strategic Project Management - PMO Charles Carroll (2203)	Project Management Skills - Advanced Benjamin Banneker (2212)	AI in Project Management - Applications Prince George's (1211)
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1:30PM	Igniting Change! The Power of Transformational Leadership in Project Management – Reisner	Driving Business Success by Evolving Our Processes, Tools, and Ourselves – Gollob and Trocino	Leading Across Borders: Lessons from 18 Years of Managing Complex Global IT Programs – Abello	Using AI to validate and improve Traditional Agile project schedules to reduce risk of cost and timeline overruns – London
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2:15PM Break

2:30PM	Beyond Delivery: How Change Management Illuminates the Path to Lasting Impact – Rochino	From Chaos to Clarity: How Our Nonprofit Won the Project Management Software Game – Washington	Lead Bigger: A Project Manager's Guide to Strategic Leadership – Hobson	Your AI Project Team: Declarative Agents, Researcher, Analyst, and the Microsoft Copilot App – Huseynov
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3:15PM Break

3:30PM	Train the Nervous System to Lead the System — Building Calm, Connected, and High-Performing Project Teams – Brantley	PMO as the integration agent in Product Lifecycle Management: bridging the gaps across the phases of products lifecycles – Prasek	Beyond Projects: How Project Managers Can Succeed in a Product-Centric World – Augustine	Starting Small with AI: Why Grassroots Beats the Enterprise Rollout – Stay
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4:15PM Break

4:30PM **Featured Speaker: Michael Allison**
Break The Bottle: Shattering Project Bottlenecks with Resilient Leadership and Solutions Thinking

5:15PM Networking Reception

At a Glance | Friday May 1

8:00AM Registration: Lobby of Adele H. Stamp Student Union
Networking and Light Breakfast

8:45AM **Featured Speaker: Ed Link**
Adaptive Project Management – A Time Machine for Demanding Schedules Project Management of the Post Katrina Assessment and Response in New Orleans

9:45AM Break

Track	People in Projects - Conversations Atrium (1107)	Strategic Project Management - (Re)-Launching Charles Carroll (2203)	Project Management Skills - Mastering Yourself Benjamin Banneker (2212)	Agile Transformation Prince George's (1211)
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10:00AM	Leadership's Hidden Dynamics: Power, Collaboration, and Alignment in Action – Hovell	Start Smart, Finish Strong: The Power of a Great Kickoff – Johnson and Rumeau	Before AI Learns Us, We Must Learn Ourselves: The New Skillset for Project Managers in an AI-Driven World – Matthews	From Scope to Impact and Outcomes: Empowering Project Managers in the Agile Product Operating Model – Payne
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10:45AM Break

11:00AM	From Performance Reviews to Powerful Conversations: A Practical Framework for Leading People and Projects with Impact – Jasen	High-stakes project management tactical skills: How to launch a hospital in 21 days – Morgan	Engaging with and Controlling Your Inner Dialogue – Before You Speak! – Halstead	Hybrid Project Management: Where Structure Meets Speed (It's a Love-Hate Story) – Khanna
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11:45AM Break

12:00PM	The Art of Giving Feedback: Valuing People, Getting Results – McManus	Rebuilding Momentum: Leading Teams Through Project Recovery and Renewal – Basha	Sustainable Leadership: Managing Yourself Before Managing the Project – Clements	Wide Angle Agile: A Compliance-Integrated Approach to Regulated Product Development – Filipkowski
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12:45PM Lunch and Networking

1:30PM **Featured Speakers and Workshop: Dan Ward and Lynne Cuppernull**
Mastering the Project Narrative: Storytelling as a Strategic Leadership Skill

3:00PM Closing

Thursday | April 30

8:45AM Featured Speaker

Alan Zucker



Grand Ballroom

Reenvisioning Project Management: Back to the Basics | *Power Skills*

Project management faces an identity crisis. As predictive methods fade, agile evolves, hybrid blurs, and AI accelerates execution, leaders risk chasing trends instead of results. In this session, Alan Zucker refocuses on what endures, stakeholder engagement, clear objectives, right-sized process, and intentional leadership, equipping project professionals to cut through complexity and deliver consistent, sustainable outcomes.

10:00AM Sessions

People in Projects - Leadership Trends

LeaderSHIFT for Project Managers: Mastering Leadership Agility in the Age of AI | *Business Acumen*

As artificial intelligence accelerates change at an unprecedented pace, project managers must shift how they lead. LeaderSHIFT equips PMs with the mindset and skills to lead with agility, influence, and innovation in AI-driven environments. This session explores critical leadership shifts that move PMs from managing tasks to orchestrating collaboration, enabling them to elevate team performance, strengthen human connection, and thrive amid continuous disruption.



Speaker
Kevin Coleman

Room
Atrium (1107)

Strategic Project Management - Empowering

From Ideas to Action: Embedding Project Management in Student Success Initiatives | *Ways of Working*

Transforming strategy into measurable results requires more than vision, it demands embedded execution. This session showcases how UT San Antonio integrated project management directly into academic leadership to drive student success. Learn how this model strengthened alignment, accountability, and delivery, producing measurable gains in retention and completion, while offering transferable insights for leading complex, mission-critical initiatives in any sector.



Speaker
Katie Meersman

Room
Charles Carroll (2203)

Project Management Skills - Fundamentals

Decoding the PMBOK® Guide 8th Edition: What's New, What's Gone, and What's Next | *Ways of Working*

The release of the PMBOK® Guide 8th Edition signals a strategic evolution in how PMI defines modern project management. This session distills the most critical changes, from new principles and Focus Areas to integrated performance domains and explains how they reshape expectations for today's professionals. Whether you are preparing for the PMP® or maintaining your credential, you'll gain clear guidance on how to align your practice, learning strategy, and career path with PMI's future-ready direction.



Speaker
Crystal Richards

Room
Benjamin Banneker (2212)

AI in Project Management

AI in Project Management: From Reactive to Predictive - AI Agents That Detect Risk and Automate the Noise | *Ways of Working*

Today's delivery leaders are overwhelmed not by a lack of tools, but by fractured context scattered across platforms. This session shows how AI becomes an execution intelligence layer, connecting structured project data with unstructured team communications to surface risks before they escalate. Learn how AI-driven automation and predictive insights replace reactive dashboards, giving leaders real-time visibility into blockers, dependencies, and emerging threats, so you can intervene earlier, protect timelines, and drive results.



Speaker
Dr. Gloria Enjuweh

Room
Prince George's (1211)

Thursday | April 30

11:00AM Sessions

People in Projects - Leadership Trends

The Power of Positive Leadership: Coaching Skills for High Impact Results | *Power Skills*

Unlock the power of positive leadership to elevate team performance and drive measurable results. This session demonstrates how coaching-based feedback and strategic communication transform everyday interactions into opportunities for growth, engagement, and innovation. Learn practical techniques to give feedback that is heard, ask questions that spark development, and cultivate an inclusive leadership style that strengthens culture, empowers teams, and accelerates organizational impact.



Speaker
Laura Berman Fortgang

Room
Atrium (1107)

Strategic Project Management - Empowering

Leading Engagement and Change in UMD's Policy-Driven Network Transformation | *Power Skills*

As higher education institutions modernize their networks, shifting from open access to secure, policy-driven models has become essential. This session explores how identity-based access and structured project management approaches can enable scalable, secure network transformations. Through a real-world campus case study, attendees will learn strategies for stakeholder alignment, design validation, and effective rollout. Gain practical insights to manage complex infrastructure changes while balancing security, usability, and organizational needs.

Speakers

Room | Charles Carroll (2203)



Kevin Prem



Natalie Gerratt

Project Management Skills - Fundamentals

Leading Change in a Hybrid World: Cultural Agility and Remote Leadership | *Business Acumen*

In today's hybrid and remote work environment, project leaders must go beyond coordination to lead with cultural agility, emotional intelligence, and adaptive skills. This session draws on the IPMA Individual Competence Baseline (ICB4) to provide actionable strategies across People, Perspective, and Practice competences, enabling leaders to inspire trust, foster collaboration, align diverse teams with organizational purpose, and drive successful change. Participants will leave equipped to build connected, resilient, and high-performing teams that excel across locations and cultures.



Speaker
Tim Jaques

Room
Benjamin Banneker (2212)

AI in Project Management

Expediting Strategy Realization with AI-Enhanced Project Management | *Business Acumen*

This session explores the opportunities and risks arising from AI's ongoing transformation and automation of project management. Participants will learn how to seize the opportunities and become "AI-ready", so they can elevate their careers, roles, and visibility by leveraging analytical, generative, and agentic AI to accelerate realization of organizational objectives and mission/strategy. A practical model is presented for gauging organizational progress and challenges in attaining this goal; and for enabling timely and impactful course corrections.



Speaker
Joseph D'Mello

Room
Prince George's (1211)

12:30PM Featured Speaker

Kanika Tolver



Supercharging Agile Teams, AI Agents, and You: A Corporate Rebel's Playbook | *Ways of Working*

As Generative AI reshapes delivery, Agile leaders must learn to partner with AI as a strategic digital teammate. In this executive-level session, Kanika Tolver shares practical frameworks for integrating AI into sprint planning, backlog refinement, stakeholder communication, and retrospectives. Attendees will gain prompt engineering techniques, tool evaluation insights, and governance considerations to accelerate innovation, enhance productivity, and adopt AI responsibly while preserving Agile values.

Grand Ballroom

1:30PM Sessions

People in Projects - Resilience

Igniting Change! The Power of Transformational Leadership in Project Management | *Power Skills*

Project managers face the constant challenge of engaging teams, driving change, and aligning efforts toward strategic objectives. This session demonstrates how transformational leadership empowers PMs to inspire trust, foster collaboration, and cultivate a high-performance culture. Participants will gain actionable strategies to lead through change, articulate a compelling vision, and motivate teams, delivering superior project outcomes while sustaining engagement and resilience in dynamic environments.

Speaker
Jackie Reisner

Room
Atrium (1107)

Strategic Project Management - PMO

Driving Business Success by Evolving Our Processes, Tools, and Ourselves | *Ways of Working*

This session demonstrates how PMOs can serve as catalysts for innovation, process improvement, and organizational alignment. Participants will learn how to cultivate a collaborative, people-centered PMO, engage key stakeholders effectively, and create systems that continuously elevate project management excellence, driving measurable business results and supporting strategic objectives.

Speakers

 Ariel Trocino

Room | Charles Carroll (2203)

 Sandra Gollob

Project Management Skills - Advanced

Leading Across Borders: Lessons from 18 Years of Managing Complex Global IT Programs | *Power Skills*

In today's interconnected world, project managers are orchestrators of outcomes, navigating complexity across time zones, cultures, and organizational boundaries. Drawing on 18 years of experience leading large-scale, multi-region IT programs, this session provides practical strategies for aligning diverse teams, managing global stakeholders, and transforming project governance into a strategic advantage. Attendees will gain actionable insights to build trust remotely, bridge cultural and communication gaps, manage multi-supplier ecosystems, and elevate leadership influence, delivering resilient, high-impact results in complex global initiatives.

Speaker
Kristy Anne Abello

Room
Benjamin Banneker (2212)

AI in Project Management - Applications

Using AI to validate and improve Traditional Agile project schedules to reduce risk of cost and timeline overruns | *Ways of Working*

This session shows how GenAI can help project managers validate schedules before hidden problems turn into delays, overruns, and stakeholder frustration. Attendees will see how GenAI can review schedules created in Microsoft Project, Jira, Azure Boards, and similar tools to detect missing decomposition, unclear tasks, weak estimates, and forecasting risks. The presentation also highlights differences among common project tools and demonstrates how to build practical AI prompt toolkits that improve schedule quality, clarity, and confidence across delivery methods.

Speaker
Robert London

Room
Prince George's (1211)

2:30PM Sessions

People in Projects - Resilience

Beyond Delivery: How Change Management Illuminates Lasting Impact | *Power Skills*

In project environments where success is too often defined by timelines and budgets, organizational change management (OCM) offers a powerful, often underutilized lever: the ability to translate project delivery into sustained business value. This session explores how integrating OCM principles into project planning and execution can transform outcomes—particularly in internal initiatives, product development cycles, and public-sector programs.

Speaker
Amy Rochino

Room
Atrium (1107)

Strategic Project Management - PMO

From Chaos to Clarity: How Our Nonprofit Won the Project Management Software Game | *Ways of Working*

What began as a simple project management tool migration quickly became a full-scale change management effort for a nonprofit organization. This session examines how a small, matrixed team achieved organization-wide adoption by addressing the human side of digital transformation. Attendees will learn practical strategies for overcoming resistance, designing engaging learning experiences, and using communication and storytelling to build buy-in—turning skeptics into champions and improving collaboration, planning, and impact delivery.

Speaker
Keshni Washington

Room
Charles Carroll (2203)

Project Management Skills - Advanced

Lead Bigger: A Project Manager's Guide to Strategic Leadership | *Power Skills*

Discover the mindset shifts and power skills that transform project managers into strategic leaders. In this session, Kim Hobson, Group Lead for Systems Management at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, shares insights from over 30 years of experience in federal programs, IT transformation, and cross-functional leadership. Participants will learn how to shift from tactical delivery to strategic influence, lead without formal authority, grow their leadership presence, and drive meaningful organizational outcomes that elevate both teams and careers.

Speaker
Kim Hobson

Room
Benjamin Banneker (2212)

AI in Project Management - Applications

Your AI Project Team: Declarative Agents, Researcher, Analyst, and the Microsoft Copilot App | *Ways of Working*

Microsoft 365 Copilot goes beyond productivity, it acts as an intelligent AI project team to support planning, communication, and decision-making. This session introduces declarative and pre-built agents, like Researcher and Analyst, and the Copilot app to streamline workflows. Participants will learn to automate repetitive tasks, extract insights, track risks, and centralize project information, enabling smarter, faster project execution without technical expertise. Ideal for PMs ready to harness AI effectively.

Speaker
Rafsan Huseynov

Room
Prince George's (1211)



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Thursday | April 30

3:30PM Sessions

People in Projects - Resilience

Train the Nervous System to Lead the System – Building Calm, Connected, and High-Performing Project Teams | *Power Skills*

High-performing teams rely on emotional safety and resilience as much as talent and tools. This session introduces TILT (Trauma-Informed Leadership Training), a science-based approach leveraging Polyvagal Theory and psychological safety to help project leaders maintain focus, trust, and collaboration under pressure. Participants will gain practical strategies to recognize stress patterns, co-regulate teams, and create environments that foster psychological safety, enhance decision-making, and drive sustained, high-performance outcomes.



Speaker
Bill Brantley

Room
Atrium (1107)

Strategic Project Management - PMO

PMO as the integration agent in Product Lifecycle Management: bridging the gaps across the phases of products lifecycles | *Business Acumen*

This session examines how PMOs drive alignment and continuity across the full product lifecycle, from innovation and development to growth, maturity, and discontinuation. Participants will learn how PMOs bridge gaps between product phases, support strategic decisions on launches, modifications, and retirements, and ensure execution excellence. The session highlights actionable strategies to optimize revenue streams, maintain customer satisfaction, and enable disciplined, high-impact delivery across multiple products.



Speaker
Marina Prasek

Room
Charles Carroll (2203)

Project Management Skills - Advanced

Beyond Projects: How Project Managers Can Succeed in a Product-Centric World | *Business Acumen*

Organizations are shifting to product-centric operating models, changing how work is planned, funded, and delivered. This session helps project managers adapt their skills for product-driven environments, covering leadership, risk management, and stakeholder engagement. Through real-world case studies and discussion, participants will explore lessons from organizations that have successfully made the transition.



Speaker
Sanjiv Augustine

Room
Benjamin Banneker (2212)

AI in Project Management - Applications

Starting Small with AI: Why Grassroots Beats the Enterprise Rollout | *Ways of Working*

Top-down AI initiatives often fail, but project managers can harness AI independently to transform their work and deliver measurable results. This session showcases real-world, immediately applicable AI techniques for tasks such as requirements analysis, risk management, stakeholder communications, and reporting. Participants will learn why grassroots adoption succeeds, gain actionable prompts and workflows, and understand when to rely on AI versus human judgment, empowering PMs to accelerate delivery, demonstrate value, and drive innovation in their projects.



Speaker
Dan Stay

Room
Prince George's (1211)



4:30PM Featured Speaker

Michael Allison

Break The Bottle: Shattering Project Bottlenecks with Resilient Leadership and Solutions Thinking | *Ways of Working*

Projects stall not from process, but from internal barriers, fear, indecision, and reactive mindsets. Michael W. Allison, Purple Heart Marine Veteran and award-winning speaker, presents the Break The Bottle™ 3-D Framework to identify and dismantle hidden obstacles, build resilience, align leadership identity with clarity and accountability, and sustain high-performing teams. Practical strategies equip leaders to shift from survival to solutions mode under pressure.

Grand Ballroom

Friday | May 1



8:45AM Featured Speaker

Ed Link

Adaptive Project Management - A Time Machine for Demanding Schedules Project Management of the Post Katrina Assessment and Response in New Orleans | *Power Skills*

Hurricane Katrina reshaped U.S. and global flood policies. Ed Link highlights how adaptive project management enabled rapid forensic analysis, temporary repairs, and the \$15B Gulf Coast risk reduction system under unprecedented time constraints. By integrating diverse expertise and applying new knowledge, teams rebuilt New Orleans sustainably. This session explores lessons in agile execution, innovation, and resilience, and asks: are Katrina-inspired practices sufficient for future climate and societal uncertainties?

Grand Ballroom

10:00AM Sessions

People in Projects - Conversations

Leadership's Hidden Dynamics: Power, Collaboration, and Alignment in Action | *Power Skills*

In this immersive session, a tailored version of Power + Systems' flagship Organization Workshop, participants explore the unseen dynamics that shape organizational effectiveness. Through experiential exercises, reflection, and applied frameworks, attendees experience the perspectives of executives, managers, contributors, and customers, revealing how behaviors, communication, and collaboration influence performance. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to strengthen cross-boundary alignment, enhance strategic influence, and drive measurable organizational impact.



Speaker
John Hovell

Room
Atrium (1107)

Strategic Project Mgmt - (Re)-Launching

Start Smart, Finish Strong: The Power of a Great Kickoff | *Ways of Working*

Successfully launching a project or program requires more than execution, it requires alignment, foresight, and stakeholder engagement from the outset. In this session, Nicole Rumeau and Courtney Johnson, Assistant Directors at the Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security (ARLIS), guide participants through dynamic, cross-functional portfolio planning using comprehensive kickoff strategies. Attendees will collaborate on a sample internal kickoff plan, gain actionable tools to align teams, anticipate risks, and establish a framework for long-term project and program success.

Speakers

Room | Charles Carroll (2203)



Courtney Johnson



Nicole Rumeau

Project Management Skills - Mastering Yourself

Before AI Learns Us, We Must Learn Ourselves: The New Skillset for Project Managers in an AI-Driven World | *Ways of Working*

AI automates many traditional project management tasks, but human judgment, accountability, and moral decision-making remain essential. This session introduces the Signature Intelligence Model (SIM) to help leaders understand how they plan, influence, and lead through uncertainty. Participants will learn to combine AI's speed with human insight, adapt to organizational culture, and confidently own the decisions that matter most.



Speaker
Brandon Matthews

Room
Benjamin Banneker (2212)

Agile Transformation

From Scope to Impact and Outcomes: Empowering Project Managers in the Agile Product Operating Model | *Ways of Working*

As organizations embrace the Product Operating Model, project managers must shift from managing scope to enabling business impact. This session explores practical strategies for aligning teams, managing dependencies, applying value management, and collaborating with Product and Agile teams. Participants will learn to focus on outcomes, prioritize work strategically, and measure success by the value delivered, not just timelines or budgets.



Speaker
Bob Payne

Room
Prince George's (1211)

11:00AM Sessions

People in Projects - Conversations

From Performance Reviews to Powerful Conversations: A Practical Framework for Leading People and Projects with Impact | Ways of Working

Performance management can be a powerful driver of team alignment, development, and engagement. This session presents a modern approach that moves beyond annual reviews to continuous, strengths-based conversations. Using The Performance Management Quad™ and 5 Zones of Engagement, participants will learn to deliver feedback that inspires accountability, boosts performance, and strengthens trust across hybrid and multi-functional teams.



Speaker
Kelly Jasen

Room
Atrium (1107)

Strategic Project Mgmt - (Re)-Launching

High-stakes project management tactical skills: How to launch a hospital in 21 days | Power Skills

When COVID-19 threatened to overwhelm Maryland hospitals, a shuttered facility in Laurel offered a critical opportunity. Leading a high-stakes, time-sensitive initiative, this session explores how teams rapidly mobilized, adapted, and executed to open a fully operational COVID hospital in just 21 days. Attendees will gain actionable insights on crisis leadership, agile decision-making, and delivering results under extreme pressure.



Speaker
Tim Morgan

Room
Charles Carroll (2203)

Project Management Skills - Mastering Yourself

Engaging with and Controlling Your Inner Dialogue - Before You Speak! | Business Acumen

Projects often stall not from process gaps, but from miscommunication, stress, and misaligned teams. This session provides practical tools, the "Caring Dial" and "Over the Shoulder" frameworks, to manage emotions, maintain composure, and establish trust. Participants will gain actionable strategies to navigate difficult conversations, strengthen stakeholder alignment, and lead teams confidently in high-pressure environments.



Speaker
Margot Halstead

Room
Benjamin Banneker (2212)

Agile Transformation

Hybrid Project Management: Where Structure Meets Speed (It's a Love-Hate Story) | Ways of Working

Projects today demand both discipline and agility to deliver value in rapidly changing environments. This session explores hybrid project management, a practical approach that blends structure and speed without overburdening teams. Through real-world examples, participants will learn to identify when hybrid approaches are most effective, avoid common pitfalls, and implement flexible frameworks to maintain governance, accelerate delivery, and keep stakeholders aligned and engaged.



Speaker
Divya Khanna

Room
Prince George's (1211)

12:00PM Sessions

People in Projects - Conversations

The Art of Giving Feedback: Valuing People, Getting Results | Power Skills

Feedback is one of the most powerful tools a project manager can use, yet it is often misunderstood. This session reframes feedback as a value-centered, trust-building practice rather than a "tough conversation." Participants will learn practical strategies to deliver direct, meaningful feedback rooted in strengths, fostering collaboration, accountability, and growth, while creating an environment where trust, appreciation, and high performance thrive together.



Speaker
Briana McManus

Room
Atrium (1107)

Strategic Project Mgmt - (Re)-Launching

Rebuilding Momentum: Leading Teams Through Project Recovery and Renewal | Power Skills

Enterprise projects often stall due to shifting priorities, disengaged teams, and waning confidence. This session provides a practical framework to diagnose stalled initiatives and implement targeted recovery strategies. Participants will learn how to rebuild trust, foster cross-functional collaboration, apply agile principles in structured environments, and re-engage teams under pressure, equipping them to reset direction, regain momentum, and deliver complex projects successfully and sustainably.



Speaker
Delavar Basha

Room
Charles Carroll (2203)

Project Management Skills - Mastering Yourself

Sustainable Leadership: Managing Yourself Before Managing the Project | Ways of Working

Burnout is no longer just a personal issue, it is a critical project risk. This session reframes leadership as an inside-out practice, demonstrating how sustainable delivery begins with managing personal energy and capacity. Participants will explore practical tools, including the Menu Framework and capacity budgeting, to integrate wellness into project planning. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to balance demands, optimize capacity, and view rest and efficiency as essential drivers of project success.



Speaker
Kimberley Clemonts

Room
Benjamin Banneker (2212)

Agile Transformation

Wide Angle Agile: A Compliance-Integrated Approach to Regulated Product Development | Ways of Working

Traditional waterfall methods often fall short in environments defined by uncertainty and rapid iteration. This session presents a case study from a medical device company, demonstrating how agile principles were adapted for preclinical research through a hybrid framework. By introducing stand-ups, short sprint cycles, and retrospectives, teams improved collaboration, responsiveness, and delivery speed. Attendees will gain practical insights on tailoring agile for regulated environments, piloting change with small teams, and applying iterative practices effectively.



Speaker
Danielle Filipkowski

Room
Prince George's (1211)

Fun Photos
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Thursday 9:45am-7:00pm
Friday 8:00am-3:00pm
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Melody Gilbert



1:30PM Featured Speakers

Lynne Cuppernull and Dan Ward

Mastering the Project Narrative: Storytelling as a Strategic Leadership Skill | Power Skills

Dan and Lynne show how top PMs translate technical and financial project details into compelling stories that drive stakeholder understanding, buy-in, and alignment. Participants explore storytelling frameworks, balance technical accuracy with emotional resonance, and practice crafting narratives in the interactive Story Lab, receiving real-time feedback. This session transforms storytelling from an innate talent into a strategic, masterable skill, empowering PMs to lead with influence and communicate project impact effectively.



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Meet Your Instructors



John Johnson
Professional Programs Manager, PM Center for Excellence, UMD



Dr. Il-Horn Hann
Professor of Information Systems, UMD



William "Bill" Dennison
VP for Science Application, Center for Environmental Sciences, UMD



Neil Schulman
Lecturer, Civil and Environmental Engineering



Vanessa Vargas-Nguyen
Science Integrator, Center for Environmental Sciences, UMD



Tushar Rathod
CEO, Vedic Professional Services



Dr. Bill Brantley
President and Chief Learning Officer, BAS2A



Richard Arnold
Director of STEM Engagement, Center for Environmental Sciences, UMD



Jake Artz
Engagement Delivery Manager, Salesforce

Meet Your Instructors



Cait von Schnetlage
CEO, Full Suite Solutions



Al Zeitoun
Transformation Partner, Transformation Partner Projects & Company



Dr. James Green
Director of Entrepreneurship Education, UMD



Crystal Richards
Instructor, PMP, PMI ACP, CSM at University of Maryland



Gregory Baecher
Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering Center for Risk and Reliability



Jocelyn S. Davis
President & Co-Founder, Nelson Hart LLC

On Demand Sessions

A Reorg Done Best is a Reorg Done Last | *Business Acumen*

Join Kendall Lott as he rolls out a frame for continually asking the best next questions to move through a journey of org change, built around getting and improving mission results, wrapped in the embrace of organizational culture. Three milestones, 6 components – ending in one newly designed mission-oriented organization. Let's talk about how to get the most mission results for the resources you have...and prepare to take on the organizational cultural constraints.



Speaker
Kendall
Lott

AI as a Force Multiplier: Redefining Project Management Efficiency | *Ways of Working*

As project demands grow and teams stay lean, AI is reshaping how work gets done. This session explores how project managers can leverage AI to automate routine tasks, uncover insights, and enhance stakeholder communication. Through practical examples, attendees will learn how to shift from execution-focused roles to strategic leadership. Discover how to integrate AI into your workflow to drive efficiency, accuracy, and smarter decision-making.



Speaker
Trinesha
Longley

Beyond Book Smarts: Mastering the Holistic Blend of IQ, EQ, and SQ | *Power Skills*

Success today requires more than just intelligence—it demands balance. This session explores the powerful intersection of IQ, EQ, and SQ, and how each plays a critical role in personal and professional growth. Attendees will gain insight into developing a well-rounded skill set that enhances leadership, teamwork, and self-awareness. Discover how mastering this holistic blend can elevate your impact in every aspect of life.



Speaker
Myles
Miller

Bridging Disciplines: Applying Engineering PM to Global Diplomacy | *Ways of Working*

What happens when structured engineering methodologies meet the dynamic world of diplomacy? This session explores how project management tools like WBS, stakeholder mapping, and risk analysis can be adapted for cross-cultural and public sector initiatives. Through real-world case studies, attendees will learn how to navigate complex, people-centered environments while maintaining clarity and impact. Gain practical strategies to apply structured thinking in unpredictable global contexts.



Speaker
Ahmed
Eltally

Creating Better Business Outcomes & Closing the Staffing Gap | *Power Skills*

With staffing shortages of 650,000 openings in AEC and growing client demand for more efficiency, faster delivery, and tighter cost controls, how will firms fulfil current contract requirements? Compounded by an aging workforce, how can companies survive in the future? Simply stated, expand beyond the traditional male-centric culture to identify new candidate pools. Further, research confirms that organizations comprised of varying voices and perspectives deliver business outcomes and higher client satisfaction.



Speaker
Dr. Paul
Hickey

Data-Driven Decisions Anchored in Emotional Intelligence | *Power Skills*

In today's fast-paced and uncertain project environments, leaders are often torn between hard analytics and the human side of their teams. While data provides clarity and accountability, it rarely captures the emotional dynamics stress, morale, conflict, or trust that directly influence project outcomes. Too often, managers respond to what the numbers show while overlooking the root causes hidden within team behavior and stakeholder interactions.



Speaker
Abbigail
Meah-Ali



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On Demand Sessions

From Planner to Strategist: Why Not Everyone Is Built for PM | *Power Skills*

Not everyone is built for project management, and that's a good thing. The most successful project leaders know that managing a plan is not the same as managing a strategy. In many organizations, project management is reduced to tracking tasks and updating dashboards, but real impact happens when project managers operate as strategic thinkers, understanding context, anticipating challenges, and connecting people to purpose.



Speaker
Angela
Hamlin

From Start-up to Standout: The Journey of an Enterprise-wide, Non-profit Program Management Office | *Ways of Working*

Diabetes affects 38.5 million Americans, with another 97.6 million living with pre-diabetes, contributing to approximately \$412.9 billion in annual health care costs. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) is committed to preventing and curing diabetes and improving the lives of those impacted. As a leading nonprofit, the ADA must navigate an increasingly complex landscape while scaling programs, increasing operational efficiencies, and delivering sustainable results for the diabetes community.



Speakers
Rebecca
Nessen



Morgan
Coenen

Helped, Hugged, Heard: Decoding Communication for More Effective Project Management | *Power Skills*

In the fast-paced world of project management, problem-solving is more than a technical skill—it's a human skill. Successful project managers know that effective communication can shift the dynamics of engagement, strengthen relationships, and ultimately drive better outcomes. This interactive session examines the "Helped, Hugged, or Heard" framework—a simple yet powerful tool for navigating complex conversations with clarity and empathy.



Speaker
Candis M.
Stretcher

I'm Certified... Now What? Turning Credentials into Real-World PM Skills | *Ways of Working*

This presentation is designed for two audiences: newly certified (or actively pursuing certification) and those mentoring or leading new project managers. Drawing from real-world experiences in healthcare IT, Agile transformation, and project optimization, I'll share strategies for applying PMBOK® principles to everyday project challenges. Attendees will learn to move beyond memorized frameworks and use certification as a springboard for growth in areas like stakeholder engagement, process improvement, and adaptive leadership.



Speaker
Kenneth
Welcome

Play a Game to Understand Where Most Agile Projects Fail | *Ways of Working*

The workshop brings together concepts and practice. The team discussions and problem solving awaken the agile mindset. Makes it real. This interactive workshop showcases the critical, yet often undervalued or underemphasized, aspect of the agile mindset that can make or break agile or soon-to-be agile project organizations. You can tell project managers and practitioners this all day long but until they experience it, they don't really internalize it.



Speaker
Neal
Rowland

Poor Leadership or Poor Following? A Case Study in Power, Perception, and Protocol | *Business Acumen*

This pre-recorded session reframes a workplace incident as a study in relational dynamics: a part-time employee's innocent question meets a senior leader's wounded pride, and the fallout ripples through the unit. We treat the episode as a three-way conversation between the leader, the follower, and the system. Using storytelling, sharing on a Google Form, and role-ready language, the session helps participants see how recognition, role ambiguity, and cultural norms create predictable escalation patterns. Leaders and followers will leave with concrete habits to prevent retaliation, repair trust, and redesign small systems so respect and clarity become the default.



Speaker
Sandra Menzies

Project Management in (and out) of Government | *Power Skills*

Learn about how project management in government requires a special skill set, and how this translates to and from the private sector. Yet when federal employees are no longer in public service, they fear their skills are not up to par with private sector expectations. We know this to be patently false. This presentation demystifies the federal service to private sector divide. For example, these 2 principles stand out that many feds naturally live out every day: Servant Leadership and Stewardship.



Speakers
Kate
Faulhaber



Samuel
Bishop

Reputation Re-Tool: Building Trust to Accelerate Project Success | *Power Skills*

In project-driven organizations, trust isn't optional—it's the foundation for team alignment, rapid decision-making, and successful project delivery. Scott Carley, The Change Energizer, introduces the Trust Credit Score™, a practical, proven framework that equips project managers and team leaders to intentionally build and sustain trust across teams and stakeholders.



Speaker
Scott Carley

Small Steps, Big Impact: Managing Incremental Improvements Without Agile | *Ways of Working*

Delivering meaningful website improvements without a redesign—or an agile framework—can feel impossible in an agency setting. Clients often act as their own product managers, controlling priorities, timelines, and approvals. This presentation shares strategies for achieving incremental digital progress within non-agile, client-led environments, where flexibility must coexist with structure.



Speaker
Jenna Urusky

Strategy Into Results: Why Project Execution Fails (and What to Do About It) | *Power Skills*

In this session, Kevin Judge, best-selling author of *The SMB Playbook: Lead with Clarity, Execute with Confidence, and Deliver Results in Uncertain Times*, shares fresh research from project management professionals on why execution fails and what can be done about it. Through real-world case studies and newly collected data from practicing PMPs, you'll learn how to spot early warning signs of execution gaps, understand the underlying drivers at play, and apply a simple 15-minute "alignment check" to keep your projects on track.



Speaker
Kevin Judge

The Art of Leadership - Power Skills from the Stage to the Boardroom | *Power Skills*

This session explores how the performing arts offer powerful models for leadership. Drawing parallels between musicians, actors, and project managers, we'll discover how artistic disciplines cultivate the same human-centered competencies essential to effective project delivery.



Speaker
Cristina Lopez

The Hidden Project Managers: Why Communications Leaders Drive Organizational Success | *Business Acumen*

This session reframes the role of communications within project environments, arguing that communications professionals often function as "hidden project managers." Through a project management lens, we'll explore how communications drives clarity from ambiguity, orchestrates stakeholder alignment, reinforces timelines, and mitigates risk—often at the most critical moments in execution.



Speaker
Emily
Williams

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On Demand Sessions

The Impact of Leadership Behavior | *Power Skills*

Leadership behavior encompasses the culture of the organization, its mission and vision as well as its goals and the ability of the organization to ascertain those goals. Leaders are the operators of the organization and provide guidance just as the operator of a vehicle, steer, direct, and control speed. Without effective leadership the organization is left with poor guidance and will not move in the direction of prosperity and success.

Speakers

- Marcia L. Clark
- Dr. Kenneth Green

The Strategic PMO: Leading with Vision, Driving Transformation, and Delivering Value | *Power Skills*

In today's fast-changing business landscape, PMOs must evolve from governance-driven entities into strategic engines of transformation. This session explores how modern PMO leaders can align vision with execution, balance structure with agility, and deliver measurable value across complex programs.

- Speaker**
Chase Glass

The Ultimate MVP: Applying Project Mgmt to Launch a 9-Year-Old CEO | *Business Acumen*

This session will break down the initiation, planning, execution, and monitoring of this real-world project, demonstrating how core PM principles are universally applicable, scalable, and the key to transforming passion into execution. It's a masterclass in scope management, stakeholder alignment, and agile adaptation, all through a relatable and engaging human story that proves the value of the PMBOK® guide beyond the corporate world.

- Speaker**
Nikouri Brown

Transformation is the Future Organizational Beat | *Ways of Working*

To execute this continual transformation work, the necessary muscle to build, is excelling in delivering a way of working that is fluid, highly digital, and seamless in working across organizational boundaries. Sustaining future organizational excellence is built on the importance of innovation in the world of projects and the ways of creating experiences that matter. Future leaders will need to understand the importance of achieving an integration thread across the execution landscape of prioritized projects within a portfolio.

- Speaker**
Al Zeitoun

When Humans Run Wild: The Art and Science of Project Governance | *Power Skills*

What happens when everyone is involved... but no one is accountable? Through a real-world project breakdown, this session reveals how unclear ownership, assumed alignment, and blurred roles cause decisions to stall even when work is moving forward. You'll see how project managers get pulled into decision gaps and how to shift that dynamic by establishing clear ownership, enforcing structure, and driving decisions to the right level. Because governance doesn't slow work down, it gives decisions a place to land.

- Speaker**
Chanda-Louise Oton



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Instructor John Johnson

AI Tools for Coordinating Teams at Scale | *Ways of Working (4 hours)*

According to Atlassian's State of Teams 2025, employees lose 25% of their week just searching for information — proof that coordination is broken at scale. Out-of-the-box tools like Steady or ClickUp AI show what's possible and can save thousands of hours. But for most teams, those solutions are out of reach or incomplete. The real path forward is layering lightweight agents into the tools you already use.

In this workshop, we'll build one live: an Alignment Agent that gathers updates, checks them against the plan, and produces a risk-aware weekly digest. You'll leave knowing how to bootstrap your own agent flows, cut meeting overhead, and reclaim time for real leadership.



Instructor Bill Brantley

Nervous-System Smart Leadership™ | *Ways of Working (4 hours)*

Projects often fail due to overwhelmed or disengaged teams, not poor planning. TILT (Trauma-Informed Leadership Training ©) equips project managers to build calm, focused, and trusted teams under stress or tight deadlines.

This training combines neuroscience (Polyvagal Theory) with team psychology (Psychological Safety) to help you and your team stay productive in challenging situations. You'll learn to lead calmly, foster psychological safety in meetings, and transform tension into effective collaboration.

TILT© provides practical, science-based methods to manage stress, improve communication, and keep projects progressing smoothly without overwhelming your team. You'll leave with effective strategies you can apply immediately because, in project management, how you feel directly impacts your team's mindset.



Instructor Sanjiv Augustine

Value Management to Drive Business Outcomes | *Ways of Working (2 hours), Business Acumen (2 hours)*

Many organizations struggle to achieve real agility due to siloed structures, command-and-control management, and legacy project-centric governance models. While Agile teams may be in place, slow decision-making, output-focused planning, and unclear leadership roles prevent strategy from translating into customer value. This 4-hour interactive workshop introduces Value Management as a practical approach to bridging the gap between strategy and execution. Participants explore why traditional project models and approval-based governance limit agility, examine the missing role of middle and executive leadership in Agile transformations, and learn how value-driven, adaptive governance enables faster and more effective decision-making.



Instructor Sandy Menzies

Master Your Career Ladder: Using the S.U.R.F. Framework | *Power Skills (4 hours)*

Participants equip themselves with a roadmap for navigating their career journey. Anchored in the ladder metaphor of stepping on, climbing up or down, switching ladders, or stepping off. Also, uses the S.U.R.F. change method, participants map their transitions, engage in individual and group virtual activities, and leave with action plans. Interactive networking, personalized reflection, and creative visioning exercises transform uncertainty into a structured, empowering trajectory.



Instructor Kevin Coleman

The Power of Personality in Project Management | *Power Skills (3 hours)*

Unlock the secret to stronger teams, smoother communication, and greater project success! In this interactive training, "The Power of Personality in Project Management," you'll uncover how personality drives communication, decision-making, and collaboration. By mastering the personality framework, project management professionals will learn how to connect with any personality type, handle conflict with confidence, and harness individual strengths to deliver high-impact results. Whether leading diverse teams, managing stakeholders, or navigating high-pressure deadlines, this workshop will empower you to transform personality differences into project power.

No recording available for this workshop.



Instructor Dr. Myles D. Miller

PM Tune-Up - 5 C's: Complexity, Criticality, Compliance, Culture, and Compassion | *Ways of Working (2 hours), Power Skills (1 hour)*

For everyone involved in project management, regardless of your experience level, it's essential to improve your project management skills every day. Five key areas should be reviewed regularly to ensure our project management approach results in successful outcomes. Think of these as dashboard gauges that need occasional adjustments. These "gauges" include: Complexity, Criticality, Compliance, Culture, and Compassion. In this 3-hour workshop, participants will explore each of these five components that make up the dashboard of effective project management.



Instructor Tamara Baptiste

Beyond Setup: Using AI, ClickUp, Confluence, and Gamma | *Ways of Working (3 hours)*

Setting up a project is easy. Managing it when everything goes sideways is hard. This live demo shows how to combine AI tools with proven project management platforms to handle scope creep, resource shortages, and evolving client demands. Using a realistic project scenario, see how AI can serve as your strategic partner when projects get complicated.



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