

**PMI Orange County Chapter** [www.pmi-oc.org](http://www.pmi-oc.org)

## Conference and Job Fair Benefit Chapter Members

**2**011 marked the launch of an ambitious program to support the more than 1,650 members of the PMI Orange County Chapter in California, USA. Keys to the program are innovative professional development and networking events, as well as certification and training opportunities.

The results have been impressive, and include a growing awareness in the business community of project management and the work of PMI and the chapter.

The cornerstone of the initiative was a recent conference and job fair that featured speakers and workshops designed to improve project management skills. After months of planning, more than 150 project managers, vendors, other professionals and members of Toastmasters International attended the event, titled "Enhancing Business Value with Project Management."

### Focus on Skills and Opportunities

The conference offerings were carefully selected by the planning committee in order to provide attendees with an opportunity to learn concepts, tools and techniques to improve their project management skills. Career prospects, networking talents and communication skills also were addressed. The career track equipped project managers in transition with the skills needed to land their next opportunity. Melanie McCarthy motivated project managers in transition seeking their perfect project management job, and PMI-OC Fellow Kristine Munson, PMP, described ways to develop better mentoring relationships.

Also included was a career fair featuring potential employers from the Orange County, California, area.

A second track examined trends in project management and covered methods, tools and techniques to enhance business value.

PMI-OC Fellow Marty Wartenberg discussed risk management and the uncertainties

facing project managers today, and Mike Graupner, PMP, discussed communication barriers, including cultures, age and language, and how to improve the exchange of information.

A leadership track stressed management and negotiation skills in order to elevate project managers' effectiveness and success. Mike Sanders, PMP, talked about ways to manage projects faster, cheaper and better, while still having fun, and Keith Montgomery, PMP, covered ways to handle different personalities during negotiations.

Throughout the event, posts on LinkedIn were shared with everyone. Members not in attendance contributed virtually to the event.

After the sessions, attendees moved outside to enjoy a beautiful California evening with speed networking and the Toastmasters Table Topic competition. The Orange County Project Masters Toastmasters tested the wits and mental quickness of participants with impromptu questions. Volunteers

demonstrated the ability to think on their feet. Winners received a plaque, certificate, cash prizes and an invitation to join the Toastmasters Club.

Following dinner, attendees heard a presentation about "Emerging Trends in Project Management" from PMI-OC Fellow Frank Parth, MS, MSSM, MBA, PMP, a director on the PMI Board of Directors. Mr. Parth shared the history of

PMI and talked about its future. He also discussed how project management applies to many professions, regardless of culture or country. Author and entrepreneur Matt Brauning followed, delivering an interesting keynote presentation about the principles of spiral dynamics and mastering values, leadership and change.

The success of this initiative rested with members who have devoted countless hours to these professional development and networking events. Efforts were spearheaded by Li Shen (Shan) Tan. Ms. Tan, who came to the United States from Singapore this past April, attended a chapter meeting and immediately volunteered. She was presented with the president's award for her extraordinary efforts in leading the successful conference.

—Dave Cornelius, PMP  
Director, External Collaboration  
and Marketing  
PMI Orange County Chapter

