



Session Descriptions

Keynotes

David Barrett “Strategy Execution: Connecting Our Skills, Knowledge, and Experience to Enterprise Agility and Success”

Strategic planning is now a part of the PMI’s Talent Triangle - now identified as a critical component to our current and future roles. However, reading and hearing is one thing but how many of us are in a position to practice strategic planning and execution? ALL OF US. This session will show us how strategic planning is a key to our success at work but, as well, to our careers and our lives. We will learn how to create a solid plan for any of the three legs and we will leave with the start to our own Professional Strategic Plans. Key Outcomes:

- Education on strategic planning and execution
- Inspiration on applying this important knowledge and skill to all three legs of our own lives
- Key take-aways to encourage us to think about applying all of this to our jobs, our careers and our lives.

Scott Carbonara “Leading in Times of Change: Thriving in Uncertainty”

Back when you learned to drive a car, you were taught to approach every green light with the awareness that the light could change at any moment. Stoplights change. It’s their nature, what they were designed to do. Lights changing is logical, rational, and expected. So then why are there so many accidents at intersections? Similarly, even when people anticipate and expect change, they are often caught off guard by it. And then how do they respond? They push back like the change is meant as a personal threat to their happiness and wellbeing. When you’re in the role of overseeing change, it’s imperative that you grasp the rollercoaster that some people experience the moment they hear, “I need to let you know about some changes you can expect....” Want to become more effective in your change efforts? Learn tips for navigating this process—learn how to connect, collaborate, and integrate lessons from the people-side of change. Participants will learn:

- Why acceptance is not the desired end state during change
- How to foster a culture that thrives through change
- Five practical tools to staying resilient through change

Alan Mallory “Project Everest”

This keynote session will share the essential processes that are involved in the planning and executing of difficult projects by using the challenge of Everest as a metaphor and example of such a project. The underlying messages are about how we as project managers need to reach new heights in the way we think and the actions we take in order to continuously improve ourselves and to advance our profession. Alan highlights various technical components of project management throughout his programs and shares specific project management tools geared towards strategic management, technical skills and leadership. Depending on the focus, some of these elements include: Integration, Scope, Time, Cost, Quality, HR, Communication, Risk, Procurement, and Stakeholder Management.

Mike Marco “Leading Innovation – Thinking Out of the Box”

Success in today’s competitive marketplace is directly linked to recognizing new ideas that have the ability to yield great opportunities, then making these opportunities a reality. This session will teach you how to recognize and extract good profitable ideas within your team. The focus is on tools and techniques that will stimulate your team to cultivate the culture of collaboration and innovation for the future success of your organization.

Breakouts (Listed by Tract Then Order of Presentation)

Technical Project Management Tract

David Barrett “Critical Communication Skills for All Project Managers”

All of the work we do relies on a steady flow of well-timed, accurate and manageable information. We have tools, technology, techniques and a lot of people around us to make this information available to ourselves and others. But are we using them properly? Are we using the right tools at the right time in the right place? Are the techniques we employ doing the job? And are the people around us helping or hindering the process?

Communicating effectively is one the most important keys to our success. This session will allow us to think about some of the key communication tools and techniques available to us to ensure our success. And more importantly, we find the oil that makes it all work: passion, structure & process, clarity and empathy.

Mike Alexander “Become an Agile Coach”

There’s more to agile coaching than just knowing a methodology. A good agile coach knows the four areas to master and when to use each. In this presentation, we will explore the four areas along with a few other skills and traits adopted by the most successful agile coaches in the industry.

Lillie Brock “First Things First: Skills for Managing Change”

**Attendance to “Managing the Human Side of Org Change” recommended as pre-requisite.*

Ever get tired of trying to figure out how to manage all your regular projects only to find that something new (change) has been added to the mix? Then, you realize that your most important asset in the change process is your people and they are reeling too! Suddenly, your job has gotten much more complicated. Join us to learn about The Change Cycle and how it can be used as a tool and road map to manage tasks, people and results in a way that has fewer bumps and skirmishes.

Dr. Michael Durbin “Agile in a Waterfall World”

In this session, we cover the use of the agile methodology in an organization that still has roots in the traditional waterfall ways of managing projects. There are several steps we can take as project managers to transform our development model from waterfall to agile. If you can't completely switch to agile and discard waterfall, you can make the wise choice by keeping the best of both approaches.

Mike Marco “Risk Severity Analysis”

Why do projects fail? Because we made them fail. Not addressing the risk environment of your project will create a hostile environment for you, your team members and project output itself. Project managers need to be more proactive, prevent instead of correct, issues that would occur throughout project life cycle. This presentation covers the practical and theoretical aspects of the "risk project management."

Dr. Michael Durbin “Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Skills”

Whether you realize it or not, you negotiate and resolve conflict every day. This session introduces you to a way of thinking about negotiation and conflict resolution that will give you renewed confidence. Conflict resolution professionals work in a range of fields, including business, law, education, healthcare, and government. They act as arbitrators, mediators, facilitators, ombudsmen, and counselors. They must understand that root causes and dynamics of conflict and how to resolve disputes through reasoned negotiation. This session helps project professionals develop practical models for negotiating and resolving disputes among parties with differing objectives and desires.

Leadership Tract

Mike Alexander “Leader as a Coach”

The paradigm is quickly shifting from a “command and control” manager style to a “leader as a coach”. In this presentation, you will learn the five traits of a leader as a coach. You will also learn the common dysfunctions of the old style of management and how to avoid them. If you are a manager, be prepared because this presentation just may rock your boat.

Lillie Brock “Managing the Human Side of Organizational Change”

There are mountains of information about how to manage the logistics, milestones and organizational dynamics of change but when it comes to the human side of organizational change, there is precious little. The Change Cycle is a map for managing the human system during times of change AND teaching individuals how to manage themselves. Join us and discover that the human side of organizational is much more predictable and much less mysterious than we’ve grown up believing!

Scott Carbonara “Build Relationships Like a Leader”

What’s the difference between a successful leader and a not-so successful one? It must be the training, right? Successful ones have more and better training. Or it could be college degrees, couldn’t it? Or professional designations, right? I mean, if a leader receives excellent training, education, and certification, he must be destined for success, right? Hardly. We all know people possessing the right degrees from the best schools who then add to their academic credentials professional designations, so after the comma behind their last names you’ll find a trail of letters like PhD, CPA, PMP, ERP, CRM, SCP, etc. Yet those letters do little to guarantee success. In truth, most successful business leaders have fewer degrees, but know how to build more rewarding relationships. Scott Carbonara, aka, The Leadership Therapist, first developed his relationship building-skills while working with some of the most difficult clients: dysfunctional families consisting of juvenile delinquents and abusive parents. He then moved to a multi-billion dollar healthcare company in corporate America where he learned to connect with a very different breed of individuals and leaders: senior executives and employees. Today, Scott shares his 8 Relationship-Building Tools in this highly entertaining yet relevant keynote. As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand and resist the fallacy of an outside-in perspective;
- Grasp the importance of relationships—by the numbers—in order to avoid becoming just another statistic; and
- Apply 8 relationship-building tools at work and beyond.

Rick Owens “Leading by Losing”

What are the first words that come to your mind when you hear "leader"? For most people, the words reflect strength. What if we shifted our paradigms about leadership? "Leading by Losing" does exactly that. Based on over 30 years in the leadership "business", Rick examines how some slight shifts in how we lead can make us more effective leaders - not easy shifts but ones which are better for us, the places we lead, and the people we lead.

Rob Kurtz “Leadership Lessons We May Have Learned...But Might Have Forgotten”

We all have attended workshops, clinics, and other types of training on leadership and good management skills. But, if these concepts are easy and well known, why are 85% of all employees across the globe disengaged in their work? Why are 16% of all global projects still failing? This session will cover some leadership lessons we may have

learned, but might have forgotten. Attendees will understand how project teams are just as impacted by these concepts and what we can do as project leaders to make our project teams as successful as possible.

Delores Gomer “Composure”

We’ll inspect it. We’ll learn from it. We’ll adapt. And by using a board game we will take off from empathetic to excellence.

Strategic and Business Management Tract

Michelle Yanahan “Change Success: Driving Outcomes that Matter”

How does your organization define project success? In order for a project to be truly successful it must deliver its anticipated ROI/business objectives. We typically evaluate projects on the project management view of success, the Triple Constraint of scope, budget and timeline, but too often within this view of project success we do not consider how well people adopt, become proficient and sustain the change the project brings. In this interactive session, we support Strategic and Benefits Management and Benefit Management and Realization from the Talent Triangle by challenging the commonly held definition of project success and discussing how change management supports business success and the business outcomes that matter. Participants will learn a new way to think about change success and critical components of this success. Participants will walk away with some practical assessments that can immediately put into practice to enhance and compliment any project management toolkit.

Michelle Yanahan “Behave Yourself! Use Behavior to Activate Change”

Are your organization transformation efforts falling short? Are you feeling ill equipped to support your organization’s volume and rate of change? You are not alone! In this session, we explore using a behavior-based approach to driving change resulting in improved business ROI and outcomes.

Dan Miklusicak “Where Do Traditional Project Roles and the Ten Knowledge Areas Fit into Scaled Agile Framework [SAFe]”

Many people ask how they fit into new roles of agile when they have been doing the traditional project approach for so long. The answer is very simple,...it depends. We will cover current roles of [SAFe], and what skills/mindsets/capabilities are important to perform those roles. And with a little bit of luck, each person can fit into the new world of lean-agile-SAFE.

Alan Mallory “Age of Agile: A Hybrid Approach to Agile Project Management”

Throughout this interactive workshop, participants will explore various elements of agility and related agile methodologies from a unique perspective that encourages innovative thinking and application of agile techniques. It is based on a hybrid approach to agile project management, which combines agile practices with traditional waterfall methodologies. The material builds on the Project Everest framework presented during Alan’s keynote and is a more in-depth analysis of the fundamentals of agile project management and following an iterative and adaptive approach. Through short group discussions and hands-on exercises, participants will explore elements from each of the PMI domains for agile projects and will gain a better understanding of the governing principals and knowledge that support an agile approach to project management.

Dan Miklusicak “Planning in a Lean-Agile-SAFe Environment”

Many Project and Program Managers in Corporate America might be worried about how well agile folks plan when they read the Agile Manifesto that states it values:

"Responding to Change" over "Following a Plan". However, once you come to understand how a SAFe lean-agilist "responds to change", and the VALUE that this approach creates, not to mention how much discipline exists within agile planning cycles, you might never want to go back to any other way.

Learn how SAFe *welcomes* refined and even changing requirements from both Business partners and Technologists at all levels in the enterprise, even late in development, and how we do this without cumbersome scope-change forms, nor a mindset of people owing each other stuff and creating a “us vs. them” culture.

Rob Kurtz “Overcoming Cross Generational Conflict in Your Projects”

Four generations of employees are now in the workforce: Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and now Generation Z. Each generation was raised with their own values, beliefs, and outlooks on life and work. Experienced senior project managers are likely to work with younger team members and younger project managers may likely work with experienced team members at some point in their careers. This session is for all project managers, young and experienced, to learn how to resolve cross-generational challenges on projects and in the workplace.