

**April 2025 Volunteer Spotlight:
Julie Kaiser, Vice President of Membership**



Why did you choose to volunteer with PMI Central Illinois Chapter?

Since passing my PMP in July of 2013, I have been actively involved with the chapter. My journey began with a PMP Exam prep course offered by the chapter, and I instantly fell in love with the class and material. With my passions to stay connected to project management & to help people, I started as an exam prep teacher, which eventually led me to the role of Director of Education and later, VP of Membership. Project management is a passion of mine because it can be applied to everyday life. What could be better than helping people advance in their passion for project management by serving as a volunteer?

What skills or knowledge are you hoping to gain from volunteering?

Engaging and motivating individuals to become involved in project management requires a subtle understanding of their intrinsic and extrinsic motivations. As a volunteer, I have the unique opportunity to observe and learn from diverse interactions through chapter meetings, leadership meetings, and board meetings, which can be invaluable in understanding how to inspire active participation and dedication to project goals. I hope to gain skills on how to motivate others to actively participate in PMI.

What advice would you give someone just starting out as a project professional?

Advice I would give to someone just starting as a project professional is to spend most of your time learning and then doing on the job. Don't be afraid to take a chance on a job that may be entry level and shows a lot of growth potential because these are opportunities to grow your network and career! These experiences will be some of the greatest times of your life and enable you to dive into things like communication, risk management, and change management. Once you master these skills you will soar in any career you choose.

What advice do you have for others who are considering volunteering for the first time?

Volunteering in any way, large or small, teaches you important skills and enables gaining knowledge. Don't be afraid to be the new person in the seat. One of the things I love about project management and specifically PMI Central Illinois Chapter is how helpful everyone is to each other. It may seem uncomfortable to be in a position that's not your expertise, but after getting involved the first time and in small ways, you will feel empowered to take on bigger roles!