
114th Partnership premieres PM-focused video and lesson plans thanks to Project Management Institute Educational Foundation grant to spark unemployed and underemployed young adults' project management skills and interests

Preparing a PM-Ready Workforce for the 21st Century

Rockville, MD (December 11, 2018) –

The [114th Partnership](#) recently premiered a new Spark 101 STEM Skills video entitled "[Managing Energy Consumption to Reduce Environmental Impact](#)." Funded through the generosity of the PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) as part of the "PMIEF – 114th Partnership Philadelphia Workforce Readiness Initiative," the video allows workforce training program participants to examine energy sources and electric consumption while learning and applying project management knowledge. The video highlights careers in the energy and construction industries as well as the project management profession, and is freely available on the [Spark 101](#) website.

PMIEF and the 114th Partnership recognize project management as a life, learning, and professional skill. Their collaboration to launch a workforce training initiative in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania allows young adults to learn project management to better ensure their meaningful contribution to society. In addition to the video, PMIEF's generosity also allowed for the development of project management-focused lesson plans for the Spark 101 website that complement five pre-existing videos. The other videos, focusing on [autonomous vehicles](#), [healthy meal planning](#), [cosmetic design](#), [mobile phone coverage](#), and an [automobile production line](#), were previously designed only to engage high school students, but now also support workforce readiness activities.

The 114th Partnership piloted the in-person workforce training initiative with 130 unemployed and underemployed young adults ages 16-25 through career challenges that taught project management fundamentals and highlighted project-intensive careers. Participants in the initiative reported the following changes as a result of their involvement in the initiative:

- Before participating in the challenge, 48% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they plan to enroll in project management courses. After participating in the challenge, 80% of participants agree or strongly agree that they plan to enroll in project management courses.
- Before participating in the challenge, 61% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they now understand how their coursework relates to their career goals; After participating in the challenge, 93% of participants agree or strongly agree that they now understand how their coursework relates to their career goals.
- Before participating in the challenge, 57% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they now understand how what they are learning can help them be professionally successful; After participating in the challenge, 97% of participants agree or strongly agree that they now understand how what they are learning can help them be professionally successful.

Since 2002, the 114th Partnership has worked with employers and educators to design, produce, and deliver real world "on-the-job" career challenges that encourage the application of standards-based academic skills in high-opportunity careers utilizing in-person and video formats through its [Spark 101](#) program. Spark 101 includes high-quality educational resources proven to increase young people's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) engagement and STEM Pathway Readiness (a construct that includes awareness of STEM careers, how specific courses relate to STEM careers, and STEM problem-solving skills). A 2015 independent evaluation found that all students exposed to Spark 101 increased their STEM career awareness and skills, with significant positive effects on STEM engagement among students with little previous STEM understanding or interest. (For the complete evaluation, see "[Using STEM Case Studies to Prepare Today's Students for Tomorrow's Jobs: An Evaluation of Spark 101 Interactive STEM Videos](#).")

PMIEF recognizes that STEM and related careers necessitate project management capabilities because they are highly project-based. According to the Project Management Institute's Industry Growth Forecast [report](#), 15.7 million new project management roles will be created globally across seven project-intensive fields between 2010 and 2020. The U.S. will boast the greatest number of these roles, especially within the business services, healthcare and manufacturing industries. Along with job growth, a substantial increase (USD\$6.61 trillion) in the economic footprint of the field is expected. The foundation's grant to the 114th Partnership aligns with both organizations' efforts to equip individuals with the competencies today's highly globalized and competitive workforce requires.

Tiffany Godbout, President of the 114th Partnership, said of the project: "Each year millions of students leave high school without having had an opportunity to apply their academic skills to a real-world problem. Through our partnership with PMIEF, we have been able to broaden our video library to help classroom and workforce educators integrate project management into their curricula and help more learners connect their passions to career pathways that integrate project management skills. The impact of the pilot program on the 130 young people who have participated demonstrates the power of Spark 101 which allows both students and workforce learners the opportunity to try out a career through hands on, career based challenges. We are proud that this collaboration has positively increased participants interest in STEM and project management careers and has overwhelmingly increased the participant's project management skills and professional identity."

"Employers want to achieve – if not exceed – their organizational goals, so they recruit talent who can work on schedule and within budget, and innovatively problem-solve the unexpected," said Jeannette L. Barr, Executive Director of PMIEF. "Project management helps unemployed and underemployed young adults develop the skills they need to secure and retain jobs. Our collaboration with the 114th Partnership has not only allowed young adults to learn how to manage themselves, others, and the projects they undertake, but has also instilled within them the confidence they need to move toward self-sufficiency and become productive, engaged members of society."

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The PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) is a 501(c)(3) supporting organization of Project Management Institute (PMI), the world's leading not-for-profit professional membership association for the project, program and portfolio management profession. Founded in 1990, PMIEF develops, implements and delivers innovative programs to leverage project management for social good globally. These include scholarships, awards and grants as well as educational resources that strengthen the project management knowledge of teachers, youth and nonprofit organizations. PMIEF's vision that "all people worldwide have a better tomorrow by applying project management skills in their daily lives" comes to the life through the generosity of individual and corporate donors as well as the PMI community. For additional information, visit www.pmief.org

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