

PREP NEWS

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PREP Community Announcements

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Can you believe we've already passed the halfway mark of 2015? It's been a busy first half of the year for PREP as we've already seen many great achievements and are continuing with highlights for this month.

One of the first changes you may notice is the new template we are using for this month's PREP Newsletter. The newsletter is shifting from the previous versions of a simple interface to a new, more user-friendly service. We hope you like it!

PACE Cohort 7 Business Cases

PACE Cohort 7 will be graduating at the end of this month! As a capstone project of their 25 week apprenticeship program, the four PACERs have submitted a white paper business case for evaluation. Take a look at what each PACER wrote about for their respective business case below:

Josh Erb's business case is focused on the impact of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) on Federal Agencies. His proposed solution consisted of two stages: a compliance diagnostic and subsequent change management. The solution aimed to ensure that sub-agencies are able to be compliant by the deadline from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), while still retaining their relative autonomy within their agencies.

Patrick Hendrickson's business case is on the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Office of the Chief Financial Officer in the Office of Human Capital which needs to address labor costs and poor performance, or more specifically high turnover, due to low job satisfaction within their organization. This business case builds on MPS's organizational analysis and human capital expertise by addressing TSA's problem by identifying root causes and recommending timely, cost effective, long term solutions.

Ryne Peterson's business case is centered around how the General Services Administration (GSA) is changing Federal procurement practices. GSA is restructuring to provide a Category Management approach to consolidate purchasing and increase transparency. Ryne's solution would be for MPS to work with the in providing assistance to their planning, execution, performance management, and review phases.

Ashley Rezai's business case proposes a solution to increase the accessibility of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) national emergency alert system (IPAWS) for Americans with disabilities. The solution is made up of three goals: to diversify and update IPAWS's emergency alert tools for Americans with disabilities; to expand IPAWS's network of partners in disability advocacy; and to increase awareness of IPAWS's resources for Americans with disabilities. MPS will use its Collaboration and Program Development service lines to organize a two-day conference, as well as a series of outreach sessions, to accomplish these goals.

To celebrate the achievements of PACE Cohort 7, a closing ceremony will be held at Shakespeare Theater's Sidney Harman Hall on Monday August, 24th. Congratulations Cohort 7!

PREP Training Portfolio

Brian Wenzler, a PACE alumni from Cohort 5 and now full-time staff member of MPS, is in the process of finishing a project directly benefiting the PREP trainings. We had a chance to catch up with Brian about his work:

"As part of the PREP quality control program, over the past few months each individual PREP training underwent an assessment that incorporated individual participant feedback and overall coherence. Following reviews of training materials and one-on-one sessions with each trainer, the training portfolio has already seen several developments. Some of these include the elimination or repurposing of some trainings, changes to the focus of others, and improvements to individual training structure and delivery."

Thank you Brian for your dedication to further improve the program and continued involvement in PREP as an alumni!

Introducing New Oversight Group Member

We are excited to announce a new member joining the PREP Oversight Group. Please welcome Teri Johnson who currently serves as the SVP in Strategic Partnership at Points of Light. Below please find a quick bio on Teri:

Teri currently serves as the SVP, Strategic Partnerships and Program Expansion at Points of Light where she builds relationships with aligned organizations to elevate the work and impact of volunteers. Creating impact has always been a part of Teri's life with a rich history as a volunteer leader for organizations such as National Charity League and Bridges Charter School; her passion issue areas being those around girls & women as well as education. In her previous role she managed the Global Team Member Volunteer Program as well as the Action Grant program, and built a Donor Advised Fund and corporate strategy for Disaster Preparedness and Response for Hilton Worldwide. It was there that she applied her entrepreneurial spirit and drive to take fledgling ideas and create successful programs that strategically aligned with business objectives and provided opportunities for Team Members to make a huge difference in their communities. Teri credits her 12 years as a life coach and 20 years as a small business owner with helping her build the skills and talent that help her balance a vibrant career and full personal life.

Welcome Teri!

Thank you for your continuing support and we all wish you a great month of August!