

PREP NEWS

m powered strategies

PREP Community Announcements

In this issue:

- PACE Cohort 8 Begins
- PACE Social
- MPS Social Media Initiative

Happy July to everyone! We hope that you enjoyed a wonderful July 4th with family, friends, and great weather. Entering the second week of July it's hard to imagine that we are already at the half-way point of 2015! For the PREP program, new changes continue to be in the works such as the start of our newest cohort, PACE Cohort 8. Along with Cohort 8 starting, we have another MPS-wide initiative we are excited to share. Please take a look below!

PACE Cohort 8 Begins

PACE Cohort 8 officially starts on July 13th! In their own words, this group is "excited for group coaching sessions where we as a cohort can discuss the challenges we are facing, the goals we have set, and brainstorm ideas." As MPS continues to increase the number of in-house leaders diverse in knowledge and skills, the four apprentices stated that they are "very fortunate that many of our PACE trainers are also full-time MPS staffers, so we can take advantage of their knowledge and skillsets across different contracts. Many of the MPS staff have educational backgrounds and interests that resonate with our own backgrounds, and it will be incredibly valuable to see how they have applied their diverse academic and personal passions to the consulting world." Welcome PACE Cohort 8 apprentices!

PACE Social

On June 29th, apprentices from PACE Cohorts 7 and 8 gathered for a fun social outing at Pinstripes in Georgetown! The outing presented a chance for each member to get to know one another outside of the office environment and build personal and professional connections that will strengthen each cohort.



MPS Social Media Initiative

If you haven't noticed the recent increase in social media presence by MPS, then it's time check out our LinkedIn and Facebook pages! The recently kicked-off MPS Social Media Initiative is led by our PREP Director Nicole Baillis, PACE Alumni Zully Barrientos (Cohort 6) and Karli Kloss of PACE Cohort 8. Why is MPS increasing its social media presence? To answer that we turn to Zully who provides some insight into the strategy and implementation of the MPS social media effort.

Why is social media important to our organization?

"Social Media is incredibly important to any organization but especially to a business like MPS that finds itself on the cusp of expansion (with our new HUBZone status). Social media is the first line of "offense" when it comes to communicating the organizational culture of a business, and considering the younger demographic of our staff, it's an effective platform for recruiting future employees whose values, goals, and qualifications complement our company's mission. Beyond the LGS [labor-generating services] aspect, good, effective social media can provide small businesses an important degree of legitimacy in the public eye that otherwise would be difficult to attain. It is a powerful position to be able to control your message to the public. Conversely, poorly managed social media can really hurt a business."

How has anything you've done in PACE helped you in formulating, organizing, and implementing in the social media project?

"There is a lot that I've learned in PACE that has helped me execute this project. Quite a few of the management tools I use daily I've learned through the program/project management trainings we received during the program. Through the PACE coaching sessions I've learned how to be a more effective communicator with my team. Learning to look at things through a tactical lens as well as a strategic lens has been a huge growth point for me and is a reflection of the great work being done by the professional development team at MPS."

For further information on MPS's social media presence please visit [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

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

These PREP updates will be sent out monthly to keep you informed about major program changes and announcements. If you would like to no longer receive this email, please respond to [Semir Hasedzic](#) requesting to unsubscribe.