

PREP NEWS

PREP Community Announcements

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As we say goodbye to summer and hello to fall, we do the same to Cohort 7 who have closed their PACE chapter while we look forward to the continuing journey of PACE Cohort 8. Check out the three topics of this month's PREP newsletter.

PACE Cohort 7 Closing Ceremony

After 25 weeks of client delivery work, interactive trainings, individual and group coaching, and networking, four apprentices from PACE Cohort 7 have successfully completed all of the requirements of the program. **Joshua Erb, Patrick Hendrickson, Ryne Peterson, and Ashley Rezai**, each arriving to M Powered Strategies with different backgrounds and skillsets, received their PREP certificates in a celebration with MPS staff, PACE alumni, industry executives, and colleagues on August 24, 2015 at The Shakespeare Theatre Company's Sidney Harman Hall.

MPS is excited to announce that all four PACErs are transitioning to full-time staff members! While Cohort 7 has just graduated, PACE Cohort 8 is well on its way, having begun in July 2015 and set to end in December. For more information about the ANSI-accredited PACE Program, please email [Nicole Baillis](#), PREP Director.



PACE Spotlight - Rima Abouziab, Cohort 8

While it is very exciting to rejoice in the opening and closing of each PACE Cohort, we cannot forget to celebrate the journey in between. To focus on this important and memorable time for our apprentices, we would like to spotlight the experience of one of our current PACErs that has just completed two months in the program. Rima Abouziab shared with us highlights of her professional and personal development while in the program.

"I don't always share stories over heaping bowls of pasta, drink vino out of straws, and get serenaded by whimsical fairies all in one night—but when I do, it is with PACE Cohort 8! I am, of course, referring to our PACE Night Out last week, where Kendall and Nicole treated our cohort to dinner and a play together. Sharing many laughs together during *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (see above reference to vino and fairies) at the wonderful Shakespeare Theatre Company is my personal highlight of the program so far. While Karli, Emily, Bryan and I have had the chance to get to know each other since starting PACE, it was great to also have the opportunity to relax and have fun with Kendall and Nicole.

But not all is food, fun, and vino—PACE Cohort 8 has been busy with client delivery, weekly coaching sessions, and trainings where we have expanded upon our existing knowledge while learning new skills and concepts. Between client work and PACE sessions, I have used new problem-solving tools, amped up my Excel and project management skills, and learned more than I had ever imagined about software capabilities and technical jargon. Next week, Cohort 8 is gearing up to begin developing business cases with our Business Case Design training. It will surely be a busy three months to come, but we are eager to continue learning and building new skills!"

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PACE Cohort 8 Dinner and Show

As with the start of all cohorts, PACE Cohort 8 had an opportunity to connect and bond over a night out which featured a dinner and a show (as seen briefly in Rima's post above). To gain exclusive insider access to the evening we asked Cohort 8 PACer, Bryan Kovalick, to tell us more!

"From my experience as a part of the PACE Cohort 8's night out, I had two major takeaways.

First, The Shakespeare Theatre Company performed a terrific adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I can't praise their artistic direction and acting enough. Both were simply spectacular. Of the numerous Shakespeare plays I have enjoyed over the years, this adaptation ranks at the top of the list.

But more importantly, from my first interaction with Kendall, I learned that he was born to teach project management. I can definitely tell Kendall could easily have become a professor of project management. I was thrilled to learn that his pre-consulting background was very similar to my own. His years of national service in the Peace Corps and his political science discipline certainly mirror my own year of service in Americorps and my sociology background. I feel that I already admire Kendall's instructions, advice to me, and most particularly his devotion to the mission of MPS. With a company president like Kendall, I'm ecstatic to be a part of the PACE program!"

Thank you Bryan for the inside view!



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.