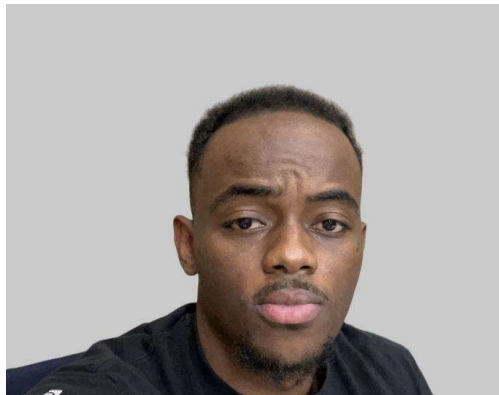


**February 2024 Volunteer Spotlight:
Mamadou Sow, President's Admin, Professional Development Project Manager**



What attracted you to PMI and PMI-CIC Chapter?

I was initially drawn to PMI (Project Management Institute) due to its global reputation as a premier organization for project management professionals. The wealth of resources, educational opportunities, and networking prospects offered by PMI were enticing. As I delved deeper, I discovered the PMI-Central Illinois Chapter (PMI-CIC) and found a local community that shared my passion for project management. The chapter's commitment to fostering professional growth, providing valuable networking events, and contributing to the local project management landscape made it a natural choice for me to get involved.

Why should young professionals get involved with volunteering?

Volunteering with PMI or any professional organization is a fantastic way for young professionals to accelerate their career development. Here are a few reasons:

- **Networking Opportunities:** Volunteering exposes you to a diverse group of professionals, providing the chance to build valuable connections within your industry.
- **Skill Development:** Volunteering offers hands-on experience in areas such as leadership, teamwork, and project management, helping young professionals develop skills that may need to be honed in their day-to-day roles.
- **Visibility and Recognition:** By actively participating in volunteer activities, young professionals can showcase their dedication and expertise, gaining recognition from peers and potential employers.

- **Learning from Peers:** Volunteering often involves collaboration with experienced professionals, providing a unique opportunity to learn from their insights and experiences.

How has volunteering changed your perspective on certain issues or challenges in the project professional community?

Volunteering has broadened my perspective on various challenges within the project professional community. By engaging with fellow volunteers, I've gained insights into the multifaceted nature of project management challenges. Collaborating on initiatives has allowed me to appreciate diverse approaches to problem-solving, understand the importance of effective communication, and recognize the impact of collaboration on successful project outcomes. Volunteering has also highlighted the significance of continuous learning and adapting to industry trends to stay relevant and innovative.

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

For those considering volunteering for the first time, I offer the following advice:

- **Identify Your Passion:** Choose a cause or organization aligned with your passion and professional interests. This ensures that your volunteer work is fulfilling and meaningful.
- **Start Small:** Begin with manageable commitments to ease into volunteering. As you gain experience and understand the time and energy required, you can take on more responsibilities.
- **Build Relationships:** Volunteering is not just about tasks; it's about building relationships. Connect with fellow volunteers, learn from their experiences, and foster a supportive community.
- **Be Open to Learning:** Approach volunteering as a continuous learning opportunity. Embrace new challenges, seek feedback, and use the experience to enhance your skills and knowledge.
- **Celebrate Achievements:** Acknowledge and celebrate the impact of your volunteer work. Whether it's personal growth, new skills acquired, or contributions to the community, recognizing your achievements keeps the experience positive and rewarding.