

**October 2026 Volunteer Spotlight:
Scott Cosgrove, VP of Outreach**



Why did you choose to volunteer with PMI Central Illinois Chapter?

I've spent over two decades working in project management, and PMI has been an important part of my professional development. Volunteering with PMI-CIC gives me an opportunity to give some of that back. I also enjoy working with people who are willing to donate their time and experience to help others grow in the profession and strengthen our community.

What kind of impact do you hope to make as the VP of Outreach?

I want to create connections that turn into opportunities. Outreach has four primary areas — Academic Outreach, Social Impact, Corporate Outreach, and Veteran Outreach. Whether we're helping a student discover project management, connecting our members with a community organization that needs our skills, or developing a relationship with a local employer, I want our outreach activities to have a meaningful and lasting impact. If we can have some fun while doing it, even better.

What is something people might be surprised to learn about you?

While serving in the Navy, I passed through the Panama Canal aboard a ship being pulled through by tug. The transit took most of the day, so I had plenty of opportunity to see the canal and surrounding terrain firsthand. Years later, as a project manager, I read Tom Kendrick's *Identifying and Managing Project Risk*, which uses the construction of the Panama Canal to bring many of its lessons about project risk to life. Having actually seen that terrain made the story remarkably vivid for me. So, in my secret PM history, I like to claim the Panama Canal as my first really big project. I may have arrived a few decades late, but I was there.

If you could instantly master one skill—professional or personal—what would it be?

Personally, I'd instantly master the guitar. I have tremendous respect for people who can pick up an instrument and make music seem effortless. Unfortunately, I appear to have been issued project management skills instead. Professionally, I'd choose communication. You can spend a lifetime getting better at understanding how different people receive information and finding the right way to reach them. For a project manager, I'm not sure there is a more valuable skill to keep improving.