

## **She Builds, She Leads: Celebrating Women in Project Management**

International Women's Day isn't just about flowers and chocolates (although those are lovely too). It's a day to celebrate the incredible achievements of women across all industries, and project management is no exception. For years, this field has been quietly championed by women who bring unique strengths and perspectives to the table.

Here at PMI-Central Illinois, we're proud to recognize the amazing women leading projects in our communities and making strides to ensure progress of the project management profession (peep our speaker line up for this month). But we also know there's more work to be done to achieve true gender equity. So, this Women's Day, let's not just celebrate – let's ignite a conversation.

## **The Power of She: Why Women Excel in Project Management**

Women in project management are a force to be reckoned with. They bring a natural talent for collaboration, communication, and organization – skills that are essential for juggling multiple tasks, keeping stakeholders aligned, and navigating inevitable roadblocks.

Studies have shown that women tend to be more empathetic leaders, fostering a positive team environment that boosts morale and productivity. They also excel at strategic thinking and problem-solving, tackling challenges with a unique blend of creativity and pragmatism.

## **Breaking Down Barriers: Challenges and Solutions**

Despite their strengths, women in project management still face challenges. Unconscious bias and a lack of mentorship can hinder their career advancement. Often, they're underestimated or passed over for leadership opportunities.

So, how can we create a more equitable environment? Here are some steps we can all take:

- **Mentorship Matters:** Experienced women project managers can play a vital role in guiding and supporting the next generation. PMI-Central Illinois can

facilitate mentorship programs that connect aspiring female project managers with established leaders.

- **Advocate for Change:** Let's challenge unconscious bias in the workplace. When we see opportunities for women being overlooked, speak up and promote their qualifications.
- **Celebrate Success Stories:** Let's actively showcase the achievements of women in project management. Organize panel discussions, share their stories in our newsletters, and nominate them for industry awards.

### **Building a Brighter Future**

By working together, we can create a future where women not only thrive in project management but are actively sought out for their leadership. This isn't just about fairness; it's about creating a more diverse and successful project management landscape, where everyone's talent can flourish.

### **The Call to Action: Be the Change**

This International Women's Day, we at PMI-Central Illinois challenge you to take action. Become a mentor, advocate for your female colleagues, and actively champion their work. Let's build a future where "she builds" and "she leads" are not exceptions, but the norm.

Together, we can create a project management community that's as strong, innovative, and inclusive as the women who shape it.