

## **Project Conference 2017**

### **Biographies**

**Thack Faugstad** is a business consultant that focuses heavily on project management for tech-heavy initiatives. He holds a PMP, MBA, CSM, and is currently enrolled in a doctoral of business administration program focusing on strategy and innovation. His project work experience comes from healthcare, government, small to large business, non-profits, and military industries.

**Paul Feikema**, the founder of Lionosity Consulting, has over twenty years of experience in Executive Leadership, Strategic Consulting and as a Senior Change Management professional. His passion for people and excellence has powered his success in leading quality teams, leading organizations through transformational projects and as a recognized consulting partner for dozens of clients worldwide. He has experience with strategic consulting and change management in multiple countries, including the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Thailand, Russia, United Arab Emirates and more. He has successfully led organizational change efforts for multiple ERP implementations, merger and acquisitions, major system implementations and retail transformation projects. Additionally, he is a founding Board member for [Minnesota Change Management Network](#) (MNCMN), the largest association for change management professionals in Minnesota.

**Jesse Freese** is the President of Fissure Corporation. He joined the company in 1989 with three partners and has been President and CEO since 1997. Fissure helps organizations develop their project management, business analysis, Agile, and leadership capability through the use of simulation powered learning. Fissure developed and has been perfecting this simulation technology and its use in various learning environments for the last 24 years. Besides leading Fissure, Jesse develops and delivers simulation powered learning workshops and has successfully guided over 9,500 students through a variety of learning workshops, classes and seminars. Jesse is a member of the Project Management Institute, International Institute of Business Analysis, the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD), is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and a founder of the Twin Cities Software Process Improvement Network (TwinSPIN) organization.

**Carol Grannis and Cindy Maher** founded Leading Edge Coaching and Development 13 years ago. They have brought their memorable learning experiences to hundreds of audiences throughout the world. They have ongoing relationships with Fortune 500 companies, the federal government (including the National Institutes of Health and the FDA), state government agencies, colleges and universities. Their curriculum and course materials have been translated in eight languages.

Carol and Cindy's Project Conference sessions will be different than anything you've experienced before. Carol and Cindy will be presenting leadership best practices and tools through a great blend of comedy and interactive discussion. The topics that they present today on energy and feedback will help you at work and in your life.

Carol Grannis: Prior to starting up Leading Edge, Carol held senior HR positions at ING Financial Services, Protocare Research and the Chicago Center for Clinical Research. She holds a Masters of Education in adult learning and a doctorate in organizational development.

Cindy Maher: Cindy led leadership development efforts at ING North America and also held a number of senior HR positions at Aetna including talent management for the top 200. By night, you can see Cindy performing improv comedy in venues around Connecticut.

**Dr. Susan Heidorn** is responsible for the business relationship management certification program and new business analysis products and services at Watermark Learning. She is an experienced consultant, facilitator, speaker, and trainer, with over twenty years of experience in business relationship management, project management, business analysis, strategic thinking & planning, leadership development, facilitation, process improvement, change management, and team development.

Susan works on creating positive impacts for the organizations she serves, and brings high energy and creativity into the workplace. Her focus is on experiential and adaptive learning and consulting that assists organizations in gaining insight, alignment, and developing effective action plans to move forward.

Susan has been a speaker at a number of IIBA and PMI conferences, as well as local and regional organizations, boards, and is a popular instructor for public and private clients. She is a lifelong learner whose passion is to guide people into achieving excellence in their personal and professional lives.

Susan holds a BA degree in Psychology from Augsburg College and a Master's Degree in International Management and a Doctorate in Organization Development from the University of St. Thomas.

**Ernest L. Owens, Jr. Ed.D, MBA, ACPPM, CPPM, PMP, Six Sigma Black Belt** is a full time tenured Assistant Professor of Business at the University of St. Thomas (UST) in the Department of Management. He is the current Chair of the University Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) and sits on several key leadership committees with the senior leadership of the university. He has served as Faculty Chair for The Opus College of Business and currently serves on the University Senate, Executive Committee of the University (EC) and University Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC). In his Lead role for Project Management, he has created the Advanced Certified Professional Project Manager (ACPPM), Certified Professional Project Management (CPPM), Mini Masters in Project Management and Microsoft Project for Project and Program Managers curriculum utilized by Executive Education (Exec Ed) Center of UST and clients. His own contribution margins to Exec Ed has been over 10 million dollars which has gone into research grants for college faculty. He currently teaches both the Undergraduate and Graduate courses in Project Management as well as he conducts non-degreed Professional and Executives training in Project and Program Management.

Dr. Owens specializes in Project, Strategic, and Operations Management. He also taught in the Executive MBA program Organizing Capabilities, Strategic Management, and Leadership. He received his doctorate in leadership from UST in the summer of 2000. His twenty two years of industry experience comes from Unisys as Director of Strategic Planning, IBM as a Cost Engineer, Johnson and Johnson's as an Industrial Engineer, Melville Shoe Corporation as a Methods Analyst, and Mass General Hospital as an Industrial Engineering Technician. He has taught since 1991 executives, graduates, undergraduates, and corporate professionals in management. He also has been an adjunct member of the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, and the University of Wisconsin River Falls, teaching management, operations, and strategic information systems. Dr. Owens is a Visiting Professor at the Universite of Caen in Normandy, France where he teaches leadership and project management to English speaking students.

As a consultant, he has developed project management training programs with Donaldson Company, Imation, PaR Systems, Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Ameriprise Financial, NRP, Aspen Research, E-Funds, Tenant Corporation, Fairview South Hospital, Fair Isaacs and PMI Minnesota. Owens received quality achievement awards from Unisys for his cost reduction efforts where he was credited with saving the firm 21 million dollars. Owens has received the "Eleven Who Care Award" and WCCO Good Neighbor for community service as well as "The Jefferson Awards" which is a prestigious national recognition system honoring community and public service in America. He also has received

the National “Leon H. Sullivan Award” from Opportunities Industrialization Center of America as an outstanding national volunteer.

**Joe Perzel** has been leading projects of all sizes and managing staffs since 1982 in both a corporate and vendor capacity. He has a background in multiple industries including healthcare, government, insurance, finance, non-profit, K12 and higher education, audit and compliance, manufacturing and agri-business. Presently Joe is Partner JPerzel Inc. as well as Program Manager at Surescripts LLC. He has also held leadership positions at Thomson Reuters, MN Workers Compensation Insurers Agency, Cargill and International Multifoods.

Joe has been presenting since 2002 on topics ranging from project management, leadership, career management and entrepreneurship. Most recently he has presented at PMI-MN (Twin Cities, Lacrosse, St Cloud, Bismarck, Mankato), MN State Symposium, PMI International, PMI Atlanta, St Cloud State University, the University of St Thomas and will be the keynote at the Rochester CTC Leadership conference. His presentation and seminars titles include:

### **Leadership/Strategy/Project Management**

- Selling the Value of the PMO and Project Managers to Management
- The Dark Arts of Project Management
- How to be a Chameleon: A key to enterprise project success
- Project Management for the Business Analyst – the minimum you need to know to thrive
- Managing Change and Surviving to Talk about it
- Leadership: The Making of a Professional, Enterprise PM
- Managing Innovation: When thinking out-of-the-box is Required
- Building your essential PM Soft skills
- How to Train Your Sponsor: a project sponsor primer
- Top Ten ways to Screw-up a Good Project
- A “Surefire” way to Ensure Schedule Performance! (Surefire Scheduling)
- MS Project 101

**Julie Soderlund**, creator of the **People Not Process** framework, helps Project Managers create lasting results that benefit their organization and their teams. She has personally led over 100 teams as a director within a multi-billion dollar agency overseeing the PMO, Organizational Development, and Management Training offices. Julie is an International Coaching Federation – Associate Certified Coach (ACC), Certified Professional Behaviors Analyst (CPBA) and a member of the Project Management Institute.

**Angela Wick** is the Founder & CEO of BA Squared, LLC a training and consulting company that helps modernize requirements practices. With over 20 years’ experience she helps Bas, Product Owners, PMs, and teams develops the skills they need to inspire collaboration, creativity and innovation. Angela is passionate about helping traditional and agile teams build great products with great product and solution.