



Project
Management
Institute.
South Florida



2026

Project Management CONFERENCE PROGRAM



**The Journey to Impact.
Delivering M.O.R.E Together.**

September 18th, 2026

7:30am - 5:30pm

FIU Biscayne Bay Campus

Wolfe University Center (WUC 220),
3000 NE 151 Street, North Miami, FL 33181

On behalf of PMI South Florida, welcome to our Project Management Conference, and to a milestone we've been forty years in the making.

This year, our chapter turns 40.

What began in 1986 has grown into one of the largest PMI communities in the region, and that journey is the heart of this year's theme: From Journey to Impact — Delivering MORE together.

Our work isn't measured only by the projects we complete, but by the difference we make and the people we bring along with us. So make the day count. Learn from the experts on stage and from the person next to you. Ask the question, introduce yourself to someone new, sit in on a session outside your usual lane, the conversation around a session is often as valuable as the session itself.

To our speakers, sponsors, partners, volunteers, and planning team: thank you for making today possible. And to each of you here with us, thank you for investing in yourself, in our profession, and in this community that has meant so much to me over the years.

Here's to our first forty years, and to everything we'll deliver together in the next chapter.

Warm regards,



PRESIDENT

Jean-Luc Cacous



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THE DAY AT A GLANCE

What to Expect

DATE Friday, September 18, 2026	HOURS 7:30 AM check-in, 5:30 PM close	LOCATION FIU Biscayne Bay Campus, WUC 220
SPEAKERS 23 featured speakers & leaders	ATTIRE Business casual	INCLUDED Breakfast, lunch, and Happy Hour reception
PDU'S 8		

You will be hearing from these speakers

- Mario Trentim
- Ricardo Triana
- Laura Lazzerini Neuwirth
- Ernesto Custodio
- Jessica Caresse White
- Marilyn Hu
- Corey Patton
- David Driesbach
- John Moffatt
- Marcos Garrido
- Erich Kissel
- Juan Cendan
- Brian Schriner
- Michael Heithaus
- Leonardo Jacovas
- Tyrone Gabriel
- Priyanka Saxena
- Ryan Mahoney
- Shonna Simpson
- Terrence Scott
- Niza Colon
- Maria Isabel Franco
- Komala Maharaj

Power Networking

As PMI South Florida celebrates 40 years of impact, this enhanced Power Networking experience turns our attention toward the journey ahead. What will the next 40 years look like, and how can we shape that future together?



This highly interactive and intentional session is designed to bring people together, strengthen connections across our community, and create meaningful conversations about what comes next for PMI South Florida. Through facilitated networking and purposeful discussions, participants will connect with professionals from different industries, career stages, organizations, and areas of expertise while sharing their experiences, perspectives, and ideas.



Power of Communication with Toastmasters

Welcome to a gathering designed to inform and inspire! Together let's unlock the power of communication to connect, persuade and inspire. This session invites you to reimagine what a speech can do. We'll explore how to shape a message that resonates, structure ideas for maximum impact, and deliver with authenticity and confidence. Along the way, we'll touch on storytelling, audience engagement, and the subtle art of presence. The intangible skills that turn good speeches into unforgettable ones. This is a call to step into your voice, sharpen your message, and speak with purpose. Get ready to be inspired and to inspire others.

Morning Keynote Speaker

Leading with Purpose in the
21st Century

Mario Trentim, PMP, PfMP, PMO-CP
PMI Board of Directors



A long-standing PMI volunteer, Mario Trentim, PMP, PfMP, PMO-CP, joined the PMI Board of Directors in 2025.

He previously served on the Project Managers Without Borders Board of Directors (2014–2016), the PMI Educational Foundation Board of Directors (2016–2018), the PMI Standards Consensus Committee, and the Global Accreditation Center. He was also CEO of the PMO Global Alliance, where he led strategy and global partnerships from 2018 to 2020.

In 2014, he was honored with the prestigious PMIEF Harold Kerzner Award for his outstanding contributions to advancing project management.

Trentim is a visionary leader with a distinguished career spanning over two decades, combining expertise in strategy execution, organizational agility, and digital transformation. As Chief Executive Officer of ModernPMO.com from 2014 to 2024, he drove innovative solutions for clients across Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East, enabling organizations to achieve their strategic goals in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Trentim holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science and bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering. A former military officer, he served 15 years in the Brazilian Air Force, retiring as Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer at the Institute of Aeronautics and Space. For his exceptional contributions, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

He has published nine books, including *Managing Stakeholders* (PMI, 2015). A sought-after keynote speaker and recognized for his expertise, he has been a Microsoft Regional Director and a Microsoft Most Valuable Professional for eight consecutive years.

Keynote Speaker

Are you a Leader?

Laura Lazzerini Neuwirth

Head of International PMO at T-Mobile Czech Republic

PMBOK 8th Edition Co-Author



Laura Lazzerini Neuwirth is an accomplished head of project management office (PMO) and a former board director. She holds a master's degree in electronic engineering with a specialization in microelectronics from the University of Pisa in Italy, marking the beginning of her professional journey.

With over two decades of experience in project management across various industries, including automotive, energy, yachting and telecom, Laura's strategic thinking, executive stakeholder management and people management skills have been instrumental in driving organizational success.

Laura is co-author of PMBOK 8th Edition, a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and a certified PMI PMO Certified Professional (PMI-PMOCP).

Fluent in English, Italian, Czech and German, Laura excels in leading cross-functional teams and managing complex challenges across different geographies. As a keynote international speaker, Laura shares her expertise on PMO leadership, strategy execution and executive stakeholder management at international conferences and seminars.

Known for her ability to connect with diverse audiences and simplify complex concepts, she inspires others to achieve excellence and embrace innovation.

Keynote Speaker

Adapting for tomorrow:
How M.O.R.E. and Communities
Transform Outcomes

Ricardo Triana, PMP®

Senior Project Management
Advisor at UNOPS

PMI Fellow



Ricardo Triana, PMP, is an international speaker, advisor and executive leader who helps organizations close the distance between strategy and execution by aligning decisions, governance, people and culture. Over a career spanning more than 30 years and work in more than 30 countries, he has advised executives, governments, multilateral institutions and professional communities on PMOs, portfolio governance, organizational culture, conflict and cross-border leadership.

Ricardo currently serves as Senior Project Management Advisor at UNOPS and leads an independent advisory and speaking practice. Previously, he served as Chairman of PMI's Global Board of Directors, Managing Director for Latin America, and Global Head of Culture & Diversity, where he led culture work across a worldwide ecosystem of employees, chapters, volunteers and leaders.

A PMP, PMI Fellow and PMOGA Fellow, Ricardo translates complex organizational challenges into memorable, practical frameworks. His keynote topics include Strategy Signal Loss, Culture Has No Org Chart, Good Intentions, Bad Conflict, and The Human Side of Global Execution.

Born in Colombia and a citizen of Mexico and the United States, Ricardo brings a genuinely multicultural perspective to every room. His sessions combine global experience, audience participation and immediately applicable tools that help leaders make better decisions, strengthen commitment and turn intention into execution.



Celebrate PMI South Florida's 40th Anniversary

By Komala Maharaj, MBA, PMP, CSM, LSSBB,
Founder & CEO, ExperTechSolution
President, PMI South Florida Toastmasters Club

What Does 40 Years of Project Management Excellence Look Like?

You see the projects, plot twists, and lessons learned. And, of course, our profession has changed dramatically. AI, automation, digital transformation, and hybrid teams continue to reshape how we work.

But one thing hasn't changed: projects are powered by people.

For me, the heartbeat of PMI South Florida has always been its people.

I've experienced excellence through the organization's impact on our community. It goes beyond the people we meet; it's found in the unity, support, and willingness to come together for one another.

South Florida's melting pot encourages each of us to bring our own flavor: our experiences, perspectives, ideas, and cultures. That diversity strengthens our community and helps us grow together. Behind every milestone is a team built on trust and collaboration.

I've been fortunate to volunteer alongside people like Regina Batista, Terrence Scott, and Ayushi Saraswar, whose energy and commitment reflect the spirit of PMI South Florida. Volunteering reminds me that our impact isn't measured only by the projects we deliver, but by the people we inspire, support, and connect with along the way.

Our 40th anniversary celebrates every founder, volunteer, leader, mentor, member, sponsor, and friend who has shaped this community one event, one conversation, and one connection at a time.

My sincere appreciation and gratitude go to everyone who has been part of these remarkable 40 years.

So, what does 40 years of excellence look like? Come see for yourself on December 10, 2026. Join us to celebrate, reconnect with familiar faces, make new connections, and simply enjoy being together. After all, project managers know how to celebrate just as well as we know how to plan.

But most importantly, come be part of what happens next. The next 40 years will be shaped by all of us: by what we contribute, the relationships we build, and what we are willing to create together.

**The connections we make today help shape the
community we build for tomorrow.**

December 10, 2026, 6:00-10:00 PM, Shooters Waterfront, Fort Lauderdale

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On behalf of PMI South Florida, we would like to extend our gratitude for your generous sponsorship. Your support is invaluable to the success of our event and helps us continue our mission. Thank you for making a difference!

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A Heartfelt Acknowledgment for the PMC Conference Volunteers

Planning and executing a significant event like the PMC Conference requires an exceptional team of dedicated professionals. We are immensely thankful to the numerous PMI South Florida volunteers who contributed their time, energy, and expertise to ensure the success of this conference. Their enthusiasm for project management and dedication to our community serve as the foundation of this event.

Our vision was to discover new opportunities, engage with inspiring individuals, and transform ideas into action. It truly takes a team effort, and we couldn't have achieved this without each and every one of you.

Thank you for helping us turn this vision into reality!

- Daissy Folkers
- Jean-Luc Caous
- Corey Patton
- David Driesbach
- Stanley St. Victor
- Dianne Basdeo
- Naquia Williams
- Nadjeda Cherilien
- Ryan Mahoney
- Manish Kalra
- Caio Peret
- Marilyn Hu
- Monique Johnson
- Jennifer De La Cruz
- David Thomas
- Douglas Burrows
- Ray Marquez
- John Moffatt
- Maria Isabel Franco
- Enrique Dimacali
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- Terrence Scott
- Joyce Mealey
- Lorraine Davila Hildy
- Kimberly Belmont
- Pam Baglio
- Sid Srivatsan
- Komala Maharaj
- Adam Wilson
- Bella Deas
- Harold Sobers
- Ayushi Saraswat
- Tamyka Silva
- Kerri Lambert
- Khadija Gordon
- Keisha Young
- Diana Cargill
- Gillian Bernard
- Joane Aristilde
- Priyanka Saxena
- Marisol Mederos

Thank You!

2026 Project Management Conference

