Professional Practice

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EDITORS

Advancing Human Resource Project Management





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Editors



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Foreword

This book is destined to be a well-thumbed volume, kept close at hand by many practitioners and academics. It will serve as a reference, a playbook, and instructional manual for those who will be managing a variety of projects. It will certainly help to minimize the "speed bumps" and to avoid the hidden "landmines" in our practice.

The book will appeal especially to people new to project management, which includes almost all of us at some point. Typically, our education prepares us to work alone or in small groups. Projects grow larger and more complex as we progress in our careers. If we are lucky, we gather experience along with the necessary bruises as we progress in our work. This book will make the "school of hard knocks" a lot easier, because it furnishes a checklist of issues to be faced, examples of how to cope with such issues, and a new understanding of our responsibilities in carrying out projects. As a result, the contents of this book will also be quite useful for experienced practitioners who want to mentor more junior colleagues, for faculty members who want to teach or give guidance to students, and for all practitioners who value a template they can use as a reminder list.

When the proposal for this book was first sent to me, I was surprised and delighted, as was the SIOP Professional Practices Editorial Board when they reviewed it. We saw that this book would fill an important hole in most practitioners' skill sets. The management of projects is rarely taught to us. We learn mostly from experience. Sometimes we are lucky enough to have a manager, mentor, or more senior colleague who can help us by example or instruction. After all, we all want to know the things to consider in contracting a project, setting up and working with a timeline, dealing with budget and even legal issues, and coping with ethical concerns that may come up during a project.

The beauty of this book is that it distills the experience of many skilled practitioners with wonderful examples of what must be done on projects large and small to result in success. Overviews of the key issues are presented and then also shown in various case studies, so we can truly see how project management is done and how it pays off in project success.

All of the book's editors are highly qualified, and they represent a variety of professional backgrounds. To illustrate just a bit of this context: Richard Klimoski is a highly regarded industrial-organizational (I-O) psychologist based in academia. Beverly Dugan, also a distinguished I-O psychologist, works in a preeminent human resources consulting organization. Carla Messikomer is a leader in the formal study and teaching of project management. François Chiocchio is a social scientist in a leading Canadian business school.

The editors also have recruited a set of chapter contributors with superb credentials and lots of real-life experience. They come from major industries and consulting firms, as well as from academic settings, and from different professional backgrounds. Their organizations are often global ones. About one-third of the authors in this volume are from outside of the United States, mostly from Western Europe and Canada. As our world becomes more globalized in trade and cultural exchange, successful project management demands an equally broad awareness, and this volume helps the reader to achieve that understanding.

The book's title, Advancing Human Resource Project Management, may be too modest, I think, in zeroing in on the "human resource project." Its practical value extends beyond HR to any sizable project done in the social sciences or in different organizations. All such projects need to deal with contracting and ethical issues, getting the necessary resources to the right people at the right time, assessing the outcomes of the project for oneself and the client, and implementing results. A broad view of "project" would fit equally well to a basic employee selection project, the installation of a performance management process, a merger and acquisition, or the undertaking of basic research in the social sciences. On a smaller scale, it would also apply to most projects done as part of a graduate course.

We, the readers and users of this book, are indebted to the editors and the other contributors for sharing their experiences and understanding with us. Their work is really a gift to us, in more than one way. A fact, not well known, is that the editors and contributors to this series receive no payment, except for a copy of the book. All royalties go to SIOP, to help further the aims of

this professional organization. So I am grateful for, and enthusiastically applaud, their contribution to our knowledge.

ALLEN I. KRAUT, Ph.D.
Professional Practice Series Editor
Rye, New York
March 6, 2014

About the Editors

Richard J. Klimoski, Ph.D., holds a dual appointment as both professor of psychology and professor of management in the School of Management at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. His teaching and research interests center on managing the human side of work organizations, especially through effective leadership and the involvement of work teams. His numerous original research contributions have appeared in such places as the Academy of Management Journal, Academy of Management Learning and Education, Administrative Science Quarterly, Journal of Applied Psychology, Personnel Psychology, Academy of Management Learning and Education, and many other well-respected journals. He is a past editor of the Academy of Management Review and served as an associate editor of the Academy of Management Learning and Education journal. He is a member of numerous journal editorial boards. He has co-authored several books, including Research Methods in Human Resource Management (1992), The Nature of Organizational Leadership (2002), Emotions in Work Organizations (2002), and the Handbook of Psychology (Volume 12): Industrial and Organizational Psychology (2003). Most recently he co-authored Research Companion to the Dysfunctional Workplace: Management Challenges and Symptoms (2007).

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