



2025 Kansas PM Connect

Session Descriptions and Session Objectives

PM Track

1 Earned Value Management: Practical Case Studies and Uses in Industry

90 minutes (1.5 PDHs)

This session will provide an in-depth exploration of Earned Value Management (EVM) through real-world case studies within the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) industry. Participants will gain insight into how EVM is applied to monitor project performance, manage budgets, and predict project outcomes effectively. Experts will share practical examples of EVM implementation, highlighting key challenges and lessons learned. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies for integrating EVM into their own projects.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the fundamentals of Earned Value Management and its relevance in the AEC industry.
- Review practical case studies of EVM applications to enhance project performance monitoring.
- Apply EVM concepts to improve project budgeting, forecasting, and decision-making.

2 Panel: Ask Me Anything About Project Management

90 minutes

This interactive panel will provide attendees the opportunity to ask seasoned project management professionals questions about navigating challenges within the AEC industry. From initiating projects to closing them successfully, panelists will offer insights, share experiences, and provide guidance based on audience-driven inquiries. Attendees can expect candid discussions that address a wide range of PM topics.

Learning Objectives

- Gain insights from experienced project management professionals in various AEC roles.
- Identify practical solutions for common project management challenges and situations.
- Enhance understanding of project management best practices and strategies.

3 Keynote Panel: AI in Project Management Facilitated by Nicholas Heim

90 minutes (1 PDH)

This forward-looking panel, facilitated by Nicholas Heim, will dive into the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in project management within the AEC industry. Panelists will discuss current AI tools, emerging trends, and practical applications for improving project efficiency and decision-making. The session will also explore the ethical considerations and potential challenges of AI integration.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the current and potential uses of AI in AEC project management.
- Evaluate the benefits and challenges of AI adoption in project management processes.
- Identify practical AI tools and techniques to enhance project efficiency and decision-making.



4 Risk Management

90 minutes (1.5 PDHs)

This session will offer a comprehensive overview of risk management principles and techniques tailored to the AEC industry. Participants will learn how to identify, assess, and mitigate risks throughout the project lifecycle. Best practices, tools, and real-world examples will be discussed to enhance participants' ability to manage uncertainty effectively.

Learning Objectives

- Understand key risk management principles and their application to AEC projects.
- Develop strategies to identify, assess, and prioritize project risks.
- Implement risk mitigation techniques to enhance project success.

5 PM Role Play Scenarios: How Would You Handle These Challenging Project Situations?

90 minutes (1 PDH)

This interactive session will present participants with real-world project management scenarios that require quick thinking and strategic decision-making. Through group discussions and facilitated feedback, attendees will explore effective solutions to common challenges faced by AEC project managers. This hands-on experience will enhance problem-solving and leadership skills.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze various project management scenarios and identify effective responses.
- Enhance decision-making skills in complex, high-pressure situations.
- Collaborate with peers to develop practical solutions to common PM challenges.

PM Development Track

6 Assessing your PM Population across the 5 Process Groups

90 minutes

This session will guide participants through assessing their project management population's capabilities across the five process groups: Initiating, Planning, Executing, Monitoring & Controlling, and Closing. Practical frameworks and tools will be discussed to help organizations identify skill gaps and optimize their PM processes. The information presented will be based on extensive research done by Talent Matters and EMI on 100 AEC project managers.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the five process groups in project management and their relevance to AEC projects.
- Assess project management capabilities within each process group.
- Develop strategies to address skill gaps and improve overall project management performance.

7 Roundtable: Challenges in Recruiting & Hiring PMs

90 minutes

This collaborative roundtable discussion focuses on the unique challenges of recruiting qualified project managers within the AEC industry. Attendees will share experiences, strategies, and best practices to attract and retain top talent in a competitive market.

Learning Objectives

- Identify common challenges in recruiting PMs within the AEC industry.
- Discuss effective recruitment and retention strategies.
- Develop actionable solutions to enhance talent acquisition efforts.



8 PM Success Factors: Onboarding & Mentoring PMs

90 minutes

This session will explore effective strategies for onboarding and mentoring project managers within the AEC industry. Participants will learn how to identify key skills, create structured onboarding processes, and mentoring support for new (and existing) PMs to ensure long-term success. Best practices from experienced leaders will be shared to enhance onboarding and mentoring initiatives.

Learning Objectives

- Review essential skills and traits for successful project managers.
- Develop structured onboarding plans that enhance PM effectiveness.
- Implement strategies to mentor, support and retain ALL project managers.

9 Roundtable: PM Skill Gaps

90 minutes

This open discussion will invite participants to share their experiences and challenges related to PM skill gaps in the AEC industry. By collaborating with peers, attendees will explore effective methods for identifying, addressing, and bridging these gaps to enhance organizational success, which will improve PM utilization and project profitability.

Learning Objectives

- Identify common skill gaps among AEC project managers.
- Share strategies for bridging skill gaps and enhancing PM capabilities.
- Develop action plans for improving PM skills across the organization.

10 PM Career Paths + Progression

90 minutes

This session will explore the various career paths available for project managers in the AEC industry. Discover strategies to provide employees with a roadmap for progression—whether in technical roles, leadership positions, or project management—empowering them to take ownership of their development.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how well-defined career paths eliminate uncertainty, helping employees see a clear future within your organization—boosting morale, focus, and productivity.
- Explore multiple career pathways, such as technical expertise, leadership roles, and project management tracks, giving employees flexibility to pursue careers that align with their strengths and aspirations.
- Learn how to connect learning and development initiatives to career pathways, reinforcing your commitment to employee growth and long-term success.

11 Beyond PM Training: Building a PM Culture

90 minutes

This session will emphasize the importance of cultivating a strong PM culture through consistent PM practices companywide. The session will provide actions that organizations can take beyond traditional training to build consistency including micro-learning, mentoring, and the use of tools effectively. Participants will learn strategies for reinforcing a positive PM culture that aligns with organizational goals.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the key elements of a strong project management culture.
- Implement strategies to maintain consistency and accountability in PM practices.
- Develop a plan to reinforce and sustain PM culture throughout the organization.



12 From Templates to Transformation: Best Practices for PM Tool Development and Implementation

90 minutes

Project management tools and templates are the backbone of efficient delivery in AEC firms. But building tools that actually drive results requires more than just good intentions—it demands alignment with real-world project dynamics, industry standards, and scalable practices.

In this session, attendees will explore some best practices of developing and implementing PM tools and templates that improve coordination, reduce risk, and boost performance. From understanding what makes a template effective to rolling out tools across teams with confidence, this session offers a roadmap for AEC leaders looking to build systems that scale with their projects.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the key elements of effective PM tools and templates that align with AEC project requirements.
- Apply recognized standards to design scalable, flexible frameworks.
- Implement strategic rollouts of PM tools, including phased adoption, training, and change management.
- Evaluate tool effectiveness using KPIs and build systems for continuous improvement.

13 Building a PMO that Works for Your Organization

90 minutes

This session will focus on designing and implementing a Project Management Office (PMO) that aligns with your organization's needs and goals. Participants will learn how to establish PMO frameworks, define clear roles and responsibilities, and ensure the PMO effectively supports project management excellence.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the purpose and structure of a successful PMO.
- Develop frameworks for designing and implementing an effective PMO.
- Create strategies for aligning the PMO with organizational goals and enhancing project success.

