

Component Mentor Update
By Ray W. Frohnhoefer, MBA, PMP, CCP
Component Mentor, PMI Region 7

PMI's Global Operations Center has been evolving the Component Mentor program for several years. The role of the Component Mentor is to create a close relationship between components and the GOC, encourage and facilitate communications and sharing within a region, and identify and relay issues between the components and the GOC. Component Mentors are available to coach and advise component leadership. In 2004, what was previously a volunteer managed function, the Component Mentor program, became an official GOC program managed by a full-time administrator. It is not only an outstanding opportunity to serve the profession, but regional volunteer positions such as the Component Mentor offer a volunteer "career path" that leads from the local component to the Global Operations Center.

As of September 2006, PMI has identified 14 regions served by 19 Component mentors. Regions are determined by geography, time zone, number of components and members, and languages and cultural similarities. One of the 14 regions contains the "virtual" components – SIGs and Colleges.

Beginning in 2007, the Component Mentor program will be expanded to include the additional functions of aligning component strategic plans to the GOC strategic plan and supporting component leadership in strategic and transition planning. The purpose is to insure that there is one strategic plan across the entire PMI community.

A CMP MAG, Component Mentor Program Member Advisory Group has been formed to provide feedback and recommendations on the Component Mentor Program. The group consists of six past Component Mentors, plus one GOC staff member. Terms are staggered on a biannual basis to permit representation from four macro regions (North America, Latin America, Asia Pacific, and Europe-Middle East-Africa) and one virtual community (SIGs and Colleges) over time.

Component Mentors are selected by rigorous criteria and serve a three year term. Some of the key qualifications include: three years of PMI membership, ten years of professional experience, and one term in an elected role within a component. While Component Mentors may hold honorary roles such as Past President, they may not serve on any other PMI committees, components, or projects. The role is somewhat demanding and requires up to 8 hours a week.

As the Component Mentor for PMI Region 7 (California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and Hawaii), I have also been overseeing two major projects for the region – the development of an Operations Handbook for the regional components and the implementation of a web site for collaboration and sharing. The web site is up and functional at www.pmiregion7.org and we will be reviewing an outline for the Operations Handbook in conjunction with the Seattle Leadership meeting in October.

Officers and members of the region may contact me anytime at cm@pmiregion7.org.