

Program Manager Community of Practice Coming Soon to a Computer Near You!

In February 2001, the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) and the Navy Acquisition Reform Office signed a formal partnership to develop a Program Manager Community of Practice (PM CoP). The CoP is anywhere, anytime (24/7) program management support for job performance through a Web portal. Populated with links to net materials, lessons learned, questions, best practices, yellow pages, and chat capability, the goals of the PM CoP include: knowledge capture and retrieval, collaboration, solution development, and new idea generation.

For the September 2001 start-up, the PM CoP will focus on five areas:

- Contracting
- Earned Value Management
- Risk Management
- Systems Engineering
- Software Management

During the week of March 26-30, the Community Build Integrated Product Team for PM CoP sponsored a pilot run of the "Question of the Month" as a means of generating ideas to populate the focus area community. Students from the Advanced Program Management Course at the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) and DSMC faculty members with experience in each of the focus areas were invited to participate.

The sessions (one focus area per day) were held in DAU's Management Deliberation Center and used the GroupWare Technology. Professors Bill McGovern and Beryl Harman, along with Education Technician Laurie Smith Hall, facilitated the exercises. The process included generating ideas, clarifying the ideas, and voting on them. Voting was from the perspective of "ease of implementation" and "payoff."

The Question of the Month for March was:

For the PM CoP, what kinds of things could help, clarify, simplify, or improve Risk Management (or the other focus areas)? What are the opportunities and barriers in the Risk Management area?

Feedback will be incorporated into the design of the PM CoP. This is just one source of idea generation. More information on PM CoP will be forthcoming in future issues of *Program Manager*.

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

The White House announced March 19 the President's intent to nominate a well-known executive throughout the defense acquisition and procurement community — **Dr. David S.C. Chu** — to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Chu is currently the Vice President, responsible for RAND's Army Research Division and Director of the Arroyo Center. He served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Program Analysis and Evaluation from 1988 to 1993 and as Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation at the Department of Defense from 1981 to 1988. He has received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the Bronze Palm, and the Silver Palm. Chu received both his undergraduate degree and Ph.D. from Yale University.

Another announcement from The White House on March 22 was the President's intent to nominate **Angela Styles** to be Administrator of Federal Procurement Policy at the Office of Management and Budget. She is currently the Special Assistant to the Associate Administrator for Government-Wide Policy at the General Services Administration and was previously Counsel to the Government Contracts Group at Miller and Chevalier, chartered in Washington, D.C. From 1994 to 1996 she served as an Associate with the Government Contracts Group at Baker & Botts and was the Program Manager for the Central Office of Funds Management at the Texas Office of State Federal Relations from 1990 to 1991. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and received her Law Degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001>.

Changes in Education Requirements for New GS-1102s

Implementing guidance for the new GS-1102 qualification standard has been issued effective March 21, 2001. Section 808 of the fiscal 01 National Defense Authorization Act Change to 10 U.S.C 1724 established a positive degree requirement for DoD contracting and comparable military positions. A four-year degree and 24 credit hours in business subjects are now required. The guidance clarifies that the increased requirements apply to new entrants only as of Oct. 1, 2000. Based on the evident intent that the changes not apply to the current workforce, anyone who held an 1102 or a comparable military position on or before Sept. 30, 2000, is excluded from the requirement. For more information, download the new guidance from the Defense Acquisition Reform Web site at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ar/ar.htm>.