Carothers, Todd

"Integrating Accounting into Project Management Coursework"

Abstract: Project management students struggle to see the link between a project manager's role and the accounting function. This is often attributable to one of several causes – the separation of a project’s cost control function from other project management functions within an organization, a lack of focus on a project’s monetary cost and benefits, and a belief that accounting knowledge is only useful to accountants. Each of these reasons does not embrace the full role or influence that a project manager can have in driving project success.

The University of Wisconsin – Platteville has worked in close collaboration with its Project Management Master’s alumni and advisory board to integrate management accounting as a core course within the master’s curriculum. Todd Carothers has been at the forefront of these efforts bringing his 15+ years of experience as a project manager and as a Certified Management Accountant.

Todd will describe how the course has been designed to build a working foundation of accounting for project managers that will assist them in embracing more active roles in project estimation and approval, budget management, and communication of financial results.

At the end of this session, participants will understand: What terminology and basic knowledge of accounting that project managers need. How accounting knowledge can be applied using project situations in case studies. How to set the overall expectations and learning objectives for accounting in project management curriculum.