

Biography: Lisa-Ann Barnes, President

Lisa-Ann Barnes is the president and founder of IreeTec® Incorporated, a company which specializes in project management. She is an expert in project management, speaks at industry conferences, is quoted in trade publications, and is co-author of a book on project management for information technology projects, published by Prentice Hall. She is certified in project management by both the Project Management Institute and CompTIA. With almost twenty years experience in Information Technology, Lisa-Ann has developed an adaptable methodology for project management and has implemented it successfully in many companies around the world. She helps teams improve their project effectiveness through process improvements, strategy development, training, mentoring, project office implementations, and other consulting services.

Lisa-Ann is extremely experienced in working with senior staff to help their organizations develop strategies, set goals, and prioritize needs. Through meeting facilitation, she helps these organizations become more efficient. As an instructional designer, Lisa-Ann helps organizations define audiences, develop training programs, define curriculum, and design and deliver training classes and workshops. She helps teams improve their project effectiveness through process improvements, strategy development, training, mentoring, project management office implementations, and other consulting services.

Lisa-Ann firmly believes that training - especially around project management - is most effective and lasting when it targets real problems. Participants are encouraged to discuss their projects in detail and to apply the concepts to their projects. Because she has such an extensive background as an actionable, practical project manager, she is able to respond to participant concerns and questions in real-time, making sure that participants learn what they need to know to be immediately effective. Lisa-Ann has been an active trainer since 1990, and has taught project management classes throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. She has developed and delivered several training courses on project management - project management fundamentals, advanced project management techniques, project management tools (including Microsoft Project). Prior to conducting any classes, Lisa-Ann works with the organization to define the objectives of the training initiative, and then tailors the class to meet the specific learning points for each client. She is consistently rated as an effective and knowledgeable trainer by her clients.

Affiliations

Lisa-Ann currently serves as the chair of the Project+ project management certification program by CompTIA, which sets the information technology industry standard for project management. CompTIA is an information technology trade association and purchased the Project+ certification program from the Gartner Group in 2002. CompTIA recently released a glossary of standard project management terms and Lisa-Ann was significantly involved in its creation.

Additionally, Lisa-Ann has recently joined Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies as an instructor in the leadership and project management programs. She is also currently involved in a project management research effort through Loyola University.

Lisa-Ann recently completed seven years serving on the board of Women In Technology International, Chicago chapter working with both entrepreneur and corporate executive activities.

Career History

Lisa-Ann began her career with Accenture and implemented mainframe and client/server applications for companies in the United States, Europe, and Mexico. She also worked in Accenture's software organization, where she applied her project experiences to solving customer's problems with software development and project management processes. In 1994, she joined a small software company where she served as the Chief Methodologist and Product Development Manager. While there, Lisa-Ann developed an object-oriented development methodology with a heavy rapid application development flavor, and a corresponding project management methodology. The methodology was presented in a desktop project management tool, complete with scheduling and estimating functions. During this time, the firm was rated by the Gartner Group as one of the leading consulting companies in client/server development techniques; the firm was acquired by LBMS in 1995, which has since been purchased by Computer Associates.

In late 1994, Lisa-Ann founded IreeTec Incorporated, which helps organizations create a culture of project success. IreeTec improves how organizations identify, prioritize, plan, and manage projects. By completing a rapid assessment, IreeTec consultants identify the organizations' critical needs – strategic vision, project inventory development, teambuilding and motivation, project management process, or individual skills development. IreeTec then works with the client to implement the necessary improvements through products, training, coaching, co-managing, and other consulting services. Software products include miMentor, which is a knowledge-base of project management best practices. Introduced in 1999, it has been adopted as part of project management development programs at several large companies.

Project Management Training Offerings

IreeTec offers several training courses to meet the needs of project managers. Courses are based on IreeTec's approach to project management, miApproach. miApproach identifies five success factors that must be managed throughout each of the four phases of the project management lifecycle. Discussions and activities provide the participants an opportunity to practice their skills in a "safe" environment. Our experience shows that a "one size fits all" solution is not always best, so our courses can be quickly and affordably customized to incorporate a client's terminology, development process, and project characteristics.

Results

IreeTec engagements have resulted in:

- Improved efficiency of organizations through alignment of project priorities with the business direction, development of strategic plans, and changes in organizational structure.
- Improved standardization of organizational processes through the customization and implementation of an appropriate project management methodology, development methodology, and corresponding tools.
- Improved management of projects in information technology, software product, engineering, and pharmaceuticals development disciplines through implementation of project management offices, including processes, tools, procedures, training, and staff.
- Improved project management skills of over two hundred professionals through long-term mentoring, on-the-job training, and training courses.
- Successful project implementations, such as a major business process re-engineering, packaged software implementations, custom web-based project reporting applications, and various training / documentation development initiatives.