

# Perspectives of Women in PM Latin America <sup>1</sup>

## Interview with Angela Mendez

Former Mentor Region 13 North  
Project Management Institute



**By Angelica Larios**  
International Correspondent  
Mexico City, Mexico

### Introduction to Interviewee

Angela Mendez has served as a Mentor for PMI's Northern Region 13 for three years, supporting leaders from 11 countries and 19 chapters to develop their leadership skills and the growth and development of communities. She is a service leader with strategic skills—people-focused, self-motivated, adaptable, results-oriented, and an expert in teamwork and conflict resolution.

Angela is a Latin woman highly qualified with studies and experience, such as

- Ph.D. in Education, with a specialization in Organizational and Instructional Leadership. Nova Southeastern University. 2019
- Leadership Institute Master Class. 2016 PMI USA.
- Project Management Professional (PMP). 2008
- Master in Higher Education, UNIBE. 2005
- Information System Engineer, Apec University, Santo Domingo 1992
- Mentor Region 13 North of the Project Management Institute 2019-2021

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## Interview

**Q1.** What has contributed to the chapter, practice, and dissemination of Project Management?

**Angela Mendez (Mendez):** The most important contribution was the creation of the chapter, bringing together the leaders who had this idea for several years and putting the passion and focus that characterized me to achieve in 2011 being recognized by PMI Global. As the first President, I was responsible for leaving an open, inclusive, transparent, and accountable organization. Also, to collaborate in forming and developing leaders who would be responsible for continuing to lead.

In 2015, I expressed: "I aspire to create impact and meaning in the academic and leadership areas in my country and the region, increasing the Project Management programs, supporting the development of new leaders, and thus today, I serve the region. 13 North and all of Latin America."

In 2016, I participated as a speaker in the PMI Tour, celebrating 20 years of this beautiful chapter, and invited my friend Mary Cárdenas, who had been living in Mexico for less than a week and had been an enthusiastic PMIRD volunteer. In addition to seeing her, I intended to introduce her to the leaders of the PMI Mexico Chapter so that she could volunteer for it. Today Mary is the President of the PMICDM, and I am the mentor of the region. Who could imagine it?

I have collaborated on global projects such as the Hybrid and Risk micro certifications and the new Regional Mentors scheme. Together with Carolina La Torre, we created the Regional Advisors pilot that became SMEs, assigning expert volunteers with specific skills to chapters that want to develop or improve a particular region.

Regarding the dissemination of Project Management since 2012, we began a crusade to bring PM to all levels in the Dominican Republic, schools, colleges, NGOs, and the Government. This has been applied in both my country and the region's countries.

**Q2.** What is the status of Project Management in the Latin American Region according to your point of view?

**Mendez:** 2020 was a year that promoted significant changes in the working space in Latin America and the world, for some industries more than others. From my point of view, the focus on people became more human and empathetic. Gustavo Pastrana, PMP, says that leaders of Diebold Nixdorf, Mexico, now ask team members about their personal and mental health and their family lives. "It's about seeing your people first as human beings and secondly as part of an organization that drives results." (Pulse of Profession 2021, PMI).

Survey results show that organizations in our region waste an average of \$ 125 million per billion on projects and programs due to poor project performance, compared to the global average of \$ 114 million.

And so, as in a report, we find that only 47 % of the organizations in Latin America have continuous training for their staff in Project Management tools and techniques, compared to 61 % of the global average. Regarding the maturity in PM, the global average is 42 % versus 33 % in the region.

This outlines some lines in which there is much work to bring our region to the levels of excellence and efficiency we can achieve. It is time to adopt more agile practices, invest in people, empower them, expand the vision, and achieve results by delivering financial and social value to clients.

**Q3.** Why should one become a Project Management professional?

**Mendez:** To receive the certification of the highest-paid business area in the world!

According to CIO Mexico magazine (January 11, 2021), the PMP is among the 15-leading technology (I.T.) certifications with the highest demand in the market. Several publications place it in the top 5, only preceded by I.T. certifications.

Being a PMP opens many possibilities; you can work in various industries and countries. It does not require revalidation. If you are a PMP in Mexico, you can practice in India, Japan, Paris, Germany, or other countries anywhere in the world. If you consult PMP at: <https://careercenter.pmi.org/jobs/search>, you will find 881 opportunities, and if you only use "Project Manager," there are 7,290 at the time of this interview.

**Q4.** Describe your journey as a Project Management professional and as a volunteer with PMI.

**Mendez:** Working for more than 29 years at the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic allowed me to learn, collaborate and manage multiple projects. I obtained my PMP certification in 2008 and the opportunity to travel to the Latin American Congress of the PMI in Sao Paulo. With this extraordinary experience, I met great friends. This incredible journey was the point of no return to a future as a PMI volunteer.

In 2009 they contacted me and invited me to collaborate in the PM Skills for a live project for the Children International Foundation; I fell completely in love. Since then, I have been a volunteer and donor of PMIEF.

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## About the Author



### **Angelica Larios, DSL, MBA, PMP**

Mexico City, Mexico



**Angelica Larios**, DSL, MBA, PMP, is a project manager with more than 20 years of experience in implementing software projects related to business intelligence, planning and budgeting, and financial consolidation solutions based on software applications to support the business decision process. She is the owner of ALACONTEC, an I.T. consulting company founded in Latin America. She has held several professional positions in private and public organizations, such as the Health Ministry in Mexico as an I.T. director and a business manager for several Mexican firms.

She holds a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in computer science from the National University of Mexico (UNAM), in addition to her studies in project management and her Project Management Professional (PMP)® certification, which have helped her to consolidate her career and have a better understanding of what businesses and projects need nowadays. She is a doctor in strategic leadership at Regent University, VA; she has been a volunteer since 2007, starting in the local Mexico chapter, being Past President, and in several positions within PMI (CMAG, VBAC, EMAG) that support the PMI Global Operations. Angelica has been elected as a member of BOD of the ILA (International Leadership Association) (2021-2024).

Angelica can be contacted at [angelica.larios@gmail.com](mailto:angelica.larios@gmail.com)

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