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Boston University Corporate Education Center provides project management training for individuals and organizations.

Hiring project managers with Project Management Professional (PMP®) credentials may not guarantee that the project manager hired is capable of moving the organization forward, according to Gina M. Westcott, MDP director at Boston University Corporate Education Center (BUCEC).

Ms. Westcott, who works closely with organizations to determine project management needs and build project management capability using training programs, skills assessments, coaching or mentoring and consulting, has seen an increasing need for project managers to have strong leadership skills within the organization.

Ms. Westcott sees the project manager of the future as an individual who works hand-in-hand with the executive team to ensure that the right projects are selected at the right time, to align with the long-term goals of the organization. "Organizations will not be able to compete globally without putting in place project management processes and continuing to develop their project managers to become leaders within the organization," she says.

Technical skills, she says, are no longer enough. Project managers need strong business and leadership skills, the ability to speak at the executive level and communicate how projects are aligned to the goals of the organization, the ability to assist in determining which projects should be part of the project portfolio, and the ability to effectively and accurately report on project status to executives of the organization.