

PMI Austin's Spring Professional Development Day Presenter Bios



Jay Kiew
Morning Keynote

Jay Kiew is a change navigation strategist and world-renowned keynote speaker with more than 13 years of strategy and human capital experience. Creating more than \$2B of impact for 400+ executives by designing, developing, and delivering organizational transformation, but his story extends far beyond the professional arena.

Kiew is a half-blind cancer survivor, whose life is a testament to resilience in the face of adversity. His remarkable blend of professional expertise and personal resilience equips leaders to hack through the thick of change and disruption.

Jay spent his corporate career working at Deloitte, TELUS, and ADP, where he led mission-critical strategic transformations. This included a \$150-million primary care health policy reform, \$13-million tech transformations, doubling app users from 1 to 2 million, and scaling 15 product lines to \$35 million in 12 months.

At the age of 19, Jay became the world's youngest Distinguished Toastmaster. He has since been featured in the Financial Times, Globe and Mail, Financial Post, Ivey Business Journal, Change Leadership, and more. He also sits on the Project Management Institute's Board of Directors for the Canadian West Coast Chapter.

Jay holds an MBA from the Ivey Business School and is a Prosci-certified PMP and Insights psychometric practitioner.



Saby Waraich
Morning Presenter

Saby Waraich is recognized by Thinkers360 as a Global Thought Leader and Influencer in the Top 10 for Project Management and Business Strategy, and in the Top 50 for Leadership, Saby Waraich is not just a speaker—he is a practitioner in the trenches every single day. Delivering keynotes and workshops that are as inspiring as they are practical, marrying actionable insights with a captivating storytelling style.

A veteran in driving change and fostering innovation, Saby offers a unique perspective backed by real-world experience. Whether on stage or virtually, his energetic and engaging approach provides the tools you need to stand out as a leader, build trust, and ultimately drive better results.

Saby is currently working as CIO at Clackamas Community College. He speaks four languages, enjoys working with people, and brings enthusiasm, inspiration & leadership qualities.

Recognitions include: ★ Global Thought Leader and Influencer in Leadership, Business Strategy and Project Management ★ Top Voice North America 2023 ★ Higher Education IT Executive of the Year 2022 ★ Global Leadership and Technology Executives Who Matter 2021 ★ Certified Virtual Presenter



Kathleen Walch & Ron Schmelzer
Afternoon Presenter

Kathleen Walch founded tech startup up HourlyBee. Before that, Kathleen was a key part of the direct marketing operation for Harte Hanks managing large scale direct mail campaigns for clients, where her clients included Bed Bath and Beyond and BuyBuyBaby. Kathleen specializes in managing “bigdata” analytics and graduated from Loyola University with a degree in marketing.

Ron Schmelzer is a sought-after expert on AI and data best practices and AI project management. Ron received a B.S. degree in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and an MBA from Johns Hopkins University.



Patti DeNucci
Afternoon Keynote

Patti DeNucci is an award-winning author, corporate and conference speaker, and workshop facilitator. She works with smart professionals who want to converse and connect with greater authenticity, ease, and confidence, both in social and professional settings.

Among the many organizations that have hired Patti to work with their teams and event participants are Microsoft, Hewlett Packard, BazaarVoice, HEB, cabi, MGM Resorts, Texas State University, the Texas Society of Association Executives, Texas Association of Professional Educators, Texas Association of Counties, and the Texas Conference for Women. Patti is the author of *The Intentional Networker: Attracting Powerful Relationships, Referrals & Results in Business* and her latest book, *More Than Just Talk: The Essential Guide for Anyone Who Wants to Enjoy Better Conversations*. Both books have earned prestigious literary awards.

In addition to being a founding board member and past president of the Austin Chapter of the National Speakers Association (NSA), Patti also served on NSA's national Chapter Leadership team, which involved creating and presenting a two-day leadership curriculum for incoming chapter presidents and board members.