

IIBA Informant

News from the Denver Chapter of the IIBA

February 15, 2015

In This Issue

Upcoming Events
New Sponsor
April Events
Education News
Certification Study Group
Membership News
January Meeting Recap
Get Involved!

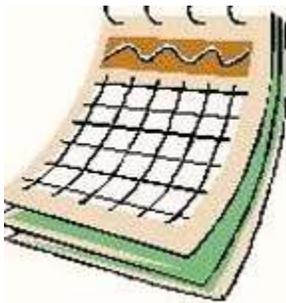
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Dear Business Analyst,

If you enjoy reading this newsletter and think that other Business Analysts, Project Managers, or Directors in your organization might enjoy it as well, it's easy to share. Just forward it to your colleagues.

Did someone forward this newsletter to you? Would you like to receive upcoming issues of this newsletter and learn more about IIBA and the Business Analysis profession? Just click on the **Join Our Mailing List** link on the [IIBA Denver Chapter website](#).

Upcoming Meeting



March 2015 IIBA Denver Chapter Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 18

5:30 - 6:00 - Check In, Networking, Food
6:00 - 6:30 - Announcements, Chapter Business
6:30 - 8:00 - Presentation

Topic: How to Start a BA Career: Debunking the 5 Myths

If you've been exploring a career change to business analysis, then you've probably heard a lot of conflicting advice. You may have heard any of the following statements:

- An IT background is necessary. It's not.
- You need an MBA or masters degree or certificate. You don't.
- Your lack of experience will always hold you back. It won't.
- Business domain expertise is critical. It isn't.
- It makes sense to wait it out for a hard-to-find entry-level BA position. It often doesn't.

In this presentation, we'll tackle each of these myths head on. You'll leave armed with constructive alternatives for leveraging the skills and experiences from your unique career background that will propel your business analysis career forward.

Presenter: Laura Brandenburg, CBAP is a best-selling author and an internationally recognized leader known for helping mid-career professionals start business analysis careers. Laura brings more than a decade of experience in the business analysis profession, filling such roles as a full-time business analyst, consultant, and hiring manager. She brings all of these perspectives into her writing, presenting, coaching, and training to help you find transferable business analysis skills, expand your business analysis experience, and start your business analysis career with confidence. You may find out more about Laura by visiting her website (<http://www.bridging-the->

[gap.com](http://www.gap.com)). She also offers a free career planning course for business analysts:
<http://www.bridging-the-gap.com/free-resources>

Location: 7887 East Belleview Avenue, Englewood. **Note that this is the same location as the January meeting.**

Cost: There are two levels of membership: 1) IIBA National and 2) IIBA Denver Chapter with IIBA National. The meeting cost is free for members of the Denver Chapter. The cost is \$10 for non-members of the Denver chapter. Snacks are generously provided by our sponsor MODIS. [Click here to register.](#)

Note: Members/nonmembers please register so we can plan accurately for food.

Letter from the President

by Monte Malenke, President

I am excited to announce Aaron Nieman as the newest member of our board of directors, accepting the role of Vice President of Marketing. Aaron is a Business Analyst with Kaiser Permanente and is interested in not just being a part of the Business Analyst community, but investing into it as well. I commend him for this, and would encourage everyone to follow that example. In this role, Aaron will primarily focus on managing and growing the chapter's sponsorship program which is an important element in one of our key initiatives for 2015.

As part of the chapter's mission to bring maximum value to our membership, increased sponsorship support of the chapter will enable us to bring in the best speakers to our chapter meetings. We have been blessed with some great presentations over the last year and before, but want to be able to expand our pool of potential speakers outside the local area. But that comes with a cost. Adding new financial sponsors to our chapter will give us the ability to cover those costs and deliver the most educational and engaging presentations.

If you think your company might be willing to sponsor the chapter, please be in touch with Aaron. Any leads you can send his way will be very much appreciated, and you might be able to play a key role in our mission to deliver solid and increasing value to our membership. You can contact him at marketing@denver.iiba.org with any leads or ideas you might have, or to congratulate him in his new role.

Volunteer organizations like the IIBA Denver Chapter live and die based on the willingness of folks like Aaron and the other board members and committee volunteers to step up and make a difference. If you are even a little interested in being a part of what we are doing, please let me know and we can chat about what interests you and what the needs of the chapter are. It's a great opportunity to work with some truly great people and grow your resume.

I'd also like to give everyone a little advance notice that we will be looking for a new VP of Events in June. Debra Urban has been such a great help to the chapter in this role by organizing our two networking events each year during her term, but has let us know she needs to be done for now when her term ends July 1st. If you would like to make our two networking events each year a reality for the next two year term, please let me know about your interest and we'll make sure you are considered during our elections this summer. You could even help Debra with our next event happening this April to get a head start on seeing what she does.

Please contact me at president@denver.iiba.org if you have any questions about the chapter, or have interest in possibly being a part of the board or volunteer on one of our committees.

MODIS Salary Guide for 2015 Available

As a global provider of IT staffing services, MODIS connects the very best IT professionals to great opportunities at leading companies. And we do it every single day - for both temporary and permanent assignments and across virtually all industries. We use our insight, flexibility and expanded resources to anticipate the needs of leading tech companies and help them make exceptional connections with top tech talent.



[Get a copy of the 2015 salary guide.](#)

For more information, please contact:
Kristen Short
Resource Development Manager
720-244-5309
7887 East Belleview Ave.
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New Chapter Sponsor

by Grant Warden, VP Communications

Denver IIBA is proud to announce a new Gold Sponsor for 2015! The company is [Bridging the Gap](#), a home-grown enterprise started by a long-time chapter member.

Laura Brandenburg, CBAP is passionate about business analysis and about helping you find your place within it. Laura is the author of *How to Start a Business Analyst Career*, *Professional Development for Business Analysts*, and *How to Earn Your CBAP or CCBA in 3 Months*.

Laura offers business analysis courses to people who want to get started in a business analyst career or make sure they succeed in their current business analyst position. She is also our speaker for the March meeting.



IIBA International News

The Denver chapter joins the IIBA international organization in announcing:

- **BABOK v3** -The first webinar focused on the new BABOK v3. The topic will be Document Elicitation Results and will take place on Thursday, March 26 at 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. EST. This event is open to non-members. [Follow this link for more information.](#)
- **BBC Conference** - Super early bird pricing for the 2015 BBC conference to be held in Las Vegas in November. [Follow this link for more information.](#)

April Events

Denver IIBA Chapter Spring Networking Event on April 23, 2015

Please plan to join the chapter for the Spring Networking event on Thursday, April 23 at Breckenridge Brewery in LoDo. This is a semi-annual event. More details to follow.

PMI Symposium on April 24, 2015

If you haven't been to this annual event hosted by the PMI Mile Hi Chapter, it is a wonderful opportunity to learn and network with not only Project Managers but other Business Analysts and professionals in your industry. Our very own Denver chapter IIBA member, Michelle Kahler (PMP, CBAP) will be speaking on practicing the "people" side of project success and her firm,

North Highland is a key sponsor at the event. Please [click this link](#) to learn more about other breakout sessions and view additional information about the event. Hope to see you there!

Denver IIBA Chapter Website

Looking for more information on the Denver IIBA chapter at any time of the month? The Denver website can be found at Denver.iiba.org.

This website was launched in the fall of 2014 and is a great resource of information including:

- News and events
- Study groups
- Link to the Career Center
- Information on volunteering, membership, and sponsorship

and much more!

Denver Chapter Education News

by Heidi McLaughlin, VP Education

Lean In Group

You may be familiar with the book "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead" that Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, wrote which reached No. 1 both on the New York Times Bestseller list as well as on Amazon. She was inspired to write the book based off of the success of her 2010 Ted talk entitled, "Why We Have Too Few Women Leaders." The book has in turn inspired Lean In circles to be formed across the country for purposes of helping people gain peer coaching in their careers. As described on the [Lean In site](#), "Lean In Circles are small groups who meet regularly to learn and grow together. Circles are as unique as the individuals who start them, but they all share a common bond: the power of peer support." The Denver IIBA would like to begin its own Lean In group. This is not for women only - our group would be co-ed and would meet virtually. We're looking for a circle manager, circle facilitator, and 8-10 additional members. If you're interested, please contact Heidi at Education@denver.iiba.org.

Call for Speakers

We are looking for speakers to speak at our chapter meetings on topics relevant to business analysts. If you have an interest in being a speaker, being part of a panel of speakers, or if you know someone who would make a great speaker, please contact Heidi at Education@denver.iiba.org. Some topics that have been suggested are listed below, but of course our interests are not limited to this list.

- BABOK Review
- Agile Extension to the BABOK
- Process Mapping
- BA Diagramming & Modeling
- Elicitation
- Enterprise Analysis

CBAP® Study Group Continues: BABOK Chapters 7-8

by Mary Anne McSweeney, CBAP

The IIBA Denver Chapter CBAP study group continues to meet. On March 11 we will be covering BABOK chapters 7 and 8. This session meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from November 2014 through April 2015. Please see the [Study Group](#) page for the complete schedule.

This will be the last group to meet before CBAP Certification is based on the new 3.0 version of the BABOK, which is scheduled for Spring of 2015.

Sessions consist of a review of BABOK content and group discussion to resolve specific questions. Give yourself, your company and your clients a huge benefit by getting certified.

To join the Study Group, you must be a member of IIBA and also a member of the Denver Chapter. If you are interested, please email CBAPStudyGroup@denver.iiba.org and include the following details:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Phone
- 3) Email Address
- 4) IIBA member number
- 5) Any special areas of desired interest or focus

Membership News

by Susan Futey, CBAP, VP Membership

Welcome New Denver Chapter Members!

Susan Alexander
Katherine Barrows
Melinda Davis, CBAP
Aaron Nieman
Mary Sanders
Steve Scherma

Active Member Count: 100

Not a member yet but interested in joining?

Make it your New Year's resolution to join the local IIBA Denver Chapter. It's a great way to network, share business analysis knowledge and experience, and learn about new techniques and processes. Best of all, membership is just **\$25/year!** [Join now!](#)

Benefits of being a local chapter member:

- Attend chapter meetings free
- Participate in Denver Chapter elections (as candidates or as voters)
- Participate in members-only offers such as volunteer opportunities at BA World
- Get to wear a snazzy name badge at the meetings
- Be the proud owner of the "IIBA Denver Chapter" mug!

IIBA member, but *not* a Denver Chapter member, your cost = \$10 per meeting.

IIBA member *and* a Denver Chapter member (annual membership fee of \$25) your cost = **free**. *Take advantage of this deal today!*

You do have to be a member of the IIBA International Organization in order to join the IIBA Denver Chapter. Join IIBA through their website at www.iiba.org. IIBA [Membership benefits](#) include:

- Free copy of the [Business Analysis Body of Knowledge® \(BABOK® Guide\)](#)

- Free access to the [Online Library](#) where you will find hundreds of books
- Knowledge sharing and networking opportunities through the [IIBA Community Network](#)
- Exclusive IIBA monthly publications such as the [IIBA BA Connection monthly newsletter](#)
- Eligibility to join a local [IIBA Chapter](#)
- Access to a free copy of the [Business Analysis Competency Model](#)
- Access to [IIBA Webinars](#) on a range of professional development topics
- Job search capabilities using [Career Center](#)

If you have any questions about membership or renewal, please feel free to send an email using the [Contact Us](#) link on the IIBA Denver Chapter website.

January Meeting Recap

by Debbie Rasor, CBAP

At the chapter meeting on January 18th, there were 34 attendees. If you were not there, you missed an interesting and informative presentation!

Carl Radunsky spoke about Business Process Modeling (BPM) for Better Requirements. Carl stated that "all models are wrong and some models are useful", and he gave some practical tips:

- If models are too complex they are not useful.
- Assume they know how to do their job or have a job aid.
- Keep it simple so it's easy to read. Diagram the sub-processes on a separate page.
- Minimized the number of diagram objects so it's easy to explain to a customer/reviewer.
- A limitation of BPM is that it is typically for automated and not manual steps.

You can download a copy of the presentation [from this link](#). At the bottom of the page, click on Links to Event's documents.

Get involved!

Do you want to support local Business Analysts, the profession, increase visibility to your company, or gain recertification credits? The Denver chapter is looking for help on several committees.

Corporate Programs

There is currently an opening for Corporate Programs in the Marketing Committee. If you are interested, contact marketing@denver.iiba.org.

Technology Volunteer

The chapter would like to be able to stream and/or record chapter meetings presentations, but we need help to do it. Do you have the skillset/ equipment to stream or record our chapter meetings? If you can help, please contact Heidi McLaughlin (VP of Education) at Education@denver.iiba.org or any board member.

Newsletter Article Series Writers

If you've been a member for a while, you may recall that that Kym Byron used to write a monthly article summarizing each BABOK Version 2 section. Since Version 3 is coming out, we'd like to start a new series of articles this Summer. We need volunteers to write articles for our newsletter. It will be a great way to really learn the BABOK! Please contact Debbie Rasor (editor@denver.iiba.org) if you are interested. You do not need to commit to writing all the articles.

Companies Seeking BAs

Are you following the chapter's Linked In group "IIBA Denver Chapter"? New job opportunities are posted there when information is available.

Future 2015 Meetings/Events

Future meetings are scheduled every other month. The remaining meetings are:

- April 23 - Spring Networking Event (Thursday)
- May 20 - Meeting (Wednesday)
- July 15 - Meeting (Wednesday)
- September 16 - Meeting (Wednesday)
- November 18 - Meeting (Wednesday)

Certification News

by Debbie Rasor, CBAP

Need Help with your CBAP or CCBA application?

Need another set of eyes to review your application before you submit it? Tips on applying for recertification? I can answer your questions, review your application, and offer feedback on it before you submit it. Contact me at debrador@yahoo.com.

Endorsing and Recognizing the CBAP and CCBA®

The IIBA Denver Chapter is continuing to support the CBAP as the highest designation in the field of business analysis. CBAPs must meet requirements for experience, education, knowledge, skill, and ethics. The IIBA is looking for organizations that support the CBAP designation, and we would love to see strong company support right here in Colorado! If your organization reimburses you for CBAP exam fees, recognizes the CBAP or CCBA as a professional certification, promotes the certification as part of its professional development goals, or otherwise endorses the designation, please let us know!

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Rasor, CBAP
Associate Editor: Jay Galecki

If you have a contribution to make to the IIBA Informant, please email us at editor@denver.iiba.org.

If you are interested in advertising BA-related services in the IIBA Informant, please email us at info@denver.iiba.org.

Produced by the Denver Chapter of the IIBA

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