



IIBA Informant

News from the Denver Chapter of the IIBA

March 15, 2015

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Dear 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: This 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>). 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

With our next chapter meeting just around the corner on Wednesday March 18th, we are excited to have Laura Brandenburg as our featured speaker. Laura is a CBAP and a long time IIBA Denver Chapter member and supporter, and now our latest chapter sponsor. Speaking on debunking the 5 myths of starting a BA career, I'm sure there will be some insights for aspiring and seasoned Business Analysts alike, coming from someone with a lot of valuable Business Analysis experience.

The big news from the IIBA is the release of the BABOK® 3.0, which is due out April 15th. We are blessed to have Kym Byron slated to present at our May meeting to speak on the BABOK 3.0. Kym was part of the committee working on this new version with the IIBA, and as a long time IIBA Denver Chapter member and past president, she is the perfect person to introduce us to the BABOK 3.0. Also as an FYI, if are you working on your CBAP® the word we have received is that the BABOK 2.0 test will still be the one being offered for 6-9 months after the release of BABOK 3.0, which I know is good news for several of us!

For those of you who have not heard, Kym Byron is also battling cancer that was diagnosed this past summer. We as a board have united to support Kym, and have set up a fundraising site for her with her blessing. Please keep an eye out for a special mailing very soon with more information. I would encourage everyone to support Kym in some way. You can click here

on [Kym's fundraiser site](#) to make a secure online donation to help with the financial strain. Would you also consider passing this along to others who might consider supporting Kym? I would also encourage you to be at the May chapter meeting to show your support for Kym and give her a word of encouragement. I know she would appreciate it very much!

I would also like to invite you to consider joining our board as the next VP of Events. As Debra Urban ends her term July 1, we need you to step up and help organize our two networking events each year. If you have any interest, I'm sure you could lend a hand at our April networking event to get a feel of what this is like. This involves primarily locating a venue and helping select a menu for the evening, and organizing a few networking / meet-and-greet type activities. Email me at President@denver.iiba.org if you are interested.

See you Wednesday (March 18th) at the chapter meeting!

MODIS Top Tech Jobs Information 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.



[View job descriptions of Top Tech Jobs \(analyst is one of them\).](#)

For more information, please contact:
Kristen Short
Resource Development Manager
720-244-5309
7887 East Belleview Ave.
Suite 400, Englewood, CO 80111

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. Look for a separate invitation early in April.

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 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.

Watermark BA Workshop

The Denver IIBA chapter would like to gauge interest in participation in a one-day Watermark BA Workshop on Thursday, July 16 for a cost of \$149-199 per person. The topic of the class will be around a core business analyst skill set such as Eliciting Requirements, Facilitation Skills, or Use Case Essentials. We are confident the class would provide tangible value to our Business Analyst community.

This class would be the day after our July 15 chapter meeting for which we are excited to have Watermark Principal and CEO Elizabeth Larson, speak on Top Models for Complete Requirements Elicitation. She is the co-author of the well known CBAP Certification Study Guide workbook many of us have used. We have not settled on a location yet, but plan on a central location in the Denver area.

The class would provide educational credits that could be used toward an IIBA certification application (as Professional Development (PD) hours) or towards certification renewal (as Continuing Development Units (CDUs)). Many employers may consider this a training day and cover your cost so please consider that as you provide a response. Part of the cost of the class would benefit the IIBA Denver Chapter, so would be fund raiser for us also. Please provide your feedback to Education@denver.iiba.org by March 31st on whether you would have interest in attending this high quality Business Analysis training opportunity from a recognized name in the Business Analysis training industry. Any feedback about the cost, location or date that you would like to provide would be welcome also. If this generates enough interest, this could become an annual training opportunity for the local Business Analyst community.

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

by Mary Anne McSweeney, CBAP

The IIBA Denver Chapter CBAP study group continues to meet. 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!

Peter Hanson

Bryan Lindsey

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

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.

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.

VP Events

This position will be open starting in July. 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.

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.

BABOK Newsletter Article Series Writers

If you've been reading this newsletter 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 debrasor@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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The International Institute of Business Analysis is a non-profit organization for Business Analyst professionals. The goal of the local Denver Chapter is to support IIBA by (1) advancing the role of the Business Analyst as a recognized profession, (2) support opportunities for members to network with, and gain knowledge from, seasoned BA practitioners as well as industry and government leaders, (3) provide access for members to a formal "knowledge base" as well as forums for sharing expertise, expressing professional opinions and building a reputation within the industry, (4) provide pathways to learn about business analysis best practices, and (5) obtain and sustain a level of financial security, sustainability, and autonomy at the local level.