

Summit Focuses on Managing Chaos through Focus and Action

In June, the GSQC/NNEAE held its fifth Leadership Summit. This year's event featured tools and techniques to mitigate the increasing challenges that we all face when managing multiple priorities and tasks. Over 60 new, aspiring, and experienced leaders attended the Summit for a "tasting menu" of topics including *The Power of Mindfulness*, *Agile Project Management*, *Leading in a Large and Hectic Environment*, and the emerging use of *Analytics*.

A recurring theme of the day was the value of mindfulness. Dr. Annabel Beerel, co-author of *Mindfulness: A Better Me; a Better You; A Better World* started the Summit by helping participants understand mindfulness and the importance of a mindfulness practice for both individuals and in a workplace culture. Others in attendance who have developed a mindfulness practice, including GSQC/NNEAE Chair and Annabel's co-author Tom Raffio, shared the significant impact this has made on both their professional and personal life.

The Summit also featured a demonstration of using a Kanban Board to "shift from chaos to flow" at either a personal or organizational level; examples of leading through chaos at a large company by setting the stage, finding "true north" and staying committed to that path, and building/keeping stakeholder trust; and using analytics to support decision making. Our Analytics speaker, Dr. Liran Edelist, presented his remarks remotely from Germany after he was unable to return to the U.S. as scheduled, staying an extra day to participate. As a result, we are calling this our first "International" Summit!



Kim Cadorette, Operations Director at BAE Systems (top left), shares her insights about Leading Through Chaos, and Beverly Parent, Manager of Software Quality Assurance (bottom) demonstrates the use of a Kanban Board at the 2018 Leadership Summit.



PeoplesChoice Credit Union VP of Human Resources, Shannon Kashinsky receives the NNEAE Silver Recognition from GSQC/NNEAE Chair Tom Raffio one year after receiving the Profile Recognition.

This event also celebrated PeoplesChoice Credit Union's (PCU) *Silver Achievement Recognition* for their Demonstration of Excellence. This is the second consecutive year that this Maine Credit Union has been recognized, last year applying and being recognized as a *Profile Recognition* recipient.

The Leadership Summit was created to explore the nuances that help leaders become *excellent* leaders. The design of the Summit implicitly draws on the Baldrige Category of Leadership and core value of Visionary Leadership with the goal that all participants leave with renewed energy, at least one idea that they can implement immediately, and other practices that they can work on for the long term.

Contact anne@gsqc.com if you have ideas for next year's Leadership Summit or would be interested in speaking at or planning the event.