

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Remote Work: Tricks of the Trade

Early last year, many of us were forced into a sudden remote work environment with no real training or timeline for how long we'd be working from our dining room tables. In my case, our team found ways to connect virtually and continue providing research based educational programs for Kansans. While the leadership of our organization was vital in our success, I've since learned that there are tools available that would have been beneficial to us during those uncertain times.

We are starting to see things return to "normal" more and more everyday...but what does our new normal even look like? Some companies have found it beneficial to maintain a remote/hybrid work environment. Some job seekers have decided to transition from on-site work to looking for remote work opportunities.

No matter the case, I'd like to share with you a tool that I believe would benefit anyone working remotely or employing remote workers.

The Rural Online Initiative is a certificate program developed by Utah State Extension to provide rural workforce and businesses with education, training and services for online opportunities in remote employment, freelance work and e-commerce. K-State Research and Extension is partnering with Utah State to promote the program and offer local coaching for participants during the course.

The certificate program includes two 4-week course options geared toward either remote workers or those supervising remote workers. Each course combines online work with weekly interactive workshops and are designed to equip workers with the tools to transition from on-site work into a virtual career. Benefits include organizing your time and workspace, improving your written and verbal communication, building confidence through teamwork and promoting a positive and productive workplace culture in a virtual environment.

This program is offered monthly. For the month of June, classes are offered at a reduced rate of \$99 (Remote Work Professional) and \$149 (Remote Work Leader). Two Wildcat District Agents have been certified in this course and are happy to help answer any questions about benefit of the program and content covered.

For more information on the course or for help registering, please contact me at any time. You can find out more about this opportunity by visiting <http://extension.usu.edu/remoteworkcertificate/about>.

For more information, please contact Julie Smith, Family Resource Management and Entrepreneurship Agent, juliesmith@ksu.edu or by calling 620-238-0704.

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