

# Blended e-Learning II: Youth Workforce Preparation

View the [Podcast Invitation](#)

(Using e-blended educational methodologies to educate Extension professionals about workforce preparation and encourage the adoption of innovative technology tools)

Twenty Extension professionals will be selected this fall to participate in a program to gain knowledge and understanding about the Workforce Preparation in the Knowledge Economy. Course content will be delivered using blended methods over a seven week span starting October 16, 2007.

## Call for Applications: Blended e-Learning II

Interested in learning more about the Knowledge Economy and how you can integrate its key concepts into your existing programming?

Think the Knowledge Economy is only about economic development?

Would you like to gain first-hand experience with cutting edge program delivery tools like podcasts, blogs and other distance learning tools?

If you said yes to any of these questions, then you may wish to consider participating. Twenty Extension professionals will be selected this fall to participate in a program to gain knowledge and understanding about the Knowledge Economy. Course content will be delivered using *blended* methods over a 7-week span starting October 16, 2007.

## Program objectives

- 1.) Develop and deliver an educational program about the knowledge economy and workforce preparation internally to Extension professionals. These professionals will have a better understanding of what the Workforce Preparation Initiative is, key issues regarding the current situation in Ohio, implications for youth, and how to enhance local programming.
- 2.) Provide hands-on technical training to Extension professionals in order to develop skills needed to learn and teach using new technology. This will also enhance Extension professional's ability to interact and prepare youth for jobs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- 3.) Provide equipment/software needed to participate in this training and future teaching/learning opportunities, and develop teaching tools for use by OSU Extension professionals and volunteers.

## Instructors

David Boulay - Management Specialist, OSU Extension Center at Piketon

Tricia Callahan - Co-Leader, Workforce Preparation Initiative  
County Director - OSU Extension, Miami County

Graham Cochran - Co-Leader, Workforce Preparation Initiative  
Leader - New Personnel Development - OSU Extension Human Resources

Theresa Ferrari – Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development

Steve Lichtensteiger - Systems Manager, West Regional Office

Rick McCann – Knowledge Economy Coordinator, OSU Extension

Jerry Thomas - Director, OSU Extension Center at Lima

## Course delivery

The program will involve one face-to-face meeting on campus in Columbus and four section modules delivered by a portfolio of media including interactive video, web-based discussions, and podcasts. Participants will be expected to actively participate in self-directed learning and program activities. A class project, using technology tools, must be completed by small groups. Projects will synthesize learning and create a product for use statewide use with local clientele.

## Participant attributes

Participants should have the following attributes:

- An opportunity to integrate key concepts of the Knowledge Economy and Workforce Preparation into Extension work they are currently conducting or plan to conduct in the near future.
- An inclination and ability to work with communication and information technology. *Web-based tools form the basis for most of the course delivery and communication. Specific knowledge of the tools is not required, but the ability to learn and opportunity to incorporate use of the tools in program delivery is expected.*
- Change and adaptability skills. *This is a program that uses several new technology tools. Things **will not** go as planned, so participants are expected to view changes as an opportunity to create new possibilities for OSU Extension.*
- Pioneers in adapting and spreading new ideas and concepts. *We hope that participants will serve as leaders in diffusing key knowledge economy and workforce preparation concepts in addition to finding new ways of using the teaching tools.*
- Participants must be an A&P or faculty OSU Extension professional.

## What will participants get out of the course?

Each participant will gain:

- Cutting-edge information and resources related to key concepts of the Knowledge Economy and Workforce Preparation.
- A new peer support network.
- New programming ideas built around key concepts of the Knowledge Economy and workforce preparation.
- Advanced skills in working with technology tools.
- Firsthand experience with new software with relevant application to other programming and research projects.
- Hardware and software. Specifically a headset/microphone, web cam, and software used for the course.

## Course timeframe

Applications will be accepted electronically through September 28, 2007. The first physical meeting for the course will be October 16, 2007, with the final meeting taking place online. Four learning modules will be included, beginning October 16th and ending December 6th.

- Module 1 – Introduction to the Knowledge Economy and Technology Tools - Oct 16 - 28 with **full day training in Columbus on October 16<sup>th</sup>**.
- Module 2 –Workforce Issues and Workforce Preparation - Skills Gap – Oct 29 – Nov 7 with **WebEx meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 10-11 a.m.**
- Module 3 – Implications for Ohio and Extension programming) - Nov 8 – Nov 16 with **WebEx meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 10-11 a.m.**
- Module 4 – Synthesis of the Knowledge Economy, Workforce Prep and Technology – Nov19 – Dec 6 with **WebEx meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 p.m.**

## Course cost

Cost for the course is \$40. The course is supplemented by an Ohio 4-H Foundation grant, and in-kind contributions. Instructors are also providing in-kind services.

## Application process

All OSU Extension Professionals (State Staff/Administration, State Specialists, Center Specialists, Educators, and Program Assistants) are eligible to apply by the September 28<sup>th</sup> deadline. Up to twenty will be accepted. It is important to have broadband or DSL connectivity to participate (check with your systems professional if you don't know your level of connection). Selected participants will be notified by October 3, 2007. Participant payment is required by October 16, 2007.

Please complete the online application, please [click here](#).



**Questions or more information:** Please contact Tricia Callahan (419. 440.3945; [callahan.149@cfaes.osu.edu](mailto:callahan.149@cfaes.osu.edu)). Or feel free to talk to any member of the instruction team.

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