

Community Leadership Development

The Situation

- Kansas communities deal with a host of issues that demand leadership in an arena of increasing complexity and contention.
- Community leaders of all ages need adaptive, action-oriented leadership skills.
- Community leadership succession planning is critical to the future of community and governmental boards and commissions.

Research indicates that building leadership capacity is critical to community viability and sustainability. Residents who are invested in their local communities are more likely to maintain lifelong connections.

What We Did

A team of K-State Research and Extension community development professionals developed and delivered a comprehensive Board Leadership Series of presentations. These “high touch-high tech” webinars were hosted at local unit offices and facilitated by a local host.

Session topics included:

- Board Basics
- Understanding Your Fellow Board Members
- Financial Management
- Strategic Planning

A panel of experts used web-based technology to present the information at locations across the state. More than 150 participants were actively engaged at the 11 sites where the program was hosted. This method allowed opportunities for participants to interact face-to-face while processing the information through coordinated activities.

Outcomes



Participants used the words above to indicate the impact the Board Leadership Series had on them personally and on the boards and commissions they serve. The larger the word, the more often it was shared. This information was the result of a six-month follow-up survey of participants, who were asked, “What has been the result of your participation in the Board Leadership Series?”

Success Story

This was a new delivery method, and the following comments support the use of this format in the future:

- “For NW Kansas this is a good way to have these types of classes.”
- “This format of distance presenters in a local area with local organizations is fabulous. Good stuff.”
- “We’ve had lots of good ideas and discussion come about because of this. Great to hear from other groups as well and hear that we aren’t alone in some of our struggles.”
- “This was a great training. I have mentioned this to several others who have shown an interest in attending this if offered again.”

Contact

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