

# Kansas Water and Wastewater Systems Need Future Managers

As many of the present managers and leaders of the water industry in Kansas begin to look toward retirement, there is a realization that the knowledge of these retiring water professionals, who worked many years and in many cases, thankless hours, will be lost. Is there a way to help the next generation of water professionals gain extra knowledge to help manage and lead Kansas' systems into the future? I believe there is and it is a priority of the KRWA to help. KRWA is developing the "Kansas Management and Leadership Program" to offer training for managers. Is there a way to recognize the utility managers and

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leaders in Kansas and across the country? Yes, National Rural Water's "Water University" offers a nationally recognized certification exam. That will be an aspect of the KRWA program.

## Training specialized for managers

The mission statement of Kansas Rural Water Association is to *Provide education, technical assistance and leadership to public water and wastewater utilities to enhance the public health and to sustain Kansas' communities.* In keeping with its mission, KRWA is establishing the Kansas Management Leadership Program. The program will provide four, non-consecutive days of management and leadership training. The Association will call on many current and former water professionals to share their knowledge to help the

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Study Guide Available

For more information contact:

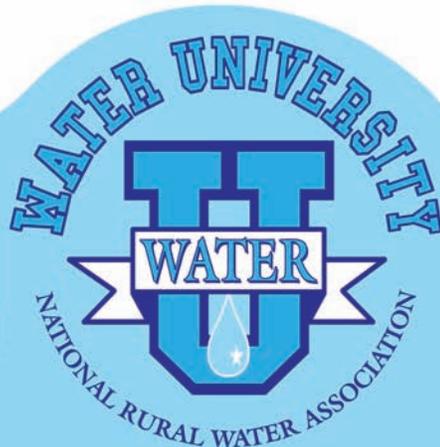


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## UTILITY Management Certification



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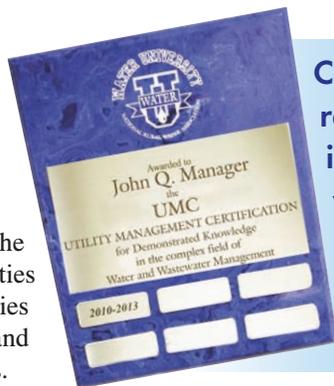
next generation of managers and leaders become the new water professionals. Here's the program scope.

- The first day of training will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies involved with water and wastewater in Kansas.
- The second day of training will discuss the financial capacities of utilities which will include accounting, reporting, budgeting and planning, rate setting and asset management.
- Day three will cover technical capacities including laws and regulations, managing water resources, water and wastewater operations, energy conservation and safety programs.
- The fourth day will have discussions on human resource management, relationship between the manager and governing body, customer service, emergency preparedness, public relations and public policy. These topics all fit under the heading of management capacity.

The training doesn't stop after the fourth day as Kansas Rural Water Association will be offering more day-long and possibly two-day workshops to help those participating in the day-to-day management and leadership of the utility systems.

## Water University

Water University is a recent service of the National Rural Water Association. Kansas Rural Water Association has joined the national network of Water University affiliates that will offer a range of training and certification. Certification and recognition to individuals in the water and wastewater industry is offered through Water University. Water University is creating a standard for water professionals by recognizing their professional and educational achievements to increase the value of



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their profession. Water University certification is based on general education, work experience, water and wastewater training attended and a certification exam. Those who choose to take and then pass the exam will be presented a Utility Management Certification that will be valid for three years and may be renewed with additional training. Water University will maintain a national registry of those that have passed the certification. Water University Certification will give water professionals in Kansas the recognition and respect they deserve in the water and wastewater industries and prepare them to lead the utilities of Kansas into the future. The Kansas Management Leadership Program will

utilize the Water University's "Utility Management Certification Guide" as an outline to assist those wishing to gain Water University certification.

Additional information about the new Kansas Management and Leadership Program will be announced in the coming weeks.

I hope that you will let KRWA know if you are interested in participating and also, encourage anyone who you believe would can make a good manger or leader in the future for Kansas water or wastewater systems. Call KRWA at 785-336-3760 or email directly to me at jim@krwa.net concerning any question or comments that you may have.

*Jim Jackson has been employed by KRWA since January 2004; he is currently KRWA Training Director. Jim began working in the utility industry in 1985 and has both municipal and rural water experience. Jim holds Class II Water Operator Certification.*



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