

Client Success Story

RURAL ONLINE INITIATIVE INCLUDES WORKPLACELESS CERTIFICATION IN STRATEGY TO LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT IN RURAL UTAH

Utah's Rural Online Initiative uses the Workplaceless Remote Work Certification in its Master Remote Work Professional curriculum to prepare Utah's rural workforce for the future of work.

About

Name	Rural Online Initiative (ROI)
Industry	Nonprofit
Year Founded	2018
Learners	750+



Top Goals

1. Provide **remote work skills training** to residents of rural Utah counties and beyond.
2. Connect graduates with **remote work job opportunities**.
3. **Decrease unemployment** in rural Utah counties.



“Workplaceless is a critical partner in the ROI program’s mission and legislative mandate to connect Utah’s rural communities with remote work opportunities. . . . The Workplaceless curriculum we have adapted for our course has been effective at increasing the knowledge of 100% of program participants. Our program analysis found statistically significant increases in knowledge and skills with 84% planning to pursue remote work after completing the course.”

Paul Hill
Principal Investigator, Rural Online Initiative



Background

Funded by Utah's H.B. 327 legislation and managed by Utah State University (USU) Extension, ROI's mission is to improve economic opportunities for rural Utah residents. To launch their training and job matching program by October 2018, ROI sought a comprehensive curriculum that could upskill their program participants and prepare them for remote work opportunities.



Solution



Workplaceless Remote Work Certification

ROI uses the Workplaceless Remote Work Certification as the curriculum for their Master Remote Work Professional certificate program.



Results

1. Provide remote work skills training to residents of rural Utah counties and beyond.

By partnering with Workplaceless, ROI was able to quickly launch the Master Remote Work Professional, a blended certificate course that teaches rural participants the best practices of working remotely and finding a remote job.

The program was piloted between July 2018 and April 2019 before launching in 15 rural counties across Utah. Over 750 learners have participated in the program.

The Impact*

754 learners completed the course

81% of learners who completed the end-of-course survey were **confident in their ability to find remote work**

28% had already successfully **found remote work** by the end of the course

10 Unemployment **decreased** in 10 of the 15 counties served

"In taking and completing the course, it enhanced my skills and my resume. Now, not only did I have the skills and knowledge to work remotely, but I had the training and certificate to prove it. Within one month of completing the course I got hired on with a great company."

Whitley
ROI Graduate

2. Connect graduates with remote work job opportunities.

Upon program completion learners are invited to submit a post-course evaluation that assesses their progress. By the end of the course, 28% of participants (58 graduates) had already successfully found remote work.

For course graduates who found remote work, total salaries increased by 21%.

81% of learners who completed the end-of-course survey said they were confident in their ability to find remote work.

3. Decrease unemployment in rural Utah counties.

Unemployment decreased in 10 of the 15 rural counties served by ROI, indicating that the job placement strategy supported by its programming has had an immediate positive impact on those counties' economies.



"As an educator with over 30 years of experience teaching and designing curriculum, I have found the curriculum to be well written, carefully designed, and, most importantly, effective in helping participants apply the knowledge and skills introduced in the training."

Russell Goodrich
Senior Program Coordinator, Rural Online Initiative



**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORKPLACELESS
REMOTE WORK CERTIFICATION.**

Schedule a discovery call with our learning consultants to discuss your team needs.