



Volunteers are fundamental to many successful Extension programs. Research indicates that nearly one third of volunteers will choose not to continue volunteering based on poor management practices. **Achieving the Extension Mission Through Volunteers** is an online cohort course for the novice extension professional working with volunteers to enhance and deliver Extension programs. It is designed to highlight best practices in volunteer development and management and to help build staff and organizational capacity around volunteer management and development regardless of the program area. Participants will increase volunteer management competencies; build knowledge and skills related to identifying, recruiting, selecting, and supporting volunteers; and understand their own approach; the organization's philosophy related to volunteerism, and current volunteerism trends.

Recruitment has begun for two pilot cohorts of 26 participants each. A cohort is 2 individuals from each of the North Central Region States and Maine. For the pilot cohort only, each state should provide 2 experienced Extension staff working with volunteers in their program and 2 novice Extension staff (someone working with volunteers for 2 years or less.) Including experienced staff will help the developers validate content. It is important for this group to represent a variety of Extension disciplines.

Achieving the Extension Mission Through Volunteers Pilot - March 6 - April 23, 2015

During this 6-week course members participate in pre-recorded sessions, readings, activities and 3 live webinars, interact with a wide variety of resources and hear from experts. Each module will require approximately 5 hours each week. Guest contributors include:



Jim Rutledge, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor and Executive Director 4-H Foundation, Inc. 4-H Foundation Development Manager at Oklahoma State University

Dr. Rutledge shares his work on the professional development stages of the Extension professional and helps cohort members discover how THEIR professional development stages influence their capacity to reach larger audiences with more valuable educational programs.



Nancy Franz, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, School of Education at Iowa State University

Dr. Franz discusses personal, organizational, and public value related to volunteers in Extension. She has done extensive work on Communicating Value and its importance for Extension and its volunteers.

Cost for participation in this pilot is \$60.00/participant.

Registration now open at: <https://www.regonline.com/ExtMission>. Questions should be directed to Mary Jo Williams, Project Manager, at Williamsmj1625@gmail.com.