

Press Release: *for immediate release*

KU Public Management Center and City of Olathe, Kansas Honored with a 2012 Bright Ideas Award from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University has recognized the City of Olathe's Supervisory Leadership Training designed by the KU Public Management Center of the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration with a 2012 Bright Ideas award as a model for innovation in government. The program was designed and delivered by a KU Public Management Center Instructor and has been featured in several scholarly publications authored by faculty in the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration.

Ash Center 2012 Bright Ideas Press Release: <http://www.ash.harvard.edu/Home/News-Events/Press-Releases/Harvard-s-Ash-Center-Announces-111-Bright-Ideas-in-Government>

Ash Center Bright Ideas logo: http://innovationsaward.harvard.edu/brightideas_logos.cfm

KU Public Management Center: The KU Public Management Center (PMC), located in Topeka, is the professional development arm of the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration and offers professional development courses to public and non-profit sector organizations throughout Kansas and across the nation.

City of Olathe Supervisory Leadership Training (SLT) innovations: The City of Olathe contracted with the KU Public Management Center to design and deliver a supervisory training program for all supervisors including the City Manager, Police and Fire Chiefs, City Attorney and all mid-level and front-line supervisors. The KU PMC delivered ten three-day sessions serving approximately 225 supervisors over a 20-month period. Michele Biddison of Olathe submitted the nomination. Olathe website:

<http://www.olatheks.org/news/2012/10/19/harvard-recognizes-olathe-program>

Jonathan Morris: Jonathan Morris, Instructor and Director of Custom Course Services at the KU Public Management Center, designed and delivered the Supervisory Leadership Training for Olathe. The innovative Olathe curriculum was directly linked to Olathe's Vision, Values and Mission and the Organizational Scorecard and included such features as peer consultation groups, *leadership apps* designed by participants and a game-show competition regarding legal issues for supervisors.

Heather Getha-Taylor: Heather Getha-Taylor, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration and designed an academic study of the Olathe SLT in partnership with the KU PMC and City of Olathe. Getha-Taylor has published in several academic journals including Public Administration, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, and Review of Public Personnel Administration in the areas of leadership development program evaluation, leadership competencies and collaboration.

Additional Awards and Recognition: The Olathe SLT program was featured in an invited presentation by Jonathan Morris at the International Conference of ASTD (the American Society for Training and Development) held in Denver, Colorado in May 2012. <http://www.astd.org/Events/International-Conference-and-Exposition>
The Olathe SLT program was also awarded a Best Practices Award for Training Outcomes by the Kansas City Chapter of ASTD. www.kcastd.org

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Olathe SLT Select Participant Quotes:

This was one of the very best things the city has done for supervisors during the 24 yrs I have been here. Also made me realize what a perfect Director I have. It was totally what I needed to be motivated and rejuvenated! Better than a raise! Thank You!

This was an excellent learning opportunity! I definitely think there would be value in some sort of follow up refresher course. Thank you!

I am excited to see our supervisors go through this program.

Great Class! I like that it was "Olathized". Thank you for investing in me.

Select Research Highlights (Heather Getha-Taylor):

- 87% of supervisors "have witnessed an improvement in the direct reports' leadership effectiveness" as a result of having participated in this training.
- 65% of participants "have witnessed an improvement in their supervisor's leadership effectiveness" after the supervisor participated in this training.