

BRIDGING THE TRAINING GAP BY CONNECTING WITH COLLEAGUES

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THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Though the journey began without a road map, visionary thinkers moved the U Training Consortium to the entrance ramp. Sitting on that ramp, project leaders identified and invited training partners from across The University of Utah to join the effort.

Progress up the ramp to the highway was steady and sure due to the support and enthusiasm of the growing number of team members from various disciplines, departments and colleges.

With support from University vice-presidents, accelerating onto the highway was smooth. UTC colleagues were eager to contribute their skills, and share their knowledge and expertise in order to improve and enhance training opportunities on campus.



BUILDING THE FOUNDATION: TECHNOLOGY AND TOOLS

The UTC has leveraged technology to build tools that help us collaborate for training success.

Tools include:

- The UTC website that provides ready access to training resources for both internal and external University customers, including classes and training-related information and references.
- The *Training U* newsletter, which is created and electronically distributed on a bi-monthly basis to thousands of subscribers across campus, providing them with training news, tips, and resources.
- An automated distribution list that facilitates training-related communication among and between UTC constituents.

The UTC will continue to explore and implement new and existing technologies in the future to support and sustain the training efforts of individual member groups and the collective UTC organization.



MAJOR EVENTS ALONG THE WAY

The UTC journey has been successful due to open communication among members, the collaborative and innovative philosophy, and powerful technology and training tools. The following major events occurred along the highway:

- Held monthly meetings, involving members from across the institution to continually share training tips, brainstorm ways to improve, and partner to complete initiatives.
- Presented a funding request and received \$18,000 from the Information Technology Council to create a website and searchable database.
- Partnered with Media Solutions, a campus media developer, to create the UTC website and newsletter.
- Celebrated the launch of the website, searchable database, and newsletter at a gala kick-off event. Attendance included UTC members, campus and hospital leaders, and top-level University administrators.

These events represent only a portion of the highlights in the UTC journey. The strong benefits of training, the support of senior leaders, and especially the energy of UTC members guarantee that many amazing milestones will follow in years to come.



COLLABORATING IN THE CARPOOL LANE

The success of the UTC rests on the collaborative nature of its members who strive for innovative ways to provide training. We worked together to:

- Create a UTC blog and wiki to utilize current technology and continually communicate ideas and initiatives.
- Set goals, establish project plans, discuss solutions, and make contributions to The University of Utah.
- Maximize the talents, skills, and knowledge of team members to increase individual and collective strength.

Collaborating for Training Success is more than just a slogan—it is the UTC philosophy demonstrated in all our actions and events.



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The exhilarating UTC journey continues with promising goals to achieve in the years ahead.

- Establish a University-wide training policy, with emphasis on management support of employee training.
- Complete a pilot trainer certification program that could potentially be offered by The University of Utah.
- Develop and implement a classroom and equipment database.
- Identify and promote best practices for training related to training formats, documentation, evaluation, etc.
- Complete a feasibility study regarding a UTC-sponsored annual training conference.

Who knows what difficult bumps, exciting speedways, or promising vistas we'll encounter as we move into the future? No matter the route ahead, one thing is certain—we will continue to bridge the training gap by connecting with colleagues as we venture forward in the U Training Consortium.

