

Rural Water Manager First in Kansas to Achieve Certification in Utility Management

Gerald Bennett, General Manager of Rural Water District No. 2, Miami County, is the first rural water manager in Kansas to achieve new certification in Utility Management through Water University. Water University is a program available through the auspices of the National Rural Water Association, which provides training and technical assistance through its affiliates such as the Kansas Rural Water Association which facilitates the certification program.

Bennett has been manager of RWD 2 since 1991. The district serves nearly 3600 metered customers in Miami, Johnson and Franklin counties, as well as six municipal and rural water wholesale customers. The district operates a 6.6 MGD treatment plant at Hillsdale Reservoir. Bennett has been previously recognized for his work proficiency, as he was the recipient of the 1994 Manager of the Year Award by the Kansas Rural Water Association. He has also worked as City Manager for LaCrosse, KS and instructor of Environmental Technology for Dodge City Community College. He earned a bachelor degree from Friends University; he presently holds Class IV certification in both water and wastewater treatment with the State of Kansas. He has maintained his dual certifications by continuing to meet the training requirements established by the state.

“This certification is recognition that Jerry has demonstrated a thorough understanding of the water industry, attained through years of experience and hours of training,” said Elmer Ronnebaum, General Manager of



KRWA Training Director Jim Jackson congratulates Gerald Bennett, Manager of Miami RWD 2, for being first to receive certification in utility management through Water University.

Kansas Rural Water Association. “Today, the water and wastewater industry is more complex than ever before. Economics, increased complexity in regulatory requirements and a changing society are crafting the water and wastewater systems of tomorrow. As the industry changes, there is a strong need to recognize the individuals who provide leadership to the industry and create a standard for the future,” Ronnebaum said.

The Water University certification program is designed to recognize the professional educational achievements of individuals and to market their achievements and skills to increase the value of today's water professionals. Water University certification requires a high level of training and completion of a specialized test. The specialized test requires the applicant to demonstrate the ability and understanding of all aspects of utility management including managerial, financial and technical capacities.

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