



Online Training Solutions



**Iowa League of Cities and the
Iowa Municipal Workers' Compensation
Association**

Set to Launch New [Knowledge@Work](#) Online University

Denver, CO, August 14, 2009 – Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa Municipal Workers' Compensation Association (IMWCA) have chosen [FirstNet Learning](#) as their partner to provide online learning solutions to their nearly 500 member communities. A state-of-the-art Knowledge@Work Online University is being created and will allow [IMWCA](#) to offer online training any time, at any pace, at any place to their members and member's employees statewide.

Set to launch in September, FirstNet Learning (FNL) is creating a branded, customized online university containing WorkPlace Colleges built exclusively for municipal employees in such areas as Public Safety, Public Works & Utilities, Parks & Recreation, Administrative & Office, and Management & Elected Officials.

"IMWCA is committed to education for our members. Bringing quality programs to all of our members across the state is physically and financially challenging, so incorporating online learning just makes sense." states Curt Svalstad, IMWCA Director of Risk Services. "IMWCA members will be able to increase their knowledge via courses in topics such as slips, trips & falls, defensive driving, ergonomics, back injury prevention, excavation safety and lockout/tagout training. We know that increased knowledge equates to decreased risk and, hence, reduced workers' compensation losses."

Iowa communities will benefit from having well-trained public employees. Advanced learning helps reduce risk and thereby reduce accidents, saving thousands of dollars in areas such as medical, repairs and insurance premiums. Online training further reduces costs by saving on resources—learners attend via the internet from their office or home. Travel costs are eliminated and most material costs reduced. Online training has a 60% faster learning curve than instructor-led training alone, according to Training Magazine. Online learning also has a 25% to 60% higher retention rate, bringing even more value to both the employee and employer.

"The new IMWCA Knowledge@Work Online University will provide real value in terms of custom branded campuses, custom content, 24/7 access to training, cost-savings, and ease of use to a state-wide audience," said Roy Burger, Chairman and CEO, FirstNet Learning. "IMWCA sees the potential benefits of training their members as a way to reduce risk and help their city and municipal members keep overall costs down, including insurance costs. We're very pleased to be IMWCA's partner!"

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FirstNet Learning is the leading provider of turnkey, online customer-branded universities,

campuses and training centers, providing learning solutions for state municipal risk pools, currently training to tens of thousands of municipal employees in 14 states. FirstNet Learning offers custom blended learning solutions and an extensive e-learning catalog of more than 2,500 courses focused on human capital management, risk management, driver safety, health & safety, productivity, business skills, pc desktop skills, and more. FirstNet Learning offers numerous online learning products and services, including custom course development, course tailoring, and course conversion. Founded in 1999, FirstNet Learning delivers **Knowledge@Work**® and serves clients worldwide from its Denver headquarters.

For over 105 years the **Iowa League of Cities** has been serving as the unified voice of cities, providing advocacy, training and guidance to strengthen Iowa's communities. Additionally, the League is a resource for insurance and investment needs, with a variety of programs that consolidate common city needs, enabling group purchasing power and specialized assistance. One of those programs is the **Iowa Municipalities Workers' Compensation Association (IMWCA)**, a self-funded risk sharing pool formed in 1981 that provides workers' compensation coverage to local governments including cities, counties, other political subdivisions and entities formed by intergovernmental agreements. IMWCA currently covers more than 49,000 employees of nearly 500 members.



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