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As remote work continues during this challenging time, I find myself looking ahead to the future – what can I do for myself now that will help me grow professionally and learn as much as possible? For many of you, the new and different pace and flavor of your work situation can offer an ideal time to work on your own professional development. We have been building our toolkits here at LeanOhio, and we'd like to share them with all of you – let this serve as a one-stop shop for many of the opportunities available to you.

These opportunities include both online learning resources as well as professional connections on LinkedIn that are part of our external network. I have spotlighted a few colleagues I follow on LinkedIn as well as additional information about the type of content they post that I find helpful.

Endless Opportunities

[Learning On Demand](#) (LOD) is now available to all state of Ohio employees. If you are not using it, you should be. Many certification courses are available for you to start taking immediately to help enhance your skillset. Certifications include Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), Project Management, Lean Six Sigma and others. They even offer online real-time assistance for certification-oriented courses. In addition to the coursework, you can also take test prep exams. LOD offers a wide variety of online learning resources which includes more than 3500 courses, 31,000 books, 35,000 videos, simulations, test preps, express guides, and various job aids.

[OSU Leadership Center](#) and [Fisher College of Business](#) are both offering free webinar training. OSU's "Leadership During COVID-19" webinar series is complimentary to fellow professionals through the OSU Leadership Center. They welcome and encourage you to participate in these live discussions and educational sessions on how to work through the daily changing environment in which we currently live. A wide range of topics are being offered and if you are unable to join the sessions live, recordings will be uploaded to their YouTube channel.

LinkedIn Learning / Lynda.com is a leading provider of online learning content. This organization provides more than 252,000 video tutorials and over 7,400 courses ranging from computer programming to project management, including instruction on various computer software, programming languages, and business topics. The best part: membership is free with a library card from one of Ohio's public library systems. You can access LinkedIn Learning / Lynda.com by logging in through your library's website with your library card number and PIN.

[GoLeanSixSigma.com](#) is currently offering free presentations on Lean Six Sigma tools and concepts. They break down a different topic each month into manageable, informative sessions with lots of helpful examples. Like previously mentioned online training options, you can join live or download the presentations later when you have time.

Learn from the Experts on LinkedIn

[Peg Pennington](#) is currently president at [MoreSteam.com](#) and the former Executive Director of the Center of Operational Excellence at OSU. Some of you may remember Peg from our Lean Network meeting last year where she spoke to a group of Lean Liaisons and Black Belts about The Lean Management System. Peg recently shared some insightful points about moving training to an online platform and effectively using simulations.

[Gary Vansuch](#) is the Director of Process Improvement at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and provides great content about process improvement efforts at CDOT and many other government organizations. Gary also coordinates the [Transportation Lean Forum \(TLF\)](#). This forum was formed in 2012 and brings together many governmental organizations that are utilizing Lean. This group includes participants from state-level government highway/transportation organizations in 18 states in the United States, three Canadian provinces and the Highways Agency in England. TLF provides many great real-life case studies for how Lean is making a positive impact in Transportation and other areas of government.

[Karen Martin](#) is the founder and president of TKMG, Inc., a global consulting firm that specializes in operational excellence, Lean management, and business performance improvement. Karen's books on Strategy and Value Stream Mapping have been instrumental in how we at LeanOhio have implemented strategies to improve processes in Ohio.

Feel free to use any of these professional development opportunities and online connections to learn new skills and update old ones; use them as opportunities to become more aware of the latest trends in a field that interests you or one that is key to a role at your agency. And if you attend a training or webinar that impresses you, please share with us at LeanOhio! We always welcome this information at leanohio@das.ohio.gov. Take care of yourselves, and don't stop learning!