The Jon M. Huntsman School of Business has teamed up with a Dallas-based company, Academic Partnerships, to make graduate online human resources courses available to more people, especially those living in rural areas.

The Master of Science in Human Resources (MSHR) program was launched online in January 2013. The new offering enables students across the country and beyond to advance their careers in human resources through a flexible, fully online master’s degree program, said Steven Hanks, director of distance education, accreditation, and assessment for the Huntsman School.

Dean Douglas D. Anderson said that Utah State University has offered distance education classes for more than 25 years, but this new arrangement will expand the school’s reach dramatically.

“By first utilizing a broadcast network and now through online platforms, USU is meeting the needs of Utah’s students who are unable to attend an on-campus program,” Dean Anderson said. “With the rapid advances in online instruction, we are able to extend our reach even further to offer our MSHR degree to more students throughout Utah and beyond.”

Dean Anderson said the school selected Academic Partnerships because of its track record of excellence.

“It has worked with leading public universities to significantly drive student enrollments and most importantly, to ensure that enrolled students remain engaged and successfully graduate from these online degree programs,” he said. “Academic Partnerships’ online education expertise, combined with USU’s leading human resources curriculum, means we’ll be able to give exponentially more students an innovative learning experience.”

The new online MSHR program will offer 12 seven-week courses that can be completed in as little as one year. Additional program details may be found here.

The company is honored that USU has selected it to expand its presence and reach, said Randy Best, founder and chairman of Academic Partnerships.

“We look forward to helping USU remain at the forefront of online learning,” Best said. “Together we will thrive and succeed in a rapidly changing and growing market. Online education is the perfect solution for states with large rural areas like Utah — students don’t have to move, because knowledge can come to them.”
Academic Partnerships has a successful track record of helping institutions of higher education expand their access and deliver quality and scalable online degree programs, Best said. The company’s efforts have helped more than 600 professors convert more than 1,000 traditional courses into an electronic delivery format, and it has recruited more than 100,000 students into online degree programs with national and international partners.