

Transportation career fair for high school kids

WHAT DO KIDS know about transportation? Not much.

In fact, maintaining and developing the transportation infrastructure can be an invisible function to young people. Because of this, recruiting high school students into professional and technical careers in civil engineering and transportation can be challenging.

Iowa State University (through CTRE) and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) hope to change that.

On February 25, 2004, they will host "Moving Toward Your Future: Careers in Transportation," a career fair for central Iowa high school students.

The fair will be held at Iowa State University.

About the career fair

A planning committee of Iowa professionals in transportation and education has developed a program to appeal to a wide variety of students. As students participate in sessions throughout the day, they'll learn the basic construction process of planning, design, construction, and maintenance.

Although this formal process will be the backbone of the fair, the 16 informal session topics are designed to attract students' attention. A few of the topics include

- road kill clean up, brush control, roadside management
- environmental impact, historic sites, and endangered species vs. economic development
- automated snow and ice control
- art and architectural details on the I-235 project in Des Moines

Sponsors

The career fair, including a box lunch, will be free to students and their chaperones.

Event planners and presenters are donating their time. To help cover costs of space, meal, student transportation, and marketing, several public and private agencies have committed or already donated funds:

- Associated General Contractors
- Asphalt Paving Association of Iowa
- CH2M Hill
- Des Moines Area Community College
- Federal Highway Administration
- Geotechnical Services, Inc.
- Howard R. Green
- Iowa Chapter, APWA
- Iowa DOT
- Iowa Limestone Association
- Land Surveying Society of Iowa
- Martin Marietta
- Midwest Transportation Consortium (Iowa State University)

Can you help?

The planning committee still needs presenters. Additional sponsors are also welcome. Sponsors will receive special recognition at the fair and in marketing materials; they can also host informational booths during the fair. Sponsors typically donate \$150–1,000.

For more information, contact Deb Witt, project coordinator, dewitt@iastate.edu, 515-294-8958. •

Moving Toward Your Future: Careers in Transportation
February 25, 2004
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa

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During the 2003 pilot career fair, CTRE and DMACC staff visited two area schools. This demo was at North High School in Des Moines.