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The MTC is located at Iowa State University's Center for Transportation Research and Education.

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Center for Transportation
Research and Education

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Transportation education

UM-St. Louis increases transportation education opportunities

With MTC assistance, the University of Missouri-St. Louis added a graduate certificate program and an MBA track in transportation logistics, hired a new assistant director for undergraduate program development, and is also developing a new undergraduate transportation and logistics program for non-traditional students. The undergraduate program will be directly linked to cooperative employment at area businesses.

Lincoln University co-ops a success

Dr. Sherrie Koechling-Burnett, assistant professor of accounting at Lincoln University, and Charles Nemmers, associate director of the MTC, organized a co-op program between Lincoln University, a historically black college, and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). The program initially provided summer internship opportunities for four Lincoln University students. During 2002-03, participation jumped to 12 students.

UM-St. Louis program for non-traditional students

Scheduled to begin this fall, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is developing an innovative undergraduate cooperative program. The school is coordinating with several St. Louis firms to arrange half-time employment for non-traditional students while they pursue undergraduate degrees under a new program in transportation and logistics. Through the program, students will work half time for the companies while they attend class full time. Students will gain six to twelve months of direct transportation/warehousing/traffic management experience during their college years, making them prime candidates for full-time positions when they graduate. Response from the firms has been very positive.

Student news

New ITE student chapter at UM-C

Beginning last winter, the University of Missouri-Columbia established a student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) under the leadership of Dr. Carlos Sun. Student activities carried out by the chapter are credited with generating a surge in interest in the university's transportation program.

Real-world problem used in UNI course

Tim Strauss, associate professor of geography at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), was serving on a campus committee discussing the site and parking/transit implications for a new multi-modal facility funded by the Federal Transit Administration. As the conversations turned to commuting patterns, parking policies, and possible shuttle routes, Strauss saw “a natural fit” between this project and the transportation geography course he teaches.

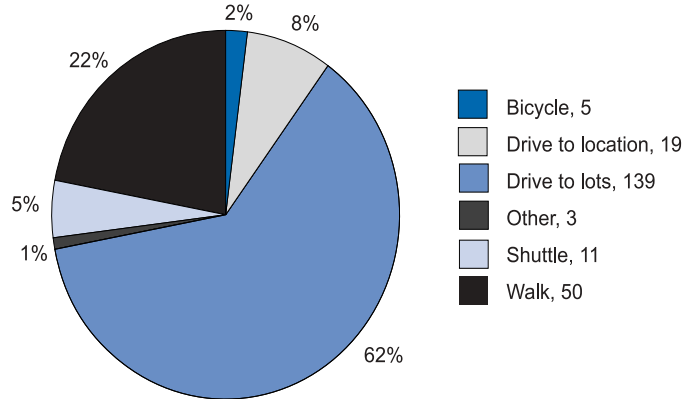
“It seemed to be a good way to relate transportation planning and GIS technologies to issues of immediate concern to students,” Strauss said.

The class conducted an online survey of students using UNI’s personalized web portal. The survey generated information on modes to school and preferences regarding a proposed shuttle system. The results were presented to local transit officials, local planners, and campus public safety and physical plant personnel.

Two of the 10 students, MTC-funded transportation scholars, took the lead in developing the required GIS databases. This included address-matching the workplaces and residences of UNI faculty and staff and developing GIS layers corresponding to campus buildings, parking lots, and footpaths. These students presented the results in March 2003 at the

Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in New Orleans.

One of the transportation scholars, Jess Elder, is now extending the effort through his thesis research on the application of traditional transportation planning and modeling methodologies to university settings.



Preferred mode of travel to UNI’s campus by percentage (above) and by location and mode (below) (based on a survey of off-campus students)

