

# MTC Asset

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## Transportation Career Fair for High School Students



Renee White, DMACC, talks to high school students at the transportation career fair February 25, 2004.

**W**hat 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 invisibility, recruiting young people into professional and technical careers in civil engineering and transportation can be challenging.

The Midwest Transportation Consortium is helping to change that. The MTC sponsored a career fair, "Moving Toward Your Future: Careers in Transportation," for

Iowa high school students February 25, 2004. The Center for Transportation Research and Education and Des Moines Area Community College hosted the fair at Iowa State University; 109 students from 18 different schools attended.

### About the career fair

A planning committee of professionals in transportation and education developed a program to appeal to a wide variety of students. As students moved through the day, they learned the basic construction process of planning, design,

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## From the MTC Director

**T**he Midwest Transportation Consortium recently began its fifth year, and we anticipate re-competing for the federal University Transportation Center (UTC) grant sometime in 2004 or 2005 (the schedule depends on congressional action on the transportation reauthorization legislation).

But one of the most pleasant aspects of being the MTC director is watching the positive impact we have had on the careers of transportation students at our partner institutions—Iowa State University, the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the University of Northern Iowa, and Lincoln University.

The MTC is involved in a host of educational activities designed to develop the human capital and leadership needed by the transportation industry. The MTC has

- increased the availability of research assistantships at the partner universities;
- established new faculty, new courses, and new course materials;
- provided travel and conference experience for students, for example by allowing about a hundred students to attend the TRB annual meeting over the past few years and;

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# MTC presentations at TRB

## Iowa State University

- Long Term Plan for Concrete Pavement Research and Technology (Dale Harrington)
- New Developments in Concrete Pavement Technology (Dale Harrington)
- Tribal Consultation: Iowa DOT's Experience (Tom and Judy McDonald)
- Using GIS for Local Road Safety in Iowa (Tom McDonald)
- Visual Inspection of Highway Bridges (Brent Phares)
- Evaluation of Steel Girder Bridge Strengthened with CFRP Plates (Brent Phares)
- Fiber Optic-based Health Monitoring System (Brent Phares)
- Emerging Technology Law: How to Avoid Being Roadkill on the Information Superhighway (David Plazak)
- Innovations in Access Management: Iowa SUDAS and Access Management (David Plazak and Dale Harrington)
- Automated Distress Data Collection Workshop (Omar Smadi)

- Moving from Theory to Practice—Lessons from Fifth National Asset Management Conference (Omar Smadi)

## University of Missouri at Columbia

- Field Testing for Automated Identification of Turning Movements (Jialin Tian, Mark Virkler, and Carlos Sun)
- Evaluation of a Freeway Work Zone Advance Speed Advisory System (Carlos Sun and Mark Virkler)
- Build Your Own POST (Portable Overhead Surveillance Trailer) (Carlos Sun, Ryan Pierce, and Jason Sommerer)
- Computer-Assisted Vehicle Reidentification System for Segment Travel (Carlos Sun)
- Drainage Performance of Missouri Roadway Type 5 Base (Awilda M. Blanco and John Bowders)
- Radio-Frequency Heating Enhanced Soil Vapor Extraction for Clean-Up of Petroleum-Contaminated Soils (John Bowders)

## Career Fair from pg. 1

construction, and maintenance. While this process was the backbone of the fair, the 16 session topics were designed to attract students' attention.

Topics included

- Environmental impact, historic sites, and endangered species
- Automated snow and ice control
- Road kill clean up, brush control, roadside management
- Art and architectural details on the I-235 project in Des Moines

A variety of booths provided information about college programs and jobs as well as hands-on activities like building the Iowa State University Campanile out of construction toys.

A member of ISU's student AGC chapter (right) builds a model of the Campanile with two high school students.



Several ISU student groups held booths at the career fair including the Transportation Student Association.

## Career fair sponsors

The career fair was free to students and their teachers, including a box lunch. In addition to the MTC, several other public and private agencies donated funds:

- Asphalt Paving Association of Iowa
- Associated General Contractors
- CH2M Hill
- Des Moines Area Community College
- Federal Highway Administration
- Geotechnical Services, Inc.
- Howard R. Green Company
- Iowa Chapter, American Public Works Association
- Iowa Concrete Paving Association
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Iowa Limestone Association
- Iowa Local Technical Assistance Program
- Land Surveying Society of Iowa
- Martin Marietta Materials
- Snyder & Associates, Inc.