Welcome CTRE’s new director

Shashi Nambisan, Ph.D., P.E., became the director of CTRE on February 1, 2007. He takes the helm from interim director Lowell Greimann, retired chair of ISU’s Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering. Dr. Greimann had been interim director since June 2006, when Steve Andrle, after nearly seven years as CTRE’s director, took a position with the Transportation Research Board in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Nambisan—who prefers to be called “Shashi”—comes to Iowa from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He was professor of civil and environmental engineering and the director of UNLV’s Transportation Research Center for several years. To recognize his valuable contributions to the state, Nevada’s governor proclaimed January 31, 2007, “Professor Shashi Nambisan Day” (http://gov.state.nv.us/PROCs/2007/2007-01-31ProfessorShashiNambisanDay.htm).

Shashi received his Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. His professional expertise includes transportation safety, risk analysis, transportation planning, and infrastructure management.

At ISU, Shashi says he is finding “a wonderful complement of people, programs, and partnerships that excite me about being in Iowa and at CTRE.” He will continue building CTRE’s core strengths and partnerships, including LTAP. He looks forward to meeting city and county engineers, road supervisors, and crews in Iowa and learning about their unique challenges.

In addition, Shashi will pursue some new initiatives at CTRE, two in particular:

- Transportation issues related to the new bio-economy and bio-fuels.
- Transportation and the environment, under the new Sustainable Transportation Systems Program.

One of Shashi’s first major community events as director will be hosting, with the Iowa DOT, the 2007 Mid-Continent Transportation Research Symposium in Ames, August 16–17, 2007. Come to the symposium and give him a warm Iowa welcome.