Acronyms in Technology News

AASHTO American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
APWA American Public Works Association
CTRE Center for Transportation Research and Education (at ISU)
FHWA Federal Highway Administration
Iowa DOT Iowa Department of Transportation
ISU Iowa State University
LTAP Local Technical Assistance Program
MUTCD Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
NACE National Association of County Engineers
TRB Transportation Research Board

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Success of the motor grader operator program in the 1990s helped shape and develop many more programs over the years at Iowa’s LTAP.

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Wooton to Iowa to introduce MoGO to DOT officials, county engineers, and local operators.

Due to the success of the pilot program, Iowa LTAP developed its own program in 1989. By 1992, MoGO had become so popular that a program coordinator was hired to manage the multiple workshops held each summer. Fred Short, retired Audubon County engineer, acted as coordinator from 1992 until 2005, when Clarence “Sonny” Perry took over the position.

Over the years, more than 5,000 motor grader operators have participated in the workshops.

Training for the future

Building on previous successes, Iowa LTAP is working with officials from Iowa’s cities and counties to develop the Iowa Public Employee Leadership Institute. The institute’s training program will include ten core, web-based modules that cover management techniques, communication skills, leadership, government, law, and finance.

“We see this as an educational forum for cities and counties who don’t have the opportunity to provide training for people who are moving up through their agency or who simply want to move into other leadership positions,” says Bret Hodne, superintendent of Public Works for the City of West Des Moines and member of the institute’s steering committee.

The first module for the institute is Supervisory Skills and Techniques, which is also part of the Roads Scholar Program. This course is already available online through Iowa State University Distance Education.

Watch for more details about the Leadership Institute in future issues of Technology News.

New faces, familiar faces attend advisory board meeting

Iowa LTAP Director Duane Smith welcomed new board members and recognized outgoing board members at the LTAP Advisory Board meeting on May 2. Marshall County Engineer Royce Fitchner and Keokuk County Engineer Christy VanBuskirk began their two-year term on the board this spring. They replace Monroe County Engineer John Goode and Story County Engineer Bob Sperry.

Both Goode and Sperry served several terms on the board and provided valuable input into the development of numerous programs and projects. They were presented with plaques in appreciation for their years of service on the advisory board. Sperry continues his service to LTAP as Local Roads Safety Liaison.