

CTRE supporting 60 students

CTRE is supporting a record number of students this summer. Sixty students are on the payroll with about 40 of them working at CTRE and the rest working at the Iowa Department of Transportation or Iowa State University.

Students work on a wide variety of research projects including

- remote sensing and geographic information systems,
- work zone safety,
- Mississippi River trail planning,
- intersection features for improved safety analysis, and
- analysis of bridge launch data.

CTRE also relies on students for assistance with ongoing programs such as the Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service and special projects such as developing a handbook of simplified

practices for traffic studies. Students are in key support roles too, helping to maintain our computers and doing clerical work. Most of CTRE's publications are designed by students, and student writers contribute newsletter articles and copyedit research reports.

Students' academic majors include civil engineering, community and regional planning, construction engineering, computer engineering, rhetoric and professional communication, meteorology, advertising, and graphic design. Of the students majoring in civil engineering, their specific emphases include transportation and structures.

Many students intend to pursue careers in transportation, either from the engineering side or the planning side. However, students majoring in unrelated fields, such as meteorology, indicate that they've gained valuable research and writing skills in their work at CTRE.



Jeff McIntyre

Students' comments about working at CTRE

"CTRE has provided me with fantastic experience in the field of transportation that a degree program cannot fulfill alone." Jamie Luedtke, Mississippi River trail, access management

"Great experience. I have been working on a topic that few people in my country are aware of." Turhan Yerdelen, Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service (ITSDS)

"I haven't been hit by any flying computer components yet, so that's a plus." Mike Blasi, computer support

"I have had the opportunity to meet transportation professionals in the state and throughout the country. Excellent networking potential." Kevin Triggs,

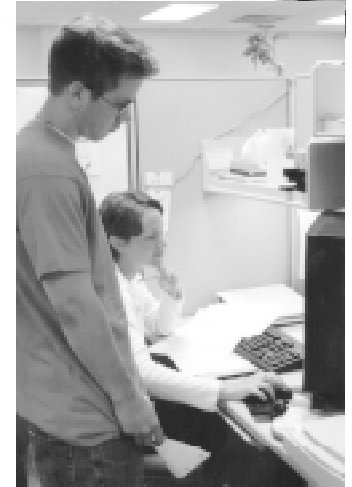


(from left) Turhan Yerdelen, Kevin Triggs, Hossein Naraghi

ITSDS and emergency response information system

"It is interesting to see the research environment from the inside and to see how the process works." Diane Strawn, F-SHRP highway renewal literature review

"Working at CTRE has been very influential in shaping my future career path. When I started working here, I had no preference as to what field I would enter to start my technical writing career. However, after my 2+ years at CTRE, I think that I will enjoy pursuing my career as



(from left) Ryan Tenges, Molly O'Brien

a tech writer within the transportation industry." Melanie Auen, technical writing and editing



Francois award recipient Jamie Luedtke (left) and Sandra Larson, Director, Research and Technology Bureau, Iowa DOT.

\$10,000 Francois award to CTRE student

Jamie Luedtke, a graduate student in Iowa State University's interdisciplinary master's degree program in transportation, has been awarded the first Francis B. Francois Award for Innovation.

This annual competitive fellowship of \$10,000 goes to states showing the strongest record of transportation innovation. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) selected the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and Iowa State University (ISU) as the recipients of the very first award.

Iowa DOT and ISU staff developed the student selection criteria, which included commitment to a career in the transportation field in the United States. Luedtke, who earned her bachelor's degree in community and regional planning in May 2002, thinks the "possibilities for future employment as a U.S. transportation planner in either the public or private sector seem exciting and diverse." She plans to stay in the Midwest.

Luedtke will use the fellowship to pay for graduate school and will complete her master's degree in December 2003. As a CTRE research assistant since the summer of 2001, she has worked on a variety of projects including access management and planning for a Mississippi River bike trail.