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Calling all " Road Scholars "

Duane Smith, Associate Director for Outreach

OVER AND OVER at LTAP workshops, Iowa's transportation workers demonstrate their zeal for learning how to do their jobs better, more safely, and more efficiently. To formally recognize these workers for their commitment to continuing education, the Iowa LTAP center will soon begin a new "Road Scholar" Program.

The program will also provide a tool to help supervisors schedule ongoing staff training and better manage their training budgets.

Become a master

Participation in the Road Scholar Program is voluntary and flexible to meet individuals' training needs. The program consists of

- a curriculum of training workshops, plus
- a system for tracking individuals' workshop attendance (via number of "contact hours").

As participants accumulate contact hours in various training events, they will reach different levels of achievement: Road Scholar I, Road Scholar II, Senior Road Scholar, and Master Road Scholar (see sidebar, below).

When participants reach a new level, they will be formally recognized for their achievement.

Curriculum

The Road Scholar curriculum will cover six major categories, listed below (along with sample courses in each category):

- Engineering Basics
 - Basic Math*
 - Route Surveying
- Roadway Fundamentals
 - MoGO Training
 - Construction Inspection
- Safety
 - Flagger Training*
 - Work Zone Safety*
- Transportation and Traffic Engineering
 - Traffic Signal Design and Management
 - Access Management
- Winter Operations
 - Iowa Maintenance Training Expo *
- Management
 - ISRMSA Conference
 - Supervisory Fundamentals*

Iowa Road Scholar Levels	
Road Scholar Level	Cumulative Contact Hours
Road Scholar I	30 (approximately 6 workshops)
Road Scholar II	50 (approximately 10 workshops)
Senior Road Scholar *	70 (approximately 14 workshops)
Master Road Scholar	100 (approximately 20 workshops)

*Core courses must be completed to achieve this level.



Students learn the basics during a surveying class.

Participation in five core courses, noted with an asterisk (*) in the previous list, will be required to advance from Road Scholar II to Senior Road Scholar. Otherwise, participants can attend whichever workshops best meet their training needs.

In addition to LTAP's Road Scholar curriculum, credit will be given for participation in many other courses offered by CTRE and other organizations, agencies, and educational institutes.

For more information

We are very excited about the Road Scholar Program, which begins in January 2002 and is similar to programs offered at other LTAP centers. A brochure outlining the curriculum and other details of the Road Scholar program will be mailed in late fall 2001.

For more information, contact Duane Smith, CTRE's associate director for outreach, 515-294-8103, desmith@iastate.edu.



Participants achieve Road Scholar recognition by attending a variety of workshops.

LTAP Advisory Board

The people listed below help guide and direct the policies and activities of the Center for Transportation Research and Education's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). The board meets at least annually. Contact any of the advisory committee members to ask questions about any aspect of LTAP.

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Road Scholar Program Q & A

Q. What if I attend a workshop before the program begins?

A. Anyone who attended LTAP workshops in 2000 and 2001 will automatically receive credit for those contact hours.

Q. What if credit for previous training doesn't show up on my transcript?

A. Just send LTAP a copy of your workshop certificate, and we'll credit your transcript.

Q. May I attend LTAP workshops even if I don't want to participate in the Road Scholar Program?

A. Of course! Anyone can attend our workshops, conferences, and special schools.

Q. What happens if I can't attend a Road Scholar workshop I'm registered for?

A. The usual cancellation policy applies. You'll need to attend the workshop in the future to earn credit.

Q. How will I know which training activities are included in the program?

A. A Road Scholar Program brochure is being prepared to explain these details. Watch for it in your mail this fall.

Q. How do I sign up?

A. You don't have to formally register to participate in the Road Scholar Program. Every time you attend an LTAP workshop, your record of contact hours will automatically be updated.