

# NTC Today

Morgan State University National Transportation Center

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## **Patterson Park High School and the NTC Commit to Partnership**

Through the collaborative efforts of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education and the National School to Work Offices, the NTC is proud to announce that it has launched a partnership with Baltimore's Patterson Park High School. Under the new national initiative *Building Linkages Through Career Clusters in High Technology Industries*, Patterson Park High was selected as one of nine pilot school sites in the nation that will receive grant funding under the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Building Linkages Career Cluster curriculum project.

"Through the Building Linkages Career Cluster pilot school sites, the education and transportation communities together will create curriculum materials to help ensure that America's transportation workforce will be ready for the challenges of the new century," Secretary Slater said. The Career Cluster is an initiative designed to help students develop and realize their career goals by assisting schools to successfully transition students for pathways to college and employment by partnering education with employers and industry groups.

To celebrate the fruits of their labor, Patterson's Transportation and Engineering Technology Academy staff, Principal Laura D'Anna, Guidance Counselor Diana Ford, Transportation Academy Principal Joseph Sandzone, AF Major Gerald Thomas, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education Dr. Cheryl Jones and other faculty members held a ribbon cutting ceremony and hosted a reception on October 11, 2000.

NTC Representatives Joyce Trussell and Karon Davis were on hand to represent Morgan. Additional guests on hand to celebrate the accomplishment were State Delegate Cornell Dypski, NHISA Regional Program Manager Roland Wilson, TDL Building Linkages Site Coordinator Ninnett Forte, Curriculum Specialists Joseph Wilkinson and Jim Richter, Technology Teacher Sharon Ball, and Baltimore City Public Schools Transportation Representatives Valencia Baker and Otis Jackson. Air Force JROTC cadets not only served as guest escorts, but also did a wonderful job preparing for the ceremony.

Congratulations to Patterson, its students and staff for a job well done. We hope to move forward and hope that this is the first of many more sites to come.

Don't miss out on the the exciting things  
that are happening at the National Transportation Center!

*NTC Today*

has the latest industry news, project  
information and outreach initiatives that are shaping  
transportation professionals on each and every level.

Start reading and get involved--because  
*our* readers make the difference!

## NTC CALENDAR

### November 2000

*American Public Transportation  
Association Eighth Joint Conference  
on Light Rail Transit*  
November 11-15, 2000  
Contact: 202/496-4800  
[www.apta.com](http://www.apta.com)

### December 2000

### January 2001

*Transportation Research Board  
80th Annual Meeting*  
January 7-11  
Contact: 202/334-2030  
[national-academies.org/trb/meeting](http://national-academies.org/trb/meeting)

*Transportation Distribution and Logistic Career  
Clusters Symposium*  
January 30-31  
Contact: Joyce Trussell 443/885-4813

### February 2001

*2001 Black Engineer of the Year Awards*  
February 8-10, 2001  
Contact: 410/244-7101  
<http://www.blackengineer.com/>

*Groundhog Job Shadow Day*  
Contact: Joyce Trussell 443/885-4813

### WHY WAIT?

For more information on  
NTC sponsored activities,  
current projects or programs, contact  
443/885-3666  
or  
visit us at  
<http://www.eng.morgan.edu/~ntc/>

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY

Already organizations representing various transportation interests are discussing the successor to TEA-21, the current Surface Transportation Act. The University Transportation Center directors have also discussed the implications of TEA-21 and its possible successor on transportation research and education.

There are insufficient resources devoted to transportation research and education. Transportation has been estimated to contribute anywhere from 15 - 25 percent toward the nation's annual GDP. Transportation projects and their funding are increasingly becoming highly visible issues on state and local levels, yet a relatively small amount of money is devoted to research that would enhance efficiency, safety and minimize the negative externalities of transportation. At the same time, government and the private sector lament the extreme shortage of people entering transportation careers.

The University Transportation Centers Program was established to address these issues. Each center fosters and engages in transportation research in support of specific thematic areas, encourages and financially supports interdisciplinary approaches to preparing students for transportation careers, and transfers transportation technology and knowledge to the public at large.

One of the provisions within TEA-21 regarding University Transportation Centers is that 17 of the existing centers, including the NTC here at Morgan, must compete for 10 university "positions" for the last two years of TEA-21 funding. Thus, an attempt through the successor to TEA-21 to expand the base of transportation research and education would be from a base of 10 university centers rather than 17; clearly a step backward.

The NTC at Morgan has every intention of being one of the 10 successful centers. This region's transportation community, particularly regarding access to research and personnel, would be seriously diminished otherwise. But, it would still be unfortunate for everyone, if the nation is seven centers poorer.



Andrew Farkas  
NTC Director

### NTC Today

*NTC Today* is published three times per year at the National Transportation Center (NTC) located at Morgan State University, Montebello D-206, 1700 East Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21251. The NTC, part of the U.S. Department of Transportation University Transportation Centers Program, has a mission to advance U.S. technology and expertise in the many disciplines comprising transportation through the mechanisms of education, research and technology transfer at the university level.

Dr. Z. Andrew Farkas ..... NTC Director  
Karron Davis ..... Comm. Manager

Editorial inquiries and comments can be addressed by calling 443/885-1495. For more information on our programs or change of address notifications, please call 443/885-3666 or send e-mail to [ntc@eng.morgan.edu](mailto:ntc@eng.morgan.edu).

Our website address is : <http://www.eng.morgan.edu/~ntc/>

## STI OUTREACH

### STI 2001--Make Plans Now

As the National Transportation Center continues to grow, so do the opportunities available to those who are interested in the transportation field. If you know a high school student who has completed the ninth or tenth grade and has an interest in a career in transportation, we urge you to encourage them to participate in the Summer Transportation Institute 2001.

This dynamic program, which is held in the month of July, offers a full curriculum as well as a hands-on learning experience for students who have a future in the diversified field of transportation. Students gain invaluable knowledge from field trips, guest speakers and educational activities geared toward heightening the awareness of the industry. The program also



exposes students to life on campus and is held on the Morgan State campus.

High school freshman and sophomores who excel in science and math courses, who have successfully completed at least one prior algebra course and have a GPA of at least 2.5 are eligible to participate. The program also provides free lunch and transportation daily, a stipend and a certificate upon completion of the program.

The deadline for applying to this year's program is fast approaching. Application deadline information can be obtained by contacting the NTC Office at 443/885-3666. Students may also speak with STI Student Coordinator Joyce Trussell, their guidance counselor or principal for more information.

Spread the word. The NTC wants this to be our biggest summer program ever!

### TRAC Summer Internship Program Yields STI Success Stories

The TRAC Program, designed to help secondary school students use science and math to solve transportation and engineering problems, and the STI have similar goals and objectives. Because of this common ground, it is exciting to note that several STI students were selected to participate in the 2000 TRAC Internship Program at the State Highway Administration (SHA).

The TRAC Internship Program challenges students to conduct real engineering investigations and explore careers in the transportation industry. The selected interns, who were at least 16 years old, worked an average of 40 hours per week in various departments at the SHA and earned a wage.

On August 18, the 2000 TRAC Summer Internship Program held an Awards Ceremony and Luncheon to honor students and volunteers for their participation in the program. Interns from the MSU Summer Transportation Institute were recognized for their team projects: Lauren McCullough, Award of Excellence for Project Research; Terica Prater, Award of Excellence for Project Presentation; and Dami Martin, Award of Excellence for Targeting the Project.

Congratulations to all of the winners and participants for a job well done!



TRAC Summer Interns Kion Bolden, Lauren McCullough, Terica Prater and Dami Martin.



**Mark Your Calendar  
for the  
2001  
Summer Transportation  
Institute!**

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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Slater Symposium Draws Crowd

More than 75 students and approximately 1200 transportation officials participated in the first-ever International Symposium held October 9-12, 2000 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. It has been hailed as the first global transportation planning meeting of its kind.

Over a period of three days, the Symposium brought together aspiring and leading experts to consider worldwide transportation issues while also providing a unique opportunity to explore and consider possibilities for a global strategic vision on critical cross-cutting transportation issues in the aviation, surface and maritime areas. The symposium helped provide attendees with opportunities to learn from one another by exchanging information about "best practices" on such issues as changing consumer expectations, seamless modal integration, workforce capacity, e-commerce and its impact on transportation, information and technology advances, safety and security standards, and innovative financing of multi-modal transportation systems.

The conference included a great deal of information from several notable industry professionals including U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater, Transportation Ministers, Directors General of Civil Aviation, Surface, and Maritime transport and other U.S. and foreign government transportation leaders, U.S. Congressional and Foreign Parliament leaders, industry leaders of foreign and domestic transportation companies, representatives of banking and other financial institutions; academic experts, officials of transportation worker unions and other labor representatives.

Based on illustrated "Best Practices," the program's goal was to have participants issue a joint statement expressing their collective agreement on a common set of "principles" for implementing effective mechanisms of information exchange and promoting development of the international transportation system for meeting the needs of the 21st Century.

Morgan Students as well as NTC Director Z. Andrew Farkas, STI Director Joyce Trussell and Communications Manager Karron Davis were on hand to participate in several of the symposium sessions and volunteer their time. Thanks in great part to DOT's LaVaughn Mitchell, students from all across the country attended the event. To close the week's activities, students and volunteers were afforded a very special opportunity to discuss what they had learned in a private meeting and reception with Rodney E. Slater. He announced how pleased he was with the turnout, his commitment to the programs he has set forth, and additional funding to be granted for the upcoming year.



Volunteers pose with Secretary Slater.



Secretary Slater greets attendees.



LaVaughn Mitchell and Joyce Trussell.

### ITS Maryland's Annual Meeting 2000

*Maryland Moving Smarter with Technology* was the theme of ITS Maryland's Fifth Annual Meeting held September 21, 2000 at the Engineers Club in Baltimore. Co-sponsored by Morgan State University's National Transportation Center and several key transportation entities, the meeting drew 150 participants.

Following a brief welcome from K.R. Marshall, ITS Maryland President, and opening remarks from Baltimore City Director of Planning Charles Graves, Director of CHART& ITS Development Michael Zezeski, and President and CEO of ITS America John Collins, attendees were allowed to tour the Exhibit Hall which featured 14 vendors from across the state.

Two concurrent morning sessions, *Communications to Enhance Public Safety* and *ITS on the Move in Maryland*, focused on several ongoing projects which are being used to aid interoperability among local, state, and federal public safety and transportation agencies. Participants, under the moderation of Bobbie Sharma, University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology, and Tawanda Nutt, Fiscal Administrator of Morgan State's National Transportation Center, were introduced to new technologies being used by the Public Safety Wireless Network, National Institute of Justice, The Capital Wireless Integrated Network, the U.S. Wireless Project, Automated Enforcement and the Baltimore City ITS. An on-site demonstration of the Alexandria Police Department's Mobil Data Unit was also given.

Following an Exhibitors' Presentation during lunch, three additional afternoon sessions helped attendees to get a better understanding of ITS Maryland's industry role. *What's Driving ITS in Maryland* emphasized the many ways ITS and its network are helping people get to work and arrive at their destination safely in Maryland. Dr. Anthony Saka, from Morgan's Institute for Transportation, presented material on Maryland's MTAG Study and how mobile emissions are being affected by MTAG deployment. Spokesmen from MTA, SHA and CITE also made contributions to the session.

*Maryland Growing Smarter* focused on Governor Glendening's Smart Growth Initiative and the work accomplished since its inception, including passage of Brownfields and Smart Codes legislation. The session also featured information on the use of operations data for planning.

The day's final session, *Traveler Information Business Models and the Private Sector's Perception of Public-Private Partnerships* helped define the developing traveler systems and the respective roles of agencies implementing, operating and maintaining them. Various models were presented by the private sector in relation to their efforts to create profitable traveler business.

This year's meeting was a huge success and NTC representatives are already setting their sights for an even larger turnout next year.

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## NATIONAL NEWS TO USE

# U.S. Transportation Secretary Slater Unveils “Best Practices for Improving the Air Travel Experience” Report

Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater unveiled a comprehensive report that identifies “best practices” used by airlines and airports to facilitate consumers’ access to flight information and minimize the adverse consequences of flight delays and cancellations. Secretary Slater announced the completion of the report at the department’s historic *International Transportation Symposium: Moving to the 21st Century—Best Practices of Today and Lessons for Tomorrow*.

The *Best Practices for Improving the Air Travel Experience* report stems from one of several near and long-term initiatives by the department to deal with congestion in the nation’s air space system. “Getting inaccurate, conflicting, or late information about flight delays is one of the most frustrating experiences for air travelers,” said the Secretary. “This report, in the spirit of President Clinton and Vice President Gore’s ‘people first’ agenda, identifies specific steps that air carriers and airports have taken to improve customer information flow and provide increased emphasis on customer needs. These practices, if adopted more widely, could improve the air travel experience for millions of consumers.”

On Aug. 21, Secretary Slater convened a meeting of aviation industry leaders from around the country to focus the industry’s efforts on “putting people first” in dealing with air travel delays. Following the meeting, Slater formed a task force, chaired by Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Francisco Sanchez, to address the issue of flight delays and the effect of delays on consumers.

Airlines are also developing and testing a host of new communication technologies to improve the consistency and timeliness of information provided to air travelers. According to the report, several airlines are adopting centralized information systems for consumers that more accurately estimate flight arrival and departure times at airports. Many airlines are also moving rapidly in using the Internet as a tool for reaching consumers. In addition, several offer customers a free subscription to a service that allows the airline to communicate directly and automatically with subscribers via a cellular phone, e-mail, pager or other personal wireless communication devices.

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*“These practices, if adopted more widely, could improve the air travel experience for millions of consumers.”*

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The DOT report notes that although much has been done, more is needed and a renewed commitment to putting people first is the place to begin. One innovative idea is the creation of “customer services lab,” to bring together representatives of airport management, concessionaires, the FAA, airlines, local and state offices, and consumer groups to help develop and test ways to facilitate consumer access to flight information and enhance the services that minimize the adverse consequences of flight delays and cancellations.

For more information, a copy of the report is available at [www.ostpweb.dot.gov/aviation/](http://www.ostpweb.dot.gov/aviation/)

## Internships

Each year, the Department of Transportation (DOT) commits itself to increasing diversity in the workforce by providing internship opportunities. Interns work throughout the spring, summer and fall in DOT administrations nationwide.

With an ongoing partnership between several non-profit educational organizations and the DOT’s Office of Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) and Educational Partnerships, internships are granted to give college students practical work experience and career choice options.

Students may earn academic credit, must be U.S. citizens, must have a GPA of 3.0 and be currently enrolled in a college or university as a sophomore or above. The partner institutions listed below have several deadlines and should be contacted directly for more information and application materials.

### **Hispanic Associations of Colleges and Universities (HACU)**

One Dupont Circle-Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/467-0893  
<http://www.hacu.net>

### **Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS)**

American University-Tenley Campus  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016-8083  
202/895-4967  
<http://www.american.edu/wins/>

### **National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)**

8701 Georgia Avenue, Suite 200  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301/650-2440  
<http://www.nafeo.org/>

### Russian Visitor Gives International Perspective on Transportation

With a coordination of efforts by the World Trade Center Institute in Baltimore, School of Engineering Dean Eugene DeLoatch, NTC Director Z. Andrew Farkas and Institute for Transportation Faculty Member Dr. Anthony Saka, the National Transportation Center hosted a luncheon in honor of international visitor Viktor Grigorenko, Rector of Far-Eastern State Transport University (FESTU) located in Khabarovsk, Russia.

Mr. Grigorenko heads one of the leading institutions of higher learning in Pacific Russia—the only higher education institution for transportation managers in the Russian Far East and Transbaykal regions. It is the largest center for preparation of highly skilled specialists for railway, aviation, sea cargo and trucking industries. The university, which has an enrollment of 9000 students and more than 500 teachers and professors, offers bachelor's and master's degrees in six institutional divisions.

Mr. Grigorenko's visit to the NTC and IT was to further his commitment to modernize and improve his university's programs so that graduates will bring world class standards to the industry's infrastructure and management. He is currently planning to implement an intermodal component into FESTU's curriculum and to provide conduct training for government and industry transportation officials. His choice to visit the NTC stems from his desire to familiarize himself with facilities where intermodal means of transport are in use and educational institutions where relevant training is being provided. The NTC hopes to build upon our new international relationship and shares Mr. Grigorenko's vision.

The luncheon facilitated an informative exchange of ideas by both groups through United States Interpreter Allen Smith. A great deal was learned from Mr. Grigorenko and all participants. For more information on the FESTU program, e-mail [root@habigt.khv.ru](mailto:root@habigt.khv.ru)



*Far-Eastern State Transport University Rector Viktor Grigorenko.*

### American Public Transportation 2000 Scholarship Recipient



*Nimish Desai accepts his award from APTA officials.*

Nimish Desai, a second-year Transportation Engineering graduate student, was the recipient of the American Public Transportation Association's 2000-2001 Transit Hall of Fame Scholarship. The scholarship, which is awarded annually to increase and retain the number of young professionals entering the transit field as a career, offers professional development opportunities in order to sustain growth and improvement within the industry. In addition to his \$2500 cash award and an all-expense paid trip to San Francisco to accept his award at a special reception held September 27, 2000, Nimish has received a complimentary subscription to *Passenger Transport* and a waiver of all registration fees for attendance at major APTA meetings during his tenure in the scholarship program.

Upon his return to Morgan, Nimish was all smiles as he shared his experience with faculty, staff and other students. He was most proud of his plaque and happy that his hard work has paid off.

The Institute for Transportation and NTC congratulate Nimish on his accomplishment and we thank him for representing Morgan State University.

### New Home for the M.S. Degree in Transportation



Located in the School of Engineering, the Institute for Transportation is the new home for the Master of Science degree in Transportation, which has added two new areas of concentration: Traffic Engineering and Transportation Information Systems involving GIS and Remote Sensing. The faculty and staff have remained the same: Dr. Young-Jae Lee, Dr. Randal Reed, Dr. Andrew Farkas, Graduate Program Coordinator Dr. Anthony Saka and Secretary Alice R. Williams. The office is located in the Schaefer Engineering Building, Room 343. For more information, please call 443/885-3348.

### Partnering 2K Scores Big

With a mission to develop sustainable partnerships between Historically Black Colleges and Universities, government agencies, the private sector and other educational institutions, the Partnering 2K Conference: Partnering in the New Millennium scored big among heavy hitters in the business and academic community. Hosted by Morgan State University and held at the Sheraton Hotel in Towson, the conference combined hot topics with senior professionals who are looking to grow strategic partnerships with HBCUs.

To kick off the highly anticipated event, HBCU presidents held a Pre-Conference Meeting and Luncheon on September 6. Later that evening, participants took part in the Partnering 2K Kick-off and Millennium Celebration held aboard the Baltimore Bay Lady.

September 7 was jam-packed with workshops, seminars and educational sessions that touched upon everything from accountability to understanding government proposals. Attendees were able to focus on several key industry concerns such as cooperative business development, industry and agency needs, proposal preparation, electronic commerce, marketing strategies, career planning and technology to name a few. Through these and other networking sessions, participants were able to target strategies and results for partnerships in 2000 and beyond. Some of the key objectives were to examine benchmark partnership models of excellence, learn the mutual benefits of partnership, understand the value of internships and co-op programs, and to identify and discuss the critical success factors for sound business relationships with HBCUs.

Guest speakers, steering committee members, HBCU delegates, regional small business professionals and students made up a large portion of the conference audience. To that end, the final day was spent by many in the Career, Technology and Trade Fair Exhibit held at Morgan State University's Hill Field House. The event provided an opportunity for students and professionals to meet one-on-one to discuss the conference and future partnerships.

The National Transportation Center staff participated in many of the conference activities. A special thank you goes out to everyone who helped make the conference a success as well as the many sponsors and volunteers who dedicated their time and energy.



### Plans Are in Effect For Groundhog Job Shadow Day 2001

If you missed last year's USDOT Groundhog Job Shadow Day event, you missed out on a great educational opportunity. The good news is that because of last year's Job Shadowing success, you now have another opportunity to get involved.

Plans for Groundhog Shadow Day 2001 are well underway. The purpose of this event is to provide students with an up-close look at how skills learned in school are put into action in the workplace. By acquainting students with the world of work through on-the-job experiences and a carefully crafted school curriculum that ties academics to the workplace, job shadowing has enriched the lives of kids since 1998.

Last year's Job Shadow Day saw more than one million of America's youth set off to explore more than 75,000 workplaces nationwide. Morgan's NTC hopes to play a large role in increasing that number for Job Shadow 2001 with help from students, educators and transportation professionals. The wider the pool of professionals, the greater the experience for everyone who participates. Students learn firsthand what it takes to make it in their fields of interest from the people who know best—working professionals. Educators help craft lesson plans around students' career interests, while employers promote potential long-term mentoring relationships and help prepare the future of America's workforce.

There is no time like the present to get involved. The NTC is planning a host of activities that will be geared toward students of all ages to make them aware of the ever-growing transportation industry. For more information, please feel free to call the NTC main office at 443/885-3666 and ask for our Groundhog Job Shadow Day representative. And, if you're an eager beaver, visit the national Groundhog Job Shadow Day website at [www.groundhog.org](http://www.groundhog.org).

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

got  
ideas?

Share them with  
the NTC!

*If you have something to share  
with the NTC, please submit your  
comments to the NTC mailbox  
via e-mail to [ntc@morgan.edu](mailto:ntc@morgan.edu) or  
call the NTC Main Office at  
443/885-3666.*

On Wednesday October 25, 2000, the NTC Advisory Committee met to discuss recent developments, research and projects going forward for 2001. After an introduction of three new committee members, NTC Director Dr. Z. Andrew Farkas guided members through a fully-packed agenda that covered all aspects of the Center's financial status, research initiatives, education projects and outreach activities.

Formal selection of the Advisory Committee Chairman was also on the day's agenda. The Committee elected Ronald Freeland, Administrator of the Mass Transit Administration, to chair the Committee.

An excellent presentation was also given by Faculty Member Dr. Carrol Perrino on the Effects of the Motorcycle Rider Safety Course on the Risks of Accident and Violation. This was a showcase of the research efforts that are taking place on a daily basis at the NTC. Committee members were allotted time for a brief question and answer session with Dr. Perrino. She made known the various aspects of the study and what benefits she and her partners hope to gain by the ongoing reserach.

NTC's involvement in other successful programs such as the Greater Baltimore Transportation Conference, Partnering 2K and ITS Maryland were only a taste of the outreach initiatives that the Committee hopes to build upon. Discussion of a larger symposium took center stage and the Committee hopes that by October 2001 a regional economic development/transportation issues symposium, which will involve transportation officials on all levels as well as participation from community officials and the public, will draw attention to the growing transportation industry and the NTC's role.

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