



MID-AMERICA  
TRANSPORTATION CENTER



**2023**  
MARCH 15 - MARCH 18

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

# Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) **Scholars Program**

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

All times are in Central Time



The goal of the MATC Scholars program for HBCUs and HSIs is to promote graduate study among underrepresented minorities and women in the STEM fields with a special focus on doctoral-granting and research intensive institutions.

The program provides specific, targeted seminars to improve the performance, recruitment, and retention of underrepresented students into STEM-related fields.

4:00 PM

## ARRIVAL AND CHECK-IN

Embassy Suites Hotel - 1040 P St, Lincoln, NE 68508

7:00 PM

## WELCOME RECEPTION

Lied Commons - 301 N 12th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

# THURSDAY, MARCH 16

All times are in Central Time

## THE WHY AND HOW OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

6:30 - 7:15 AM

## BREAKFAST AT HOTEL

Embassy Suites Hotel

7:15 - 7:45 AM

## TRANSITION TO HOWARD L. HAWKS HALL

Room 211, Howard L. Hawks Hall (HLH) - 730 N 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

7:45 - 8:15 AM

## PRE-CONFERENCE ASSESSMENT

HLH 211

Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR), UNL

8:15 - 8:30 AM

## UNL WELCOME & MATC INTRODUCTION

HLH 211

**Dr. Aemal Khattak** - Director of the Mid-America Transportation Center, UNL

8:30 - 8:40 AM

## OVERVIEW OF MATC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

HLH 211

**Dr. Judy Perkins, PE** - Prairie View A&M University

8:40 - 8:55 AM

## WELCOME FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

HLH 211

**Dr. Jennifer PeeksMease** - Assistant Vice Chancellor for Inclusive Leadership and Learning, UNL

8:55 - 9:00 AM

## BREAK

9:00 - 9:40 AM

## ROTATION 1

**Group 1** - HLH 211

Why Graduate School -

**Mr. Juhann Waller, PE**

**Group 2** - HLH 223

Graduate School Student Experience -

**Dr. Deo Chimba, PE**

9:40 - 10:20 AM

## ROTATION 2

**Group 1** - HLH 211

Choosing a Graduate Program: Making a Short List - **Dr. Ibibia Dabipi**

**Group 2** - HLH 223

Choosing Faculty Mentors & Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success - **Dr. Edgar Blevins**

10:20 - 10:30 AM

## BREAK

# THURSDAY, MARCH 16

All times are in Central Time

## THE WHY AND HOW OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

10:30 - 11:10 AM

### ROTATION 3

**Group 1** - HLH 211

Graduate School Student Experience -

**Dr. Deo Chimba, PE**

**Group 2** - HLH 223

Why Graduate School -

**Mr. Juhann Waller, PE**

11:10 - 11:50 AM

### ROTATION 4

**Group 1** - HLH 211

Choosing Faculty Mentors & Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success - **Dr. Edgar Blevins**

**Group 2** - HLH 223

Choosing a Graduate Program: Making a Short List - **Dr. Ibibia Dabipi**

11:50AM - 1:00 PM

### LUNCH

HLH 231

**Ms. Jessica Rich** - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program Manager, Office of Safety, Federal Highway Administration

1:00 - 1:30 PM

### GROUP PHOTOS

1:30 - 2:30 PM

### GEM OVERVIEW AND OPPORTUNITIES

HLH 211

**Dr. Marcus Huggans** - Senior Director, External Relations, The National GEM Consortium

2:30 - 3:30 PM

### GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS EXAMS OVERVIEW

HLH 211

**Mrs. Coleen McGuire** - Market Manager - Southwest, The Princeton Review

3:30 - 3:45 PM

### BREAK

3:45 - 5:00 PM

### CONVERSATION WITH FORMER MATC SCHOLARS FROM PVAMU & UMES

HLH 211

**Mr. Charles Raleigh** - Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

**Mr. Quinton Rodgers** - Engineer Assistant II, Transportation Department, City of Dallas

**Mr. Jarvis Hawkins** - Non-Teaching Graduate Student, Prairie View A&M University

5:00 - 6:00 PM

### BREAK

6:00 - 8:00 PM

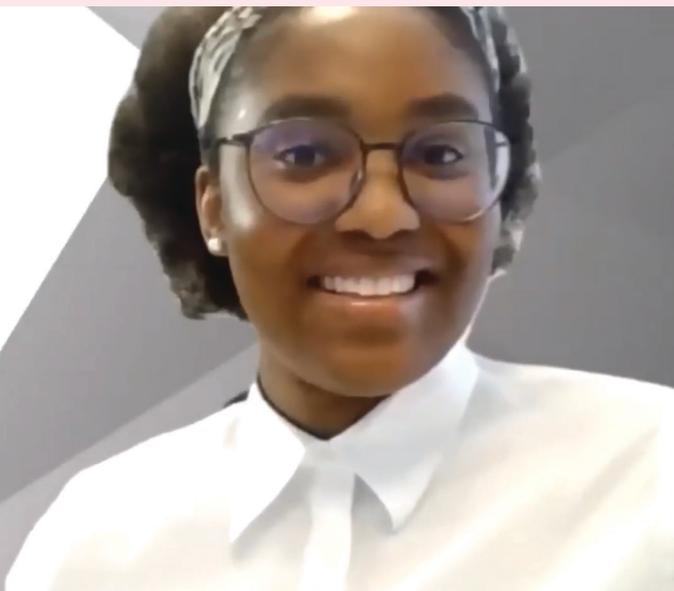
### DINNER & NETWORK

UNL City Campus Union, Heritage Room - 1400 R St, Lincoln, NE 68588

8:00 PM

### TRANSITION TO HOTEL

Embassy Suites Hotel



# FRIDAY, MARCH 17

All times are in Central Time

## STRATEGIES FOR SUCCEEDING IN GRADUATE SCHOOL

7:00 - 8:30 AM

### BREAKFAST AT HOTEL

Embassy Suites Hotel

8:30 - 8:45 AM

### TRANSITION TO UNION

UNL City Campus Union, Heritage Room & Regency Suite - 1400 R St, Lincoln, NE 68588

8:45 - 9:40 AM

### ROTATION 5

**Group 1** - Regency Suite

Communication Skills - **Ms. Amy Maki**

**Group 2** - Heritage Room

Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances - **Dr. Luis Vázquez**

9:40 - 10:20 AM

### ROTATION 6

**Group 1** - Regency Suite

Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances - **Dr. Luis Vázquez**

**Group 2** - Heritage Room

Communication Skills - **Ms. Amy Maki**

10:20 - 10:30 AM

### BREAK

10:30 - 11:10 AM

### TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY

Regency Suite

**Dr. David Bouras** - Professor, Department of Business, Lincoln University

11:10AM - 12:00 PM

### TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Regency Suite

**Ms. Latoya Jones** - Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program Manager, Office of Human Resources - Talent Development Division, Federal Highway Administration

12:00 - 1:15 PM

### LUNCH

1:15 - 1:45 PM

### CRASH TESTING PRESENTATION

Regency Suite

**Dr. Mojdeh Asadollahi Pajouh** - MwRSF Research Assistant Professor, UNL

**Mr. Brandon Perry** - MwRSF Research Engineer, UNL

1:45 - 2:00 PM

### TRANSITION TO MEMORIAL STADIUM

2:00 - 3:00 PM

### MEMORIAL STADIUM TOUR

Memorial Stadium - One Memorial Stadium Drive, Lincoln, NE 68588

3:00 - 3:15 PM

### TRANSITION TO UNION

3:15 - 4:00 PM

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

4:00 - 4:30 PM

### UNL GRADUATE STUDIES: MEETING WITH THE DEAN

Regency Suite

**Dr. Lance Pérez** - Dean, College of Engineering, UNL

4:30 - 5:30 PM

### FOCUS GROUP DIALOGUE AND ASSESSMENT & POST SURVEY

Regency Suite

Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR), UNL

5:30 - 6:00 PM

### TRANSITION TO WICK ALUMNI CENTER

Wick Alumni Center, Great Hall - 1520 R St, Lincoln, NE 68508

6:00 - 7:45 PM

### CLOSING DINNER

Wick Alumni Center, Great Hall

**Dr. Erick Jones, PE, CSSBB** - Dean, College of Engineering, University of Nevada-Reno

7:45 - 8:00 PM

### CLOSING REMARKS

Wick Alumni Center, Great Hall

**Dr. Aemal Khattak** - Director of the Mid-America Transportation Center, UNL

8:00 PM

### TRANSITION TO HOTEL

Embassy Suites Hotel

## SATURDAY, MARCH 18 FAREWELL

All times are in Central Time

8:00 - 9:00 AM

### BREAKFAST AT HOTEL & DEPARTURE

Embassy Suites Hotel

# PROGRAM PRESENTERS



## **Dr. Mojdeh Asadollahi Pajouh, P.E.**

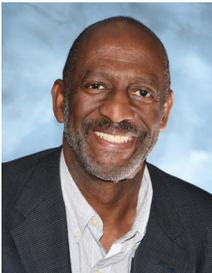
*Research Assistant Professor  
Midwest Roadside Safety Facility  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Phone: (402) 472-5259  
Email: mojdeh.pajouh@unl.edu



**Dr. Mojdeh Asadollahi Pajouh** is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Midwest Roadside Safety Facility. Dr. Pajouh has

been the Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI of several funded projects covering her research and professional interests of crashworthiness analysis, large-scale testing, and numerical simulation. Her expertise includes design, development, and evaluation of roadside safety hardware with applications in transportation safety and security engineering. She holds a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University, and a M.Sc. in Structural-Earthquake Engineering. She is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas, and a member of Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committee on Geotechnical Site Characterization.



## **Dr. Edgar Blevins** *Professor of Mechanical Engineering Southern University in Baton Rouge*

Phone: (225) 771-4736  
Email: Edgar\_Blevins@subr.edu

**Dr. Edgar Blevins** has a Bachelors and Masters degree from Southern University and Georgia Tech respectively, both in mechanical engineering. Dr. Blevins also has a Ph.D. degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering with a concentration in Engineering Management from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr.

Blevins served Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for 30 years in the Mechanical Engineering department.

Dr. Blevins primary interest is in engineering design and engineering education. He taught courses ranging from the first year to the graduate level. His primary courses included introduction to engineering, technical writing, computer aid drafting & design, and engineering management courses in the mechanical engineering department. Dr. Blevins also served as the Outreach Coordinator for the College of Sciences and Engineering. These duties include assisting the college with recruitment of high school students and providing engineering support for the college's summer STEM programs. He served as the National Society of Black Engineers faculty advisor for many years. He currently serves as a STEM program leader for a local Baton Rouge, Louisiana Leadership Institute for K to 12 students.



## **Dr. David Bouras**

*Professor  
Department of Business  
Lincoln University*

Phone: (573) 681-6083  
Email: bourasd@lincolnu.edu



**Dr. David Bouras** is a Professor of Economics at Lincoln University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research interests include applied mathematical programming, business forecasting, efficiency analysis, applied econometrics, and New Empirical Industrial

Organization. Dr. Bouras has taught many classes both at the undergraduate and graduate level. Currently, he teaches quantitative and qualitative research methods, business statistics, managerial economics, microeconomics, and macroeconomics. Besides teaching, Dr. Bouras published numerous articles in peer reviewed journals and served as a reviewer for different referred journals. In addition, Dr. Bouras collaborated with other universities on various grant proposals.



## **Dr. Deo Chimba, PhD., P.E., PTOE**

*Professor  
Civil and Architectural Engineering  
Tennessee State University*

Phone: (615) 963-5430  
Email: dchimba@tnstate.edu



**Dr. Deo Chimba** is a Professor of Civil Engineering at the Tennessee State University (TSU). He received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Dar es Salaam in 2002, Master's of Science in Civil Engineering from Florida State University in 2004 and Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering from University of Miami in 2008. Dr. Chimba has approximately twenty years of combined teaching, research and industrial experience in transportation engineering and planning fields.

Prior to joining Tennessee State University, Dr. Chimba worked for four years as a Transportation Engineer with Stanley Consultants, Inc. located in West Palm Beach, Florida. His research interests include transportation engineering and planning including highway safety, traffic impact analysis and mitigation, traffic simulation, public/transit transportation, bicycle and pedestrian studies and application of statistics in transportation and civil engineering. He has published quality papers in peer-review Journals or conference proceeding using advanced statistical modeling techniques for highway safety, traffic analysis, transportation planning and traffic flow studies.

# PROGRAM PRESENTERS



**Dr. Ibibia K. Dabipi**  
*Professor & Assistant Director*  
*Department of Engineering and*  
*Aviation Sciences*  
*University of Maryland Eastern Shore*

Phone: (410) 651-6489  
Email: ikdabipi@umes.edu



**Dr. Ibibia K. Dabipi's** research interests include Computer Security and Network Management, Parallel Computing and Algorithms Development, Performance Evaluation of Computer Networks, Optimization of Transportation Networks and Economic Analysis of Transportation Facilities.

Dr. I. K. Dabipi holds the following degrees: Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, 1987, and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, 1981, from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and Bachelor of Science in Physics/Mathematics, 1979, from Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas. Dr. Dabipi was the Chairman in the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore from 2001 - 2006. Prior to coming to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, he was the Interim Chairman, and Chairman in the Electrical Engineering Department at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana from 1997 - 2001. His experiences include working at Bell Communications Research and AT&T Bell Labs as a member of the technical staff during the summers of 1984 through 1987.

His professional activities include: Reviewer, International Association of Journals and Conference (IAJC)-International Journal of Modern Engineering (IJME); Area Editor, International Journal of Communication Networks and Information Security (IJCNIS); and Member of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) African Diaspora Task Force. He has authored and co-authored several papers in referred journals and conference publications. He is currently a Senior Member of the IEEE society.



**Dr. Marcus A. Huggans**  
*Executive Director of Client Relations*  
*The National GEM Consortium*

Email: mhuggans@gemfellowship.org

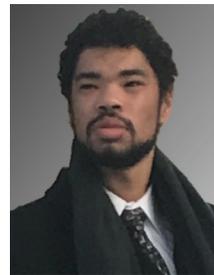


**Dr. Marcus A. Huggans** is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and was educated in the University City and Lutheran Parochial school systems. Dr. Huggans completed his engineering studies at the University of Missouri-Rolla now known as the Missouri University of Science and Technology. He received a B.S.E.E. and M.S. & Ph.D.

in Engineering Management. Dr. Huggans is an alumnus of the GEM Fellowship Program.

Dr. Huggans has extensive experience in the STEM field with over twenty-five years of working in the industry, academia, and non-profits. He has worked for 3M Company, AT&T Bell Laboratories, FBI, Texas Instruments Inc., Missouri S&T, and the National GEM Consortium. At GEM, Dr. Huggans recruits and conducts graduate programming to encourage under-represented minority students to pursue their graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics (STEM) fields as Senior Director of External Relations. Dr. Huggans has been the Finance Chair for IEEE-ITSC, and appointed to the IEEE-HKN Editorial Committee and Board of Governors.

Finally, Dr. Huggans has been an invited speaker to many diversity conferences, National Science Foundation, and multiple universities as well as corporations/national laboratories.



**Mr. Jarvis Hawkins**  
*Non-Teaching Graduate Student*  
*Prairie View A&M University*

Phone: (832) 771-8418  
Email: jarvis8591@gmail.com



**Mr. Jarvis Hawkins** was born in Houston, Texas, and was raised in Sugarland, TX. In 2020, he graduated from Prairie View A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Mr. Hawkins is pursuing a Master of Architecture at Prairie View A&M University. As an undergraduate and graduate, he held numerous leadership positions within the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Chapter and the PVAMU Engineers Without Borders (EWB-USA) Chapter. During his academic pursuits, Jarvis has participated in numerous Transportation-related research projects, including the Toyota Mobility Challenge and Innovative Sustainable Parks & Rides Facility Research. Mr. Hawkins was awarded the best poster presentation for his study as a 2021-2022 Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program Scholar (DDETFP) at the Transportation Research Board (TRB). Mr. Hawkins was a Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) Scholar in 2017.



**Dr. Erick Jones, P.E.,  
CLSSMBB, MSIED**

*Dean  
College of Engineering  
University of Nevada, Reno*

Phone: (775) 784-6925  
Email: DeanEngr@unr.edu



**Dr. Erick Jones** is the College of Engineering Dean at the University of Nevada. In the past 25 years his career has spanned industry, government, and academia as the senior science advisor in the Office of the Chief Economist at the U.S. State Department, professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) where he was also the George and Elizabeth Pickett Endowed Professor in

Industrial, Manufacturing and Systems Engineering. He has also spent time as faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

While at UTA Jones was on a three-year rotating detail at the National Science Foundation where he was Program Director for the Engineering Research Centers Program, the Education Directorate for Division of Graduate Education, and the Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

His education includes a bachelor's in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Houston. In his career he has published more than 243 manuscripts and three textbooks, garnering millions in grants and advising a number of students throughout their academic career. He is internationally recognized for his pioneering work with Radio Frequency Identification technologies, Lean Six Sigma Quality Management, and autonomous inventory control. His current research is focused on pandemic supply chains and supply chain economics and impacts.



**Ms. Latoya Jones**

*Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation  
Fellowship Program Manager  
Office of Human Resources – Talent  
Development Division  
Federal Highway Administration*

Email: latoya.jones@dot.gov



**Ms. Latoya Jones** serves as the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program (DDETFP) Manager with the Office of Human Resources Talent Development Division at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Ms. Jones is responsible for administering the DDETFP to help advance the U.S.

transportation industry through the award of fellowships to students who are seeking degrees in a transportation-related discipline. Prior to her current position, she was a Program Management Analyst as well as Community Planner for the FHWA Georgia Division Office. Ms. Jones has been with FHWA for 20 years.

Prior to joining FHWA, she worked with the City of Pensacola as a Neighborhood Planner where she worked closely with citizens in various neighborhoods to address concerns while also protecting, preserving, and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Ms. Jones has a Bachelors of Science in Social Science Education and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning.



**Dr. Aemal Khattak**

*Director  
Mid-America Transportation Center  
Professor, Department of Civil &  
Environmental Engineering  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Phone: (402) 472-8126  
Email: khattak@unl.edu



**Dr. Aemal Khattak** is Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director of the Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He specializes in transportation safety, infrastructure planning, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and manages \$3.0 million per year in grant funding. Dr. Khattak's career in civil engineering includes 23 years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is an accomplished author having published more than 100 publications on various transportation topics. He serves as the inaugural editorial board member of the Transportation Research Records and is the immediate past chair of the Transportation Research Board Standing Committee on Highway/Rail Grade Crossings (AR080). Dr. Khattak teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in highway engineering, urban transportation planning, transportation safety, and travel demand.

# PROGRAM PRESENTERS



**Ms. Amy Maki**  
*Founder and President*  
*A.O. Maki & Associates, L.L.C*

Phone: (206) 295-9042  
Email: amyomaki47@gmail.com



**Ms. Amy O. Maki** is the Founder and President of A. O. Maki & Associates, L.L.C., a consulting company that focuses on developing human capital. Ms. Maki is a requested speaker, writer, consultant, and personal coach with over 40 years of experience. She was the Director of Admissions, Student Services, and Community Relations at the University of Washington Bothell with responsibility for

developing and implementing policies and procedures that set the tone of services provided to students, staff, and faculty, and the community.

At the University of Washington Seattle, as Assistant to the Dean (College of Engineering), she focused on issues of student success and expanded the recruitment and retention of a diverse students and taught a multicultural education course (College of Education). At San Jose University (MentorNet) she served as a Program Manager and Minority-serving Institutions Specialist.

Education: B.A., University of Washington Seattle; M.Ed., University of Washington Bothell; Eastside Leadership Certificate; and Leadership Institute Certificate, Harvard Consortium Program on Negotiation.



**Mrs. Coleen McGuire**  
*Market Manager- Southwest*  
*The Princeton Review*

Phone: (720) 575-6618  
Email: coleen.read@review.com

**Mrs. Coleen McGuire** was born and raised in Reno, Nevada, but has also spent time in Colorado and Florida. Coleen graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with her degree in Education and a minor in Business. She is currently serving as the Market Manager for the Southwest

Region with the Princeton Review. When she is not working, Coleen enjoys supporting her alma mater's sports teams, playing with her dog Mackay, and spending time with her family.

In her role with the Princeton Review she helps students across the Southwest Region with the test preparation and admissions process. Throughout her six years with the Princeton Review, she has helped students get into top level colleges and graduate level programs across the country. Coleen has a passion for helping others, which is what led her to the position she is in today. She is dedicated to helping students reach their educational and career goals. Coleen genuinely wants to help you achieve your goal of attending graduate school and looks forward to interacting with you.



**Dr. Jennifer PeeksMease**  
*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Inclusive Leadership and Learning*  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Phone: (402) 472-3104  
Email: jpeeksmease2@unl.edu



**Dr. Jennifer PeeksMease** (also Mease) serves as the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Inclusive Leadership and Learning at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In this role, she supports the development of programs, resources, networks, and

relationships that pursue inclusive excellence for all. She earned her PhD in Communication Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her MA in Human Communication from Arizona State University. Her DEI experience spans research, consulting, pedagogy, programing, and strategy.

She came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from James Madison University where she served as an Associate Professor of Organizational and Cultural Communication. Additionally, she served on JMU's co-chair team for the 150+ member Task Force for Racial Equity, the steering committee for the Intergroup Dialogue Program, and co-founded and coordinated the Wake Up program, the AAAD Accomplice Network, and the Community Engagement Liaison Program with the Office of Community Service-Learning. Prior to that she served as an executive coach and team development coach at The Center for Intentional Leadership in Charlotte, NC, and as an Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University, in College Station, TX.

Her research addresses how social bias is built into organizational structures, and how individuals and groups cope with, challenge, and change those structures. In all aspects of her work, she is guided by her commitment to courageous humility and to creating the conditions under which all people can be the best versions of themselves.



**Dr. Lance C. Pérez**  
*Omar H. Heins Professor of Electrical  
 and Computer Engineering  
 Dean, College of Engineering  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Phone: (402) 472-5259  
 Email: [lcperetz@unl.edu](mailto:lcperetz@unl.edu)



**Dr. Lance C. Pérez** was named dean of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering in May 2018, following two years as interim dean. An experienced academic and campus leader, Dr. Pérez

previously was associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies at the university. He has been a faculty member in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering since 1996 and is currently the Heins Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

In his previous administrative positions, Dr. Pérez was responsible for faculty and leadership development, promotion and tenure, instruction technology and classroom facilities' improvements, and graduate education. He led the implementation of \$30 million in improvements to the academic facilities and played a pivotal role in the university's entrance into the Big Ten Committee on Institutional Cooperation.

As a faculty member, he has won numerous teaching awards and has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than \$15 million in federally funded research. His research interests include signal and information processing, engineering education, and faculty leadership development. From 2008-10, Pérez was a program director in the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation.

He has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Virginia, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame.



**Dr. Judy A. Perkins, P.E.**  
*Professor & Texas A&M University  
 Regents Professor  
 Prairie View A&M University*

Phone: (936) 261-1655  
 Email: [juperkins@pvamu.edu](mailto:juperkins@pvamu.edu)



**Dr. Judy A. Perkins** is a Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) and holds the title of Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) Regents Professor. Dr. Perkins is the former Department Head of PVAMU's Civil & Environmental Engineering Department and was the first African

American and first female to serve in this administrative capacity.

Dr. Perkins' current research activities involve working on projects funded by an array of state and federal agencies. She has worked with several Department of Defense research laboratories and centers. Specifically, her research has focused on statewide intermodal transportation planning, asset management, emergency operations, transportation logistics, hurricane evacuation analysis, military logistics, engineering education, minority outreach, optimization of transportation infrastructure investments, and radio-frequency identification (RFID) technologies used by motor carriers and for locating underground utilities. Dr. Perkins has accumulated extensive experience in the development of survey design, data collection, state-level transportation planning, and the refinement of economic development methodologies used to evaluate transportation-related activities. Her extensive record of publication extends into both the national and international transportation and engineering education arenas.

Moreover, Dr. Perkins is the President of JPID Consulting LLC. Her company has designation status as a small business (SB), veteran-owned small business (VOSB), and woman-owned small business (WOSB) company. She is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel. During her 32+ years of military service, Dr. Perkins served as a petroleum officer, transportation officer, and logistician.

Lastly, Dr. Perkins holds a BS, MS, and PhD in Civil Engineering from Southern University, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), and Georgia Institute of Technology, respectively. She is also a licensed professional engineer in the state of Texas.

# PROGRAM PRESENTERS



**Mr. Charles Raleigh**  
*Undergraduate Teaching Assistant*  
*University of Maryland Eastern Shore*

Phone: (443) 810-0322  
Email: cb3raleigh@gmail.com



**Mr. Charles Raleigh** is a senior at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) studying General Engineering with a focus on Electrical, where he works as a teaching assistant in the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences. Mr. Raleigh has also assisted graduate students in their research projects at UMES. He was recently selected as a Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship (DDEF) winner, and was given the chance to discuss his work on obstacle detection at the DDEF Program Research Showcase in Baltimore. For his senior design project, Mr. Raleigh is employing a radar system to detect obstacles. Upon graduation, he is a potential candidate to work for Raytheon as an Associate Engineer for Digital Signal Processing, before returning to the graduate program after a year.



**Ms. Jessica Rich**  
*Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)*  
*Program Manager*  
*Federal Highway Administration*

Phone: (615) 695-4096  
Email: Jessica.Rich@dot.gov



**Ms. Jessica Rich** has a B. S. in Civil Engineering from North Carolina A&T State University and a M. S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Jessica joined the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2003 as a Safety Engineer. For 17 years, she worked for the FHWA Tennessee Division where her responsibilities included implementation of the Tennessee Strategic Highway Safety Plan and the Highway Safety Improvement Program focusing on improving crash data, reducing roadway departures, improving safety at intersections and in work zones and improving safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. In 2021, Jessica was recognized as FHWA Safety Engineer of the Year. In August of 2022, Jessica accepted a new position within the Federal Highway Administration as a program manager for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program, a discretionary grants program, which recently awarded \$800 million local governments for projects aimed at improving road safety and reducing traffic fatalities.



**Mr. Brandon Perry**  
*Research Engineer*  
*Midwest Roadside Safety Facility*  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Phone: (402) 472-0906  
Email: brandon.perry@unl.edu



**Mr. Brandon Perry** received his Bachelor's degree in Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Virginia (UVA). As a graduate research assistant (GRA) at UVA, Brandon studied human body injury tolerance and mechanism caused by shockwave interactions with military vehicles, such as Humvees. He is currently a Research Engineer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Midwest Roadside Safety Facility (MwRSF) where he is focused on running computer simulations evaluating crashworthiness of roadside safety hardware such as portable concrete barriers and single-post sign supports.



**Mr. Quinton Rodgers**  
*Engineer Assistant II*  
*Transportation Department*  
*City of Dallas*

Phone: (214) 549-1564  
Email: quinton.rodgers@dallascityhall.com



**City of Dallas**

**Mr. Quinton M. Rodgers** currently works in the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and Traffic Congestion Management Division for the Transportation Department at the City of Dallas. He is a graduate of both Prairie View A&M University (B.S. in Civil Engineering) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (M.S. in Civil Engineering-concentration in Transportation). While pursuing his degree at Prairie View, Mr. Rodgers served as a Research Assistant for PVAMU and UNL working in the field of Radio Frequency Identification. After graduating from PVAMU, he became a Graduate Research Assistant for the Mid-America Transportation Center while pursuing his master's degree. He also served as mentor for the "Roads, Rails, and Race Cars" club which was responsible for teaching middle school students the basics in civil engineering through interactive activities pertaining to math and science.

Mr. Rodgers is the lead for many projects as it pertains to Signal Controller Programming and Logic, Train & Rail Preemption, Traffic Congestion and Incident Management, Phasing Analysis, and Existing Signal Upgrades. He serves as a direct liaison between the City of Dallas and the Dallas Police Department, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), and Dallas-Garland and Northwestern Railroad (DGNO).

Mr. Rodgers was born and raised in Dallas, Texas (Oak Cliff) where he also works as a musician. His hobbies include family, music, and giving back to the community through service.



**Dr. Luis Vázquez**  
*Regents Professor*  
*Associate Vice President for Research*  
*New Mexico State University*

Phone: (575) 646-5459  
 Email: lvazquez@ad.nmsu.edu

**Dr. Luis A. Vázquez** is a Regents Professor Emeritus at New Mexico State University. Dr. Vázquez earned a B.A. degree from Illinois State University and M.A. in Counseling and Human Development and Ph.D. degree in Counseling Psychology from The University of Iowa. During his tenure at New Mexico State University, he

has served in numerous leadership positions including Associate Vice President for Research, Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Department Head of Counseling and Educational Psychology.

Before coming to New Mexico in 1995, Dr. Vázquez was a senior staff psychologist for the University Counseling Center and Assistant Professor in Rehabilitation Psychology and Substance Abuse at the University of Iowa, and a visiting professor at the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico in Mexico City, Mexico.

A researcher in his own right, Dr. Vázquez was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant to work with underrepresented engineering students. He is also a panel reviewer for the National Science Foundation. His research focus on acculturation, ethnic identity and educational development, and financial literacy, and has resulted in multiple publications and the development of multicultural training videos used across the country in counseling and psychology programs. He facilitated the development of the prescriptive privileges program for psychologists, which led to New Mexico being the first state to pass the law to allow psychologists to prescribe. Dr. Vázquez was appointed by Governor Richardson to serve on the Joint Committee on Prescription Privileges for Psychologists, Rules and Regulations to develop the standards of competency collaborations with the medical field.

Dr. Vázquez has received several awards such as a Presidential Citation from the American Psychological Association for visionary leadership in Psychology, American Psychological Association-Division 45 Distinguished Career Contribution to Service and was a USDA Faculty Fellow, and several Excellence in Teaching Awards.



**Mr. Juhann C. Waller, P.E.**  
*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
*North Carolina Agricultural and*  
*Technical State University*

*CEO/Principal*  
*JC Waller & Associates, PC*

Phone: (336) 334-7575  
 Email: jwaller@jcwaller.com



**Mr. Juhann Waller** is a registered Professional Engineer in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia with 15-plus years of experience in the private consulting practice of civil engineering.

Mr. Waller has experience in the design, management, and construction administration of civil engineering projects in the areas of site development, water and sewer utilities, stormwater design/management, and roadway improvements for higher education, K-12, municipal, public safety, residential and commercial development projects ranging from \$30 thousand to \$200 million dollars (total construction value).

Mr. Waller is the Founder of JC Waller & Associates, PC. As Principal, he provides senior leadership to the company's administrative matters and engineering project management. He provides the overall vision and guidance for the firm's growth and expansion of services and how to best support that growth through defining staffing types and needs, as well as strategic investment efforts and company pursuits. Mr. Waller serves to develop the firm's business by leading the day-to-day operation of the company in accordance with the company's mission and values. He provides an experienced approach to managing the company by having led other organizations as well as owning other profitable businesses.

In addition to leading JC Waller & Associates, PC, he is a member of the North Carolina State Water Infrastructure Authority which is responsible for awarding federal and state funding for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Mr. Waller is a Doctoral Candidate in the College of Design at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina with research interest in resilient infrastructure. He also holds a Master of Science in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Urban Planning and Residential Development from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

# 2023 MATC Scholars Program

<https://matc.unl.edu/about-scholars-program>

The Mid-America Transportation Center greatly appreciates and acknowledges the student, faculty, and speaker support from:



The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment.