

MATC



MID-AMERICA
TRANSPORTATION CENTER

SCHOLARS PROGRAM

October 4th-6th, 2012



<http://matc.unl.edu>



Inform. Innovate. Impact.

MATC is the US DOT-RITA Region 7 University Transportation Center

The goal of the MATC Scholars Program is to promote graduate study among under-represented 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.



2010 MATC Scholars Program Participants

SCHOLARS PROGRAM PRESENTERS



Dr. Laurence Rilett, P.E.
Keith W. Klaasmeyer Chair in Engineering and Technology
Distinguished Professor
Director, Mid-America Transportation Center

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Dr. Laurence R. Rilett is a Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). He also serves as the Director of the UNL Mid-America Transportation Center, which is the U.S. Department of Transportation Region 7 University Transportation Center, and the Nebraska Transportation Center, which is the umbrella organization for all transportation research at the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Rilett received his B.A.Sc. degree and his M.A.Sc. degree from the University of Waterloo and his Ph.D. degree from Queen's University. He has held academic positions as an Assistant Professor and an Associate Professor (1995) at the University of Alberta and as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor at Texas A&M University (TAMU). Additionally, he is a Professional Engineer in the state of Texas.

Dr. Rilett has been a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on over 30 research projects. Dr. Rilett's field of research is in the transportation system analysis area and his specific research may be divided into two main areas: Intelligent Transportation Systems applications and large-scale transportation system modeling. He has authored or co-authored over 60 refereed journal papers and over 70 conference papers based on his research. In 2002 he was awarded the Texas Transportation Institute TTI/Trinity Researcher Award and in 2007 he was awarded the UNL College of Engineering Research Award. Dr. Rilett is an Associate Editor of the ASCE Journal of Transportation Engineering and is on the editorial board of the Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems: Technology, Planning, and Operations.



Dr. Judy A. Perkins, P.E.
TAMU Regents Professor
Professor
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Prairie View A&M University

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Dr. Judy Perkins holds a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Southern University, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), and Georgia Institute of Technology, respectively. Her research has focused on statewide intermodal transportation planning, 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 underground utilities. Dr. Perkins' current research activities involve working on projects funded by an array of state and federal agencies. The agencies are: (1) Mid-American Transportation Center (MATC), (2) National Science Foundation (NSF), (3) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), (4) Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), (5) Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), and the (6) US Department of Transportation (US DOT).

Moreover, 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. Dr. Perkins' extensive record of publication extends into both the national and international transportation and engineering education arenas. Lastly, Dr. Perkins is a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas.



Dr. Erick C. Jones, P.E., CSSBB
Director RFID & Auto ID Deployment Lab
Associate Professor
Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering
University of Texas at Arlington

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Dr. Erick C. Jones is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas in Arlington, and the Director of the UTA RFID and AutoID Deployment (RAID) labs. Previously, he taught and directed the University of Nebraska's RFID Supply Chain Lab, Transportation Logistics Lab and center director for a National Science Foundation Industry/University Research Center as one of the site directors for CELDi. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Industrial Engineering and later attained a MS and PhD in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston. He has held positions in industry that include Engineering Specialist at UPS, Engineering Director at Academy Sports and Outdoors, Engineering Consultant and Project Manager at Tompkins Associates, and Executive Manager at Arthur Anderson, LLP.

Dr. Jones expertise has led him to become an expert in the field of supply chain optimization, distribution logistics and inventory control. His unique background led him to one of the first and largest academic RFID labs in the country. He has published two textbooks on RFID and has edited two industry texts on the subject, and is currently working on a military handbook for RFID and other Automatic Information technologies, which include GPS and satellite tags.

Currently, his research is focused on RFID for US Department of Transportation, Department of Defense Transportation Command, and with NASA JSC. His research studies include RFID, RTLS, and satellite technology development and testing with respect to inventory control. Other research areas include Supply Chain Logistics, Six Sigma Quality Engineering Management, and Knowledge Worker Turnover.



Amy O. Maki, M.Ed.
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Amy O. Maki is the Founder and President of A. O. Maki & Associates, L.L.C., a consulting company that focuses on improving capability, capacity, and effectiveness of individuals and organizations. Her practice provides strategies for successful career and life management and to guide organizations in effective program development and implementation. Maki is a requested speaker, writer, and consultant with over 40 years of experience, presently serving as a consultant to the Hispanic College Fund/NASA. She served as founding Director of Admissions, Student Services, and Community Relations for the University of Washington Bothell; Assistant to the Dean (College of Engineering) for the University of Washington Seattle; Program Manager and Minority-serving Institutions Specialist for MentorNet; and founding Executive Director for the Schick Shadel Foundation. She has served on the Board of The National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc., and is presently on Advisory Board ADVANCED-PAID.

She is author of numerous articles—including “Conference Guide: Maximizing the conference experience” (2012)—and other projects, such as Mentoring Participants’ Guide for NASA’s MUST Mentorship Program.

Maki holds a B.A. from the University of Washington; M.Ed. from the University of Washington Bothell, a Leadership Institute Certificate from the Harvard Consortium Program on Negotiation.

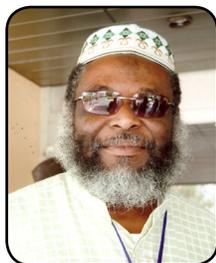


Dr. Edgar R. Blevins
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 Southern University and A & M College

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Dr. Edgar Blevins has a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Southern University and Georgia Tech respectively, both in Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Blevins also has a PhD degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering with a concentration in Engineering Management from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Blevins is currently an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His primary interest is in engineering design and engineering education. He currently teaches engineering mechanics, senior design and engineering management courses in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He also serves as the advisor for the student chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.



Dr. Ibibia K. Dabipi
 Professor
 Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences
 University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

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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. I. K. Dabipi holds the following degrees: a PhD, in Electrical Engineering, 1987; a Master of Science, in Electrical Engineering, 1981, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; a Bachelor of Science, in Electrical Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science in Physics/Mathematics, 1979 from Texas A&I University, Kingsville, Texas. He was the Chair of the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences from 2001 through 2006. Currently, I. K. Dabipi is a Professor of Electrical Engineering in the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Prior to coming to University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, he was the Interim Chairman, and Chairman, of the Electrical Engineering Department at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His experiences include working at Bell Communications Research and AT&T Bell Labs as a member of technical staff during the summers of 1984 through 1987. He has authored or co-authored many technical articles for publications and presentations.



Dr. Deo Chimba, P.E.
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Dr. Deo Chimba, P.E., PTOE is an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at Tennessee State University. He received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from University of Dar es Salaam in 2002, a Master’s of Science in Civil Engineering from Florida State University in 2004 and a PhD in Transportation Engineering from University of Miami in 2008. Dr. Chimba has approximately nine years combined teaching, research and industrial experience in the transportation engineering and planning field. 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 traffic forecasting and demand modeling, highway safety, traffic analysis, traffic simulation, public/transit transportation, bicycle and pedestrian studies and the application of statistics in transportation and civil engineering. He has published quality papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings using advanced statistical modeling techniques for highway safety, traffic analysis, transportation planning and traffic flow studies.



Dr. Terri R. Norton
Assistant Professor
Durham School of Architectural
Engineering and Construction
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Dr. Norton is an Assistant Professor in the Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction, a special unit of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) College of Engineering. She holds a M.S. and Ph.D. in civil engineering from Florida A&M University and a B.S. in civil engineering from Florida State University. Before joining UNL she was a Member of the Technical Staff in the Structural Dynamics Department at The Aerospace Corporation. Dr. Norton's research interests involve evaluating the effects of dynamic loads or hazards on civil structures, bridge assessment

and sustainable building construction. Her current research is on sustainable disaster debris management through the recycling and reuse of disaster debris/waste.

Dr. Norton serves as the principal investigator (PI) for a Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) grant to develop a construction technique that will eliminate the need for a third phase, closure pour during the phased construction of steel girder bridges. She is also a Co-PI on a \$1.2 million Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) grant that involves curriculum development and training for 'Green' jobs. In addition, she has served as the PI on a Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant with the Kiewit Building Group and the City of Omaha Public Works Facility Management Office to perform energy assessment of City facilities. Moreover, Dr. Norton is an Enabling the Next Generation of Hazards and Disasters Researchers Fellow, sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Lastly, she has been a presenter and invited lecturer of structural dynamics and reliability in both the national and international arenas.



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

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Dr. Huggans completed his engineering studies at the University of Missouri-Rolla, receiving his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Engineering Management; he was one of the first African-American males from the University to earn a Ph.D. in this discipline. He is also an alumni of the GEM fellowship program.

Dr. Huggans has over 20 years of industry experience in STEM-related fields. He has worked for 3M, AT&T Bell Laboratories, the Department of Justice-Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Texas Instruments (TI), Inc. He began his career as an intern in the Digital Laboratories Processing Group, where he was a software engineer while operating in several other divisions, including the Technical Sales Associate Program, the Technical Training Organization, the Product Information Center, and the PanelBus Division, also playing a role in Applications Engineering. Later, he ran his own real estate company while teaching Marketing, Management, and Mathematics at the University of Phoenix. He also worked at the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) as the Director of the Student Diversity and Academic Support Program, where under his leadership, UMR experienced unprecedented growth in the recruitment of under-represented minority students in the fields of science and engineering. In 2006, he began working at the National GEM Consortium as a Senior Recruiter and Programs Specialist, and is now the Senior Director of External Relations at GEM, where he recruits and conducts graduate programming to encourage under-represented minority students to pursue graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics (STEM) fields. He also wrote the publications that accompany the entire student programming at GEM. Dr. Huggans has been the recipient of foundation grants through both the Intel and Motorola Foundations in support of GEM student programs. Currently, he resides in Dallas, TX with his wife, Melanie, and his son and daughter, Hannah and Ellis.



Dr. Luis A. Vazquez
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Dr. Luis A. Vázquez is the Associate Vice-President for Research Integrity and a Regents Professor (Endowed Chair). He recently served as the Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Chair of the Institutional Review Board at New Mexico State University. Dr. Vázquez earned his Doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Iowa in 1990. Before coming to New Mexico in 1995, Dr. Vázquez was an assistant professor in Rehabilitation Psychology and Substance Abuse and a senior staff psychologist for the University Counseling Center at The University of Iowa.

Dr. Vázquez's greatest interest is the "empowering" focus of research on the ethnically/racially diverse populations in education. He has published in the areas of acculturation, and educational development, along with developing multicultural training videos used across the country in counseling and psychology programs. Dr. Vázquez has presented in numerous national conferences and has been an invited speaker at National Conventions to address the issues of Academic Success and health disparities in minority populations. Dr. Vázquez has also been a visiting professor at the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico in Mexico City, Mexico. He was recently elected as president for the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minorities Division 45 of the American Psychological Association. He also serves as a member of the Commission on Accreditation for the American Psychological Association, along with being the past-chair of the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest. Among the awards Dr. Vázquez has received are the Presidential Citation from the American Psychological Association for Visionary Leadership in Psychology, USDA Faculty Fellow in Washington D.C., as well as several "Excellence in Teaching Awards." In addition, he has been a consultant to higher education institutions, federal and state agencies, and Fortune 500 companies in the areas of personnel development and policies of diversity.



Dr. Laurie Bellows
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Dr. Laurie Bellows is Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and professor of practice at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has administrative oversight of graduate recruitment, admissions and retention, works with graduate chairs and graduate faculty to facilitate new degree and certificate programs, oversees graduate fellowships, and provides leadership for graduate student professional development, including the Preparing Future Faculty program.

Dr. Bellows also is PI and director of the McNair Scholars Program. Her research publications have focused on graduate student professional development. She received her Ph.D. in Psychological and Cultural Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Dr. Karen Butler-Purry
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Dr. Karen Butler-Purry is the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She received her B.S. (summa cum laude) in Electrical Engineering in 1985 from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She was awarded her M.S. degree in 1987 from the University of Texas at Austin and her Ph.D.

in Electrical Engineering in 1994 from Howard University in Washington, D.C. During her 17 years at Texas A&M University, Karen has served at all faculty levels, beginning with an initial appointment as visiting assistant professor of electrical engineering in 1994.

Her research interests are in the areas of computer and intelligent systems application to power distribution systems, distribution automation and management, fault diagnosis, estimation of remaining life of transformers, intelligent reconfiguration, system modeling and simulation for hybrid vehicles, and engineering education. She developed a successful research program securing over \$4,000,000 in research funding as a principal investigator, and supervised and funded over 40 graduate and 65 undergraduate research students. She received the National Science Foundation Faculty Career Award (1995) and the Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award (1999). Also she secured over \$10,000,000 in fellowship or education program funding and directed several of these programs that target recruitment, retention and advancement of pre-college, college, and graduate students in STEM fields.

She was Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs in the College of Engineering from 2001-2004 and Associate Department Head in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department from 2008-2010. In addition, she has served in many capacities on committees for college, university, and professional societies.

She has received numerous teaching and service awards including the 2005 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Mentor Award for efforts to mentor students from underrepresented groups and for leadership in promoting PhD careers for them in electrical engineering and computer sciences.

Dr. Butler-Purry is a member of the Power Engineering Society, the American Society for Engineering Education, and the Louisiana Engineering Society. She is a registered professional engineer in the states of Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi.



Dr. Howard G. Adams
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Howard G. Adams, Ph.D. is Founder and President of H.G. Adams & Associates, Inc., a Norfolk, VA based consulting company that provides human development services and products to educational, governmental, and industrial organizations. Adams creates, customizes, and facilitates seminars and training workshops for colleges and universities and organizations in the private and public sector.

His expertise is in coaching, leadership, career, planning, human growth and development. He is a sought after keynote speaker and seminar presenter, having spoken at over 600 colleges and universities, numerous national conferences, and conducted training for a number of fortune 500 companies.

From 1978 to 1994 Adams served as Executive Director of the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc. (GEM), headquartered at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN. He retired from GEM in 1995. Prior to joining GEM, Adams served as Vice President for Student Affairs at Norfolk State University, 1974-1977. Adams holds a B.Sc. from Norfolk State University, M.S. from Virginia State University, and a Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

Adams welcomes speaking invitations from universities, associations, companies, or agencies. He can custom-tailor speeches/seminars/workshops to meet the needs of clients, utilizing a large library of proven materials on human resource development and/or academic/career success.



Amanda Herrera

Amanda Herrera is currently a graduate student at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM studying Industrial Engineering and Systems Engineering and plans to graduate in May 2013. Her Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering was also obtained at NMSU. For three years of the undergraduate program,

Ms. Herrera worked as a project manager at a civil engineering firm in Las Cruces. She has goals of becoming acquainted with the technical issues faced in today's society and to demonstrate a thorough competence in understanding quantitative and qualitative research methods as applied to questions related to engineering. Having a diverse background coupled with extensive experience will allow her to provide quality solutions to fit client and community needs.



Quinton Rodgers

Quinton Marsalis Rodgers graduated from Bishop Dunne High School in 2004 and was accepted to the Prairie View A&M university. While pursuing a bachelors degree in civil and environmental engineering, he joined several organizations including NSBE & ASCE. He also had several internships in the field of civil engineering. His first internship was at the Harris County Flood Control

District. In his junior and senior years, Quinton started working on projects in the field of logistics for UNL pertaining to Radio Frequency Identification under the close direction of Dr. Judy A. Perkins and Dr. Eric C. Jones. Quinton's interest for graduate school was sparked here. Quinton Graduated from Prairie View A&M university in December 2009. He was awarded a research assistantship at UNL and started his graduate career there the following Fall. He became a MATC scholar and has worked on various Transportation projects. He is also one of the lead mentors for the Roads Rails and Racecars club, which is an after school engineering club for middle school students. Quinton will be graduating in May.



Jennifer Schmidt

Ms. Schmidt is currently working on her doctoral degree in civil engineering at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. She has been a graduate research assistant at Midwest Roadside Safety Facility for the past four years. Her current research is focusing on the development of a new energy-absorbing roadside barrier.

Previous research includes improving the safety of work-zones and developing and crash testing new roadside safety hardware. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.



Robert Powell

As part of the USDA/1890s National Scholar's program, **Mr. Powell** currently works as a civil engineer for the USDA Forest Service specializing in project management of facilities and roads contracts. Prior to joining the Forest Service full-time, Robert completed his Masters of Science in Transportation and Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Prairie View A&M University, respectively. Upon completing previous commitments with the Forest Service, Mr. Powell plans to earn his PhD and become a lifelong educator and serial entrepreneur.



Velvet Fitzpatrick

Velvet Fitzpatrick is a PhD student in the School of Engineering Education within the College of Engineering (COE) at Purdue University. She currently works with the COE Dean of Graduate Education and Interdisciplinary Programs to build professional development workshops for engineering graduate students. Her

dissertation research focuses on cognitive diversity in engineering and the strengths of students with dyslexia. In 2007, Velvet received her B.S.C.E. from Prairie View A&M University. She earned her M.S.C.E. from Purdue University in 2009.

Velvet has served as a Global Engineering Program Ambassador; Coordinator of the Innovation to Reality (I2R) Program, a free after-school engineering program sponsored by Purdue's Women in Engineering Program, and President of the Engineering Education Graduate Student Association. She has gradually increased her leadership over the years and was chosen to attend the National Science Foundation Engineering Awardees Conference as a 2012 Graduate Engineering Education Consortium for Students (GEECS) Fellow. She is currently a member of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE).



Maurice Cavitt

Mr. Cavitt is a 26 year old native of Dallas, Texas. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Prairie View A&M University in Spring 2009, and his Masters of Science in Industrial and Management Systems Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln under the direction of Dr. Erick C. Jones in Fall

2010. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas at Arlington in the area of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering with an anticipated graduation date of Spring 2013. In addition to his studies, Mr. Cavitt has also served as the President of Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) at University of Nebraska-Lincoln; he is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and many other organizations. Maurice has received funding from NASA fellowships in addition to being an Alfred P. Sloan Scholar. Outside of his studies, Maurice is also a Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt (CSSBB) and is in the process of completing his Certification in Production and Inventory Control (APICS CPIM). Outside of his studies and scholastic involvement, Mr. Cavitt's hobbies include working out, spending time with loved ones and continuously seeking new ways to improve.

SESSION 1

Why Graduate School?

Now that you have completed your undergraduate degree, there are several career options to be considered. Graduate school is an extremely viable option to not only consider, but actually pursue. The benefits to attending graduate school to obtain an advanced degree are endless and so are the reasons to pursue one. This session covers some of the major reasons that individuals attend to pursue advanced degrees, graduate school preparation, factors to consider when beginning the graduate application process, benefits of obtaining a graduate degree, and the various career paths of those that have graduate degrees in the transportation related as well as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

SESSION 2

Choosing A Graduate Program: Making a Short List

The nuances of choosing a graduate program in the context of the student's background, financial environment and relative quality of the programs of interest are articulated. How the issues of online versus traditional coursework considerations as well as matters related to doctoral decision-making process affect the ultimate path taken to achieve the student's graduate school goals is discussed. A synopsis of the process of identifying, evaluating and choosing a program compatible with the needs of the prospective graduate will be examined. Also, the basics of how to create a competitive application packet that contains GRE scores, personal statements and letters of recommendation will be covered.

Session 3

Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances

This session provides students a working knowledge of the process of receiving funds as a graduate student and/or a research assistant. It describes the risks of losing funding due to things such as poor work ethic of the graduate student or program funds eliminated by the funding agency. Establishing a budget, savings, and investing strategies that are flexible enough to support a student with funding and in the case funding is lost, are discussed. Also, strategies for supporting faculty to receive additional funding in order to possibly increase a student's stipend, graduate assistant work ethic, maintaining funding as a master or doctoral student, teaching and research assistantships, finding funding (e.g., GEM, Sloan, Ford, ONR, etc), and critical faculty advisory engagement with student projects are topics covered as well.

SESSION 4

Communication Skills

This session will address the components of active communication—written and oral. The importance of appropriate writing and speaking in academic and corporate settings will be stressed. In the interactive session, participants will be challenged to improve their communication skills through hands-on activities and oral activities. Participants will develop and/or critique their personal statements. Emphasis will also be placed on understanding the role of non-verbal communication cues.

MATC Scholars Program

Thursday, October 4th, 2012

The Why and How of Graduate School

7:00am **Breakfast**

7:30am **Pre-Conference Assessment** (Amanda Richardson)

8:00am **Welcome and MATC Introduction** (Dr. Larry Rilett)

8:30am **Overview of MATC Scholars Program** (Dr. Erick Jones)

8:45am **Overview of UNL** (Dr. Laurie Bellows)

9:00am **College of Engineering Welcome: Dean Tim Wei**

9:05am **UNL Welcome: Chancellor Harvey Perlman**

9:10am **Break**

9:25am **Sessions 1-3, Rotation 1**

Session 1 - **Why Graduate School** (Dr. Perkins)

Blue group 362 Conference Room

Session 2 - **Choosing A Graduate Program: Making a Short List** (Dr. Dabipi)

Red group 330 Conference Room

Session 3 - **Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances** (Dr. Jones)

136 Conference Room (yellow group)

10:40am **Break**

10:55am **Sessions 1-3, Rotation 2**

Session 2 - **Choosing A Graduate Program: Making a Short List** (Dr. Dabipi)

362 Conference Room (blue group)

Session 3 - **Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances** (Dr. Jones)

330 Conference Room (red group)

Session 1 - **Why Graduate School** (Dr. Perkins)

136 Conference Room (yellow group)

11:40am **Depart for Lunch at Windsor Stables**

12:00pm **Welcome** (Dr. Prem Paul, Vice-Chancellor for Research, UNL)

12:05pm **Keynote Presentation** (Dr. Luiz Vazquez)

1:15pm **GEM Overview and Opportunities** (Dr. Chimba & Dr. Huggans)

344 Whittier Board Room

2:15pm **Sessions 1-3, Rotation 3**

Session 3 - **Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances** (Dr. Jones)

362 Conference Room (blue group)

Session 1 - **Why Graduate School** (Dr. Perkins)

330 Conference Room (red group)

Session 2 - **Choosing A Graduate Program: Making a Short List** (Dr. Dabipi)

136 Conference Room (yellow group)

3:15pm **Break**

3:30pm **Group Photo**

3:45pm **Town Hall Wrap-Up** (Ms. Maki & Dr. Norton)

344 Whittier Board Room

4:45pm **Opportunities for MATC Partnership-AGAP and MATC Intern Program** (Faculty Only)

4:45pm **Students Adjourn and Travel to Hotel**

6:00pm **Networking Reception**

Offsite at Apothecary Lofts

Friday, October 5th, 2012

Strategies for Succeeding in Graduate School

8:00am **Breakfast Social Media & The Scholar** (Valerie Lefler)

9:15am **Sessions 4-6, Rotation 1**

Program Agenda

Session 4 - **Communication Skills** (Ms. Maki)

362 Conference Room (blue group)

Session 5 - **Graduate School Student Experience** (Dr. Chimba)

330 Conference Room (red group)

Session 6 - **Choosing Faculty Mentors & Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success** (Dr. Blevins)

136 Conference Room (yellow group)

10:15am Break

10:30am Sessions 4-6, Rotation 2

Session 5 - **Graduate School Student Experience** (Dr. Chimba)

362 Conference Room (blue group)

Session 6 - **Choosing Faculty Mentors & Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success** (Dr. Blevins)

330 Conference Room (red group)

Session 4 - **Communication Skills** (Ms. Maki)

136 Conference Room (yellow group)

11:30am Lunch & Keynote (Dr. Karen Butler-Purry)

344 Whittier Board Room

1:15pm Proven Results: Success Stories & Peer Mentoring Panel

136 Conference Room

2:15pm Sessions 4-6, Rotation 3

Session 6 - **Choosing Faculty Mentors & Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success** (Dr. Blevins)

362 Conference Room (blue group)

Session 4 - **Communication Skills** (Ms. Maki)

330 Conference Room (red group)

Session 5 - **Graduate School Student Experience** (Dr. Chimba)

136 Conference Room (yellow group)

3:15pm Break

3:30pm Research Experiences for Undergraduates (Dr. Bellows)

4:15pm Town Hall Wrap-Up (Ms. Maki & Dr. Norton)

5:00pm Break

5:15pm Focus Group Dialogue & Assessment (Amanda Richardson)

6:30pm Closing Dinner & Keynote (Dr. Howard Adams)

Offsite at The Grand Manse

Saturday October 6th, 2012

Industry & Graduate Expo: Recruitment & Opportunities

7:30am Breakfast and Checkout at Hotel

8:45am Travel to Whittier Research Center

9:15am Graduate School & Private Sector Opportunities

10:15am Undergraduate Research & Study Abroad Experiences

11:00am Post Survey (Amanda Richardson)

11:30am Closing Remarks (Dr. Rilett)

12:00pm Adjourn

Session 5

Graduate School Student Experience

Graduate school is an opportunity for individuals to expand their knowledge and choices for their future careers. While it is an advanced level of learning compared to undergraduate studies, graduate school can be associated with challenges which the student needs to be prepared for. Students need prior knowledge of how to choose program of study, meet admission requirements, meet advisor expectations, connect with the right groups, and how to register for the right classes. All these can be summed up as graduate school experience and challenges. The challenges can be questioning yourself if all the investment you are putting in that education is worthwhile, how marketable you will be after graduating, which career path will follow after you graduate, etc. Furthermore, a student's mentality, networking with other students and expectations from the faculty advisor are all part of the experience and challenges which a graduate student has to be prepared for. This session will discuss the graduate school experience and challenges. Discussion will be targeted to different experiences and challenges a graduate student should expect from the time he/she is admitted to graduate school to the time of graduation.

Session 6

Choosing Faculty Mentors & Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success

The role of mentoring in graduate school is a well-documented strategy that provides students with coaching, counseling, and nurturing support essential to developing academically, personally, and professionally. This session provides information on how to identify and select a faculty mentor as well as seek mentors from a variety of other communities (e.g., peers and other key personnel within and outside the university). The topics covered include getting a student's perspectives of what is a faculty mentor, gaining a good understanding about what to look for in a faculty mentor, finding a mentor and mentoring communities that match the student's needs, the benefits of a positive relationship between a mentor and mentee, what is expected from a mentor and mentoring communities, understand the social environment when attending graduate school, understand the difference between a faculty mentor and an academic advisor, and providing insight into what students may experience during graduate school. The overall goal of this session is to show that faculty mentors and mentoring communities are essential to the success of graduate students.

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