



MID-AMERICA  
TRANSPORTATION CENTER

# SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**October 28-31**

**Lincoln, NE**



**N**

**2015**

***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 under-represented students into STEM-related fields.***



# 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 currently serves as the Associate Director of the University Transportation Center for Railway Safety, a Tier 1 U.S. Department of Transportation University Transportation Center at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

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 of Assistant Professor and an Associate Professor at the University of Alberta, and Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor at Texas A&M University. Additionally, he is a professional engineer in the state of Texas.

Dr. Rilett has been a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on over 50 research projects. His field of research is transportation system analysis, which 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 90 conference papers based on his research. In 2002 he was awarded the Texas Transportation Institute TTI/Trinity Researcher Award and in 2007 he received 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  
Department of 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**

**Program Director  
National Science Foundation**

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**Dr. Erick Jones**, a Professor in the Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering Department at the University of Texas at Arlington, received his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston in 2003. In addition to teaching, Jones currently serves as the Program Director for the STEM Professional Workforce Preparation (EHR Core Research) and the Graduate Research Fellowship Programs at the National Science Foundation. Jones's research interests include radio frequency identification, supply chain management, logistics, operations research, and lean Six Sigma. In his career, he has received support that equates to over \$5.2 million from several federal funding agencies, including the National Science Foundation, NASA, and Department of Transportation. Additionally, he has originated and directed a federally funded Industry/University Cooperative Research Center and an Alfred P. Sloan Minority Ph.D. Program Center, and also worked with local corporate and economic development partners for research in RFID and AutoID technology development and integration into supply chain and logistics, manufacturing, and healthcare initiatives. He also facilitates local research partnerships with K-12, community colleges, medical centers and international collaborations that support graduate student recruitment and undergraduate research experiences.

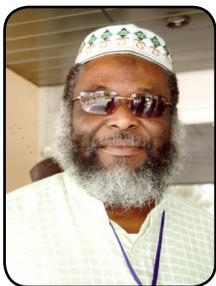


**Dr. Edgar R. Blevins**  
 Professor  
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 Southern University and A & M College

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**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 is currently a 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, engineering economics, statistics, technical communications, and introduction to engineering courses in the Mechanical Engineering Department.



**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. Dr. Dabipi holds the following degrees: a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, 1987; a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1981; a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Physics/Mathematics, 1979 from Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas. He was the Chair of the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences from 2001 through 2006. Currently, Dr. 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 Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the Tennessee State University. He received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from University of Dar es Salaam in 2002, Master 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 twelve 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 interest includes 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.



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

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**Dr. Luis Vázquez** is the Associate Vice-President for Research Integrity and a Regents Professor (Endowed Chair). He earned his Ph.D. 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, developed multicultural training videos used across the country, and spoke at conventions to address Academic Success and health disparities in minority populations. He was recently elected President for the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minorities Division 45 of the APA. Dr. Vázquez has received the Presidential Citation from the APA for Visionary Leadership in Psychology, USDA Faculty Fellow in Washington D.C., and several “Excellence in Teaching Awards.” In addition, he has been a consultant to higher education institutions, federal and state agencies, and Fortune 500 companies regarding 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 is responsible for providing 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. Velvet Fitzpatrick**  
 Program Officer  
 Transportation Research Board of the National  
 Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine

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**Dr. Velvet Fitzpatrick** is a Program Officer with the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Washington, D.C. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Prairie View A&M University in 2007 and went on to earn both her Master of Science in Civil Engineering and Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering Education from Purdue University.

While studying at Purdue, Velvet worked for the Minority Engineering Program (MEP), Women in Engineering Program (WIEP), Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), and College of Engineering Graduate Programs, during which she facilitated the launch of the Innovation to Reality (I2R) program and Future Engineering Faculty and Professionals (FEFP) program. Select awards include the Engineering Education Graduate Student Service Award (2014), Reinvigorating Engineering and Changing History (REACH) Fellowship (2014), Engineering Education Outstanding Leadership Award (2013), Keynote at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) for Visual Learning (LVL) IncTech Summer Workshop (2013), and Graduate Engineering Education Consortium for Students (GEECS) Fellowship (2012).



**Dr. Maurice Cavitt**  
**Industrial Engineering Manager, North America**  
**Mars Food – Uncle Ben’s Rice**

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**Dr. Maurice Cavitt** is a 29 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 completed his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Arlington in the area of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering in spring 2013. In addition to his studies, Dr. Cavitt has 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 (CLSSBB) and a Project Managing Professional (PMP) through the Project Management Institute (PMI). Dr. Cavitt’s hobbies include working out, spending time with loved ones, and continuously seeking new ways to improve.



**Mr. Quinton M. Rodgers**  
**Assistant Engineer**  
**City of Dallas**

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**Quinton Marsalis Rodgers** graduated from Bishop Dunne High School in 2004 and was accepted to Prairie View A&M University. While pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering, he joined several organizations including NSBE and ASCE. He also had several internships in the field of Civil Engineering; the first 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. Erick C. Jones. Quinton’s interest in 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 semester. He became a MATC scholar and has worked on various transportation projects. He was 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 graduated from the University of Nebraska in the summer of 2013 with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering/Transportation. Quinton has worked as an Associate Engineer for a private civil engineering firm in Houston, Texas. He is currently an Assistant Engineer at the City of Dallas for the Streets Services/Transportation/ITS Department. Quinton was also recently elected to be the representative for the Streets Department for the Employee Advisory Council.



**Ms. Elaine E. Armster**  
**President**  
**Linkscape360**

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**Elaine E. Armster** joined the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in November 2004. During her tenure as the Special Projects Chief, Ms. Armster managed GDOT’s Bicycle and Pedestrian program, Georgia Scenic Byways, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, and the Transportation Enhancement (TE) program. Throughout her GDOT career, Ms. Armster was featured as both a lecturer and guest columnist regarding best practices for an array of transportation topics. Recently, Ms. Armster was tapped as the President of Linkscape360 LLC, a connectivity planning firm that specializes in project management and designing synergistic systems for multi-use developments and transportation projects. Ms. Armster graduated magna cum laude from Florida A & M University (FAMU) and earned her Master’s degree in City Planning from the College of Architecture at Georgia Tech. In 2010, Ms. Armster completed the Tuck Executive Education Program at DARTMOUTH. Ms. Armster currently serves on the Board of Directors of the FAMU Foundation. She is an avid tennis player and provides volunteer leadership on several trustee boards in the support of women’s initiatives and the Arts.



**Dr. Lance Pérez**  
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**Dr. Lance Pérez** is a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the Dean of Graduate Studies. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Virginia, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Pérez has experience in projects related to coding, real-time localization, smart spaces, stereoscopic image processing, and wireless sensors. He also leads the UNL Academic Knowledge Management Initiative (AKMI), academic program reviews and initiatives for faculty career development, excellence in STEM education, instructional technology, and classroom facilities improvements.



**Ms. Teresa Bradley**  
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 The Princeton Review

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**Teresa Bradley** is the High School and Graduate School Territory Manager in the St. Louis Office of The Princeton Review. She oversees marketing efforts to and customer service support for students, parents, counselors, and advisors in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. Her favorite part of her job is alleviating the stress that surrounds standardized testing through educational presentations and hands-on preparation consultations.

Prior to joining The Princeton Review full-time in 2013, Bradley served as a Princeton Review ACT/SAT/PSAT teacher and tutor as well as Operations Assistant in the Princeton Review-St. Louis office. She earned her B.A. at Truman State University in Business Administration: Marketing and Public Communications.



**Mr. Juhann Waller, P.E.**  
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**Mr. Waller** is a registered Professional Engineer in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia with a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. His professional practice and research is focused on transportation design and planning, site design and planning, water resources design and planning, engineering education, and minority outreach. Mr. Waller is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University and the Owner/CEO of JC Waller & Associates, professional corporation, civil engineering and surveying consulting firm in Greensboro, NC.

**The Dwight David Eisenhower  
 Transportation Fellowship Program**

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**Dr. Ella Lee Kelley****1948 – 2015**

Dr. Ella Lee Kelley was from Monroe, Louisiana and began to thrive academically at an early age. She continued to excel academically throughout her secondary educational years and was selected to serve as the Valedictorian of the Richardson High School Class of 1966. Dr. Kelley went on to college to pursue and earn a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at Northeast Louisiana University, a Master's degree in Chemistry from Southern University and A&M College, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Biochemistry from Louisiana State University.

In 1984, Dr. Kelley joined the faculty of Southern University and A & M College located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Kelley was the founding mother and co-Director of the Timbuktu Academy from 1990 to 2015. She and Dr. Robert L. Ford received - with the Timbuktu Academy - the US Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (US-PAESMEM) in 2003. During her tenure as a Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Kelley authored over a dozen refereed technical publications in biochemistry, teaching, mentoring, and learning strategies. Her most recent administrative positions included serving as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs from 2011 - 2015 as well as the Dean of the Dolores Richard Spikes Honors College from 2010 - 2015.

Lastly, Dr. Kelley was married to Dr. Diola Bagayoko, a Physics Professor at Southern University and A & M College. To their union were born three children: Namory Djigui Bagayoko, an orthopedic surgeon; Kelley Elizabeth Bagayoko Adams, an attorney, and William Cherif Bagayoko, a computer scientist. Dr. Kelley was a devoted and caring mother who invested her time and resources to ensure the success of her children and any child in her reach. Dr. Ella Lee Kelley will surely be missed.



2010 Scholars Program Participants and Faculty

# Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Time	Agenda Item	Location
6:00 p.m.	Participant Arrival and Check-in	Holiday Inn, Red Onion Bistro
7:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception	Holiday Inn, Arbor Room

# Thursday, October 29, 2015

## Theme: The Why and How of Graduate School

Time	Agenda Item	Location
6:30-7:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Holiday Inn, Red Onion Bistro
7:15-7:45 a.m.	Transition from Hotel to Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center (NIC)	Holiday Inn, Entrance
7:45-8:15 a.m.	Pre-conference Assessment	NIC B1-B2
	<b>Ms. Lindsey Witt-Swanson</b> Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR), University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
8:15-8:30 a.m.	UNL Welcome and MATC Introduction	NIC B1-B2
	<b>Dr. Larry Rilett, P.E.</b> MATC & NTC Director, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Overview of MATC Scholars Program	NIC B1-B2
	<b>Dr. Judy Perkins, P.E.</b> Prairie View A&M University	
8:45-8:50 a.m.	UNL College of Engineering Welcome	NIC B1-B2
	<b>Dr. Timothy Wei</b> Dean, College of Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
8:50-8:55 a.m.	UNL Welcome	NIC B1-B2
	<b>Dr. Steve Goddard</b> Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Nebraska- Lincoln	
8:55-9:00 a.m.	Break	NIC

# Thursday, October 29, 2015

## AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Location
9:00-9:40 a.m.	<b>Rotation 1: Group A</b>	<b>NIC C</b>
	<i>Why Graduate School?</i> <b>Mr. Juhann Waller, P.E.</b> North Carolina A&T State University	
9:00-9:40 a.m.	<b>Rotation 1: Group B</b>	<b>NIC B3</b>
	<i>Graduate School Student Experiences</i> <b>Dr. Deo Chimba, P.E.</b> Tennessee State University	
9:40-10:20 a.m.	<b>Rotation 1: Group A</b>	<b>NIC C</b>
	<i>Choosing a Graduate Program: Making a Short List</i> <b>Dr. Ibibia Dabipi</b> University of Maryland-Eastern Shores	
9:40-10:20 a.m.	<b>Rotation 1: Group B</b>	<b>NIC B3</b>
	<i>Choosing Faculty Mentors &amp; Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success</i> <b>Dr. Edgar Blevins</b> Southern University	
10:20-10:50 a.m.	<b>Tour of Nebraska Innovation Studio - UNL Makerspace</b>	<b>NIC Innovation Studio</b>
	<b>Dr. Shane Farritor</b> Professor, Mechanical and Materials Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
10:50-11:30 a.m.	<b>Rotation 2: Group A</b>	<b>NIC B3</b>
	<i>Graduate School Student Experiences</i> <b>Dr. Deo Chimba, P.E.</b> Tennessee State University	
10:50-11:30 a.m.	<b>Rotation 2: Group B</b>	<b>NIC C</b>
	<i>Why Graduate School?</i> <b>Mr. Juhann Waller, P.E.</b> North Carolina A&T State University	
11:30 a.m.- 12:10 p.m.	<b>Rotation 2: Group A</b>	<b>NIC B3</b>
	<i>Choosing Faculty Mentors &amp; Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success</i> <b>Dr. Edgar Blevins</b> Southern University	
11:30 a.m.- 12:10 p.m.	<b>Rotation 2: Group B</b>	<b>NIC C</b>
	<i>Choosing a Graduate Program: Making a Short List</i> <b>Dr. Ibibia Dabipi</b> University of Maryland-Eastern Shores	

# Thursday, October 29, 2015

## AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Location
12:10-1:10 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b> Getting to Know UNL Faculty	NIC B1-B2
1:10-1:30 p.m.	<b>Group Photo</b>	NIC
1:30-2:30 p.m.	<b>Overview of UNL Graduate Studies &amp; Importance of Research Experiences for Undergraduates</b> <b>Dr. Laurie Bellows</b> Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, University of Nebraska- Lincoln	NIC B1-B2
2:30-3:30 p.m.	<b>Graduate School Admissions Exams Overview</b> <b>Ms. Teresa Bradley</b> Territory Manager, Princeton Review	NIC B1-B2
3:30-4:10 p.m.	<b>Rotation 3: Group A</b> <i>Communication Skills</i> <b>Dr. Judy Perkins, P.E.</b> Prairie View A&M University	NIC C
3:30-4:10 p.m.	<b>Rotation 3: Group B</b> <i>Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances</i> <b>Dr. Luiz Vazquez</b> New Mexico State University	NIC B3
4:10-4:50 p.m.	<b>Rotation 4: Group A</b> <i>Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances</i> <b>Dr. Luiz Vazquez</b> New Mexico State University	NIC B3
4:10-4:50 p.m.	<b>Rotation 4: Group B</b> <i>Communication Skills</i> <b>Dr. Judy Perkins, P.E.</b> Prairie View A&M University	NIC C
4:50-5:00 p.m.	<b>Wrap-Up and Adjourn</b>	NIC B1-B2
5:00-5:30 p.m.	<b>Transition from NIC to Hotel</b>	
5:30-6:00 p.m.	<b>Explore Downtown Lincoln (Optional)</b>	
6:00-8:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b> Getting to Know UNL Faculty	Lazlo's Brewery & Grill

# Friday, October 30, 2015

## Theme: Graduate Education Funding Opportunities & Perspectives from the Transportation Profession

Time	Agenda Item	Location
6:30-7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, Red Onion Bistro</b>
7:30-8:00 a.m.	<b>Transition from Hotel to Whittier Research Center (WHIT)</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, Entrance</b>
8:00-8:30 a.m.	<b>UNL Graduate Studies: Meeting with the Dean</b>  <b>Dr. Lance C. Pérez</b> Professor and Dean of Graduate Studies & Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	<b>WHIT 344A</b>
8:30-9:30 a.m.	<b>NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and Internship Programs</b>  <b>Dr. Erick Jones, P.E.</b> Program Director, STEM Professional Workforce Preparation (EHR Core Research) and the Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP) Programs, National Science Foundation	<b>WHIT 344A</b>
9:30-10:30 a.m.	<b>Eisenhower Fellowship Program and Fellowships/Scholarships for STEM Disciplines</b>  <b>Ms. Fawn Thompson</b> Universities & Grants Program, Team Leader, US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technology Partnership Programs	<b>WHIT 344A</b>
10:30-10:45 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	<b>WHIT 344A</b>
10:45-11:45 a.m.	<b>Future Transportation Workforce Needs</b>  <b>Ms. Elaine Armster</b> Former Special Projects Chief, Georgia Department of Transportation	<b>WHIT 344A</b>
11:45 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	<b>Transition to Lunch</b>	<b>WHIT 251</b>
12:00-1:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>  <b>Dr. Velvet Fitzpatrick</b> Program Officer, Studies and Special Programs Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	<b>WHIT 251</b>

# Friday, October 30, 2015

## AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Location
<b>1:00-2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Voices From the Field: Success Stories</b>	<b>WHIT 344A</b>
	<p><b>Dr. Maurice D. Cavitt</b> Industrial Engineering Manager for North America, Mars Food – Uncle Ben’s Rice</p> <p><b>Mr. Quinton Rodgers</b> Assistant Engineer, City of Dallas, Streets Division – Transportation</p> <p><b>Ms. Gabriela Perales</b> Graduate Research Assistant, Nebraska Transportation Center</p>	
<b>2:00-2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Lab Tour</b>	<b>WHIT ITS Lab</b>
<b>2:30-3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Transition to Othmer Hall and College of Business Administration (CBA)</b>	<b>Othmer 106, CBA 109</b>
<b>3:00-3:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Department Tour</b>	<b>Othmer 106, CBA 109</b>
<b>3:45-4:15 p.m.</b>	<b>UNL Bookstore Visit</b>	<b>NE Union, Lower Level</b>
<b>4:15-4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>NE Union</b>
<b>4:30-5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Focus Group Dialogue and Assessment</b>	<b>Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center</b>
	<p><b>Ms. Lindsey Witt-Swanson</b> Assistant Director, Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR), University of Nebraska-Lincoln</p>	
<b>5:30-6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Transition from Session to Dinner</b>	<b>Pick-up at NE Union</b>
<b>6:00-8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing Dinner</b>	<b>Windsor Stables</b>
	<p><b>Dr. Luis Vazquez</b> Regents Professor, Associate Vice President for Research Integrity, New Mexico State University</p>	

# Saturday, October 31, 2015

## Theme: Highlights from Region 7 Institutions

Time	Agenda Item	Location
7:00-8:45 a.m.	<b>Breakfast and Check-out</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, Red Onion Bistro</b>
8:45-9:00 a.m.	<b>Transition from Breakfast to Sessions</b>	
9:00-10:00 a.m.	<b>MATC Region 7 Highlights</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, Nebraska Room (Lower Level)</b>
10:00-10:30 a.m.	<b>Post-conference Assessment</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, Nebraska Room (Lower Level)</b>
	<p><b>Ms. Lindsey Witt-Swanson</b> Assistant Director, Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR), University of Nebraska-Lincoln</p>	
10:30-10:45 a.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, Nebraska Room (Lower Level)</b>
	<p><b>Dr. Larry Rilett, P.E.</b> MATC &amp; NTC Director, University of Nebraska-Lincoln</p> <p><b>Dr. Judy Perkins, P.E.</b> Prairie View A&amp;M University</p>	
10:45-11:00 a.m.	<b>Group Photo</b>	<b>Holiday Inn</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Pick-up Boxed Lunches and Adjourn</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, Nebraska Room (Lower Level)</b>



## 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 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 or program funds eliminated by the funding agency. Establishing a budget, savings, and investing strategies that are flexible enough to support a student with or without funding are discussed. Other topics include: 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, and teaching and research.



## 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.

## SESSION 5

### *Graduate School Student Experience*

Since graduate school is an advanced level of learning compared to undergraduate studies, it is associated with new challenges that students must prepare for. Students need to know how to choose a program of study, meet admission requirements and advisor expectations, connect with the right groups, and register for the right classes. Further, a student's mentality, networking with other students, and expectations from the faculty advisor are all part of the challenges that a graduate student will face. This session will discuss the graduate school challenges and will target different experiences a graduate student should expect throughout their program.

## SESSION 6

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

Mentoring in graduate school 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 and mentors from other communities. The topics covered include: students' perspectives of faculty mentors, what to look for in a faculty mentor and finding good match, the benefits of a positive mentor/mentee relationship, what is expected from a mentor, the social environment of graduate school, the difference between a faculty mentor and an academic advisor, and insight into what students may experience during grad school. The 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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