

Transportation Tidbits



December 2017

Greetings!

Welcome to the December issue of the Transportation Tidbits Newsletter! This issue features the latest happenings within the transportation industry along with a list of upcoming transportation conferences and webinars. You can also find some of the latest news from our faculty and students! If you have questions or comments about this month's issue, please [let us know](#). Enjoy!

Important Dates for NDSU Students

12/4-8- Dead Week

12/5- Grade entry begins

12/8- Last day of Fall classes

12/11-15- Final Examinations

12/15- Late fees applied to unpaid account balances

12/15- Graduate student Final Disquisition copy due for December graduation

12/15- Commencement ceremony

The holiday season is upon us, and as we prepare for this time we are reminded to be thankful for what we have. To help you celebrate the rest of 2017 and kick 2018 off on the right foot, here is a list of ways to give back to your family, friends and community compiled by Todd Durkin, a personal trainer, best-selling author, and motivational speaker.

1. Create a care package and send it to an active duty military unit.
2. Host a holiday dinner at your home this year and invite another family less able to host their own dinner.
3. Clean out the clothes in your closet that you haven't worn in a year and donate them to Goodwill.
4. Surprise your mail carrier/ UPS Driver/ salon stylist/ gardener/ housekeeper with a \$5 or \$10 gift card in a thank you note.
5. Select one of your favorite books you read this year and gift it to someone who would enjoy it.
6. Invite a friend over for a home cooked meal.
7. Stop by a local nursing home and ask if there is someone without family or friends who might enjoy an unexpected visitor for 15 or 20 minutes.



12/19- Grades due

12/19- Fall grade access begins online

12/25- Holiday-Christmas Day observed (offices closed)

Recent News Updates

Taking a Front Seat to Technology at New Flyer's Vehicle Innovation Center

DOT Relaunches Airline Consumer Website

Celebrating the 50th Annual Secretary's Awards Ceremony

Check for Vehicle Recalls

FHWA Goes Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Virgin Islands & Puerto Rico

8. Volunteer to help out or cook for the homeless one holiday morning.
9. Run in a charity Jingle Bell race where all of the proceeds go to a charitable cause.
10. Write a positive Yelp review about a local business you appreciate.
11. Donate blood this month. Remember: a pint of blood can save up to three lives. Locate your nearest blood drive.
12. Get involved with a philanthropic activity your church is sponsoring in the community.
13. Donate cat or dog food to an animal shelter. Call and ask what is needed.
14. Clear off your bookshelves and donate a box of books to a local charity (Friends of the Library, homeless shelters, etc.).
15. Perform at least one random act of kindness every day.
16. Make arrangements to donate your gently read magazines to the local hospital. Stop by quarterly with a small box of magazines you have finished reading.
17. Contact the Big Brother/Big Sister program and see if there are any volunteer opportunities this month.
18. Write an inspirational note to 10 people in your life and thank them for what they do on a regular basis - choose randomly from your family and friends.
19. Sponsor or "scholarship" a friend, family member, or co-worker for a conference, event, class, certification or workshop this person really wants to participate in but can't afford.
20. Leave gratitude notes for your family / co-workers / friends to find when they would least expect it - inside a lunch box, taped to their computer screen, on the bathroom mirror, inside their luggage, in the pocket of a jacket, etc

Think of how many peoples' days you could brighten if you just picked two items from the list!

Sources:

<http://www.livebeaming.com/2013/12/23-ways-to-give-back-in-december/>

<http://clipping.com/free-snowman-cliptart-2217/>

UGPTI in the Spotlight

North Dakota Grain and Oil seed Transportation Statistics, 2016-17

Monthly Grain Industry Reports Updated

November Tribal Transportation Outreach Newsletter

Western Dakota Energy Association Hears from UGPTI

Wentz and Horner Present to NDACo

Webinars

Nothing to report at this time.

Upcoming Conferences

- Sixth International Human Factors Rail Conference
 - November 6-9, 2017, London, UK
- Second Pan American conference on Unsaturated Soils
 - November 12-15, 2017, Dallas, Texas
- 29th Road Profile Users Group Conference
 - November 14-16, 2017, Denver, Colorado
- 2017 National Accelerated Bridge Construction Conference
 - December 7-8, 2017, Miami, Florida

- 4th Conference of Transportation Research Group of India
 - December 17-20, 2017, Mumbai, India

Workshops/ Meetings

Nothing to report at this time.

Meet the 89-Year Old Who Built a Train in His Backyard #WIRED



NDSU UPPER GREAT PLAINS
TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE