UGPTI trains contractors in project management for NDDOT

UGPTI helped 158 contractors, engineering technicians, project engineers and consultants learn the processes, practices and procedures required for managing construction projects for the ND Department of Transportation.

UGPTI's engineering training manager Brian Fuder organized five two-day trainings in Bismarck and Fargo during April and May. "We want to help contractors learn the nuts and bolts of managing projects for the NDDOT so that things progress smoothly during North Dakota's short, but intense construction season," Fuder said.

Course input was provided by staff from the Federal Highway Administration and the NDDOT. The participants learned about job startup requirements, managing project work, conflict resolution, materials testing, project closeout, documentation and other topics. Participants ranged from their first year in the industry to those with more than 30 years of NDDOT project management experience. There was a mix of participants from both the NDDOT and consultant firms from throughout the region.

UGPTI will hold another workshop in Fargo in mid-June and is working with the NDDOT on plans for a repeat of the course next winter and spring. UGPTI is also developing a workshop focused on helping contractors meet erosion control requirements established for construction projects by the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration.
approach to EMS service design

An NDSU researcher combined geographic information systems and computerized spatial analysis tools in a new approach to designing service coverage for emergency medical services in rural areas.

The research and a case study of its use in western North Dakota is described in an article, "Designing Service Coverage and Measuring Accessibility and Serviceability of Rural and Small Urban Ambulance Systems," written by EunSu Lee, an associate research fellow with NDSU's Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute. The article was published in Systems, an international open access journal on systems engineering and systems management. To view an abstract or download the entire article, go to [http://www.mdpi.com/2079-8954/2/1/34](http://www.mdpi.com/2079-8954/2/1/34)
UGPTI helps truckers, transport companies learn about road and bridge weight limits

Since November, the UGPTI provided training to more than 300 employees from construction companies, North Dakota counties, companies serving the oil industry, agricultural equipment companies, and other industries interested in making sure their trucks comply with state weight regulations.

The attendees learned about seasonal road weight limits, how to haul the most legal weight without violating truck-weight laws, how to configure trucks for proper hauling, and other topics during the two-day workshops held in Dickinson, Fargo, Grafton, Jamestown, Mandan, Minot, Washburn, West Fargo, and Williston. Instructors included current and former members of the Motor Carrier Operations division of the North Dakota Highway Patrol. The training was funded by the North Dakota Department of Transportation and coordinated by the NDLTAP and the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

"The tools that were given to us were great. It's been a great, great seminar. If I could have taken my entire office, I would have. It's great information for us and for us to pass along to our clients," noted Kelly Krapu with Compliance and Safety Services, Inc. of Fargo. "I would absolutely recommend it to any of my clients." Krapu attended the April 25 training in West Fargo.

The UGPTI is working with the NDDOT to offer the course again next winter and spring with an emphasis on providing information targeted to agricultural producers.

Bismarck office gets new look

After a recent visit to Bismarck, NDSU President Bresciani, contacted UGPTI and asked if his office could arrange to have new signage erected for the UGPTI's office there. The new signs better reflect NDSU's institutional image and improve UGPTI's visibility in downtown Bismarck. In conjunction with some interior hallway remodeling, UGPTI also recently
installed new interior signage at the Bismarck office.

UGPTI Director invited to comment at meeting with U.S. Secretary of Transportation

UGPTI Director Denver Tolliver was invited to make comments at a rural transportation roundtable discussion with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, April 24 in West Fargo. Tolliver was part of a panel that also included state and local officials. Tolliver’s comments focused primarily on the need to upgrade regional rail infrastructure as well as the need for government help for those upgrades. The event was organized by Senator Heidi Heitkamp and Senator John Hoeven. For more on the meeting, visit: http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/23183/

Bridgelall is invited presenter at SPIE Symposium

Raj Bridgelall presented “A Participatory Sensing Approach to
Characterize Ride Quality’ at the SPIE Smart Structures and Nondestructive Evaluation Symposium March 9-13 in San Diego. SPIE is the international society for optics and photonics. The paper was presented during a session on sensors and smart structures technologies for civil, mechanical, and aerospace systems and was attended by about 50 industry professionals, university professors and graduate students.

Bridgelall was invited to present at the conference by the editor of the track on non-destructive evaluation. His paper highlighted the opportunity to use technologies such as smart phones, social media and the connected vehicle environment to generate continuous network-wide, ride-quality data.

To read the abstract, go to: http://proceedings.spiedigitallibrary.org/proceeding.aspx?articleid=1846292&resultClick=1

UGPTI work featured in Bakken Oil Report

UGPTI’s studies to estimate the roadway needs for county and township governments in order to improve the accuracy of road planning efforts is highlighted in the Spring 2014 issue of the Bakken Oil Report. The article was requested by the publication’s editors and was written by UGPTI researcher Alan Dybing. To read the article, go to http://issuu.com/delcomminc/docs/bakken_oil_report_spring_2014?e=5613582/5177006. The article appears on pages 90-91.

Transportation students see course applications in visit to MetroCOG

Members of the NDSU student chapter of the Association of Transportation and Logistics learned how knowledge from transportation and logistics courses are used in the real world during a visit to the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments.
Nine students, all Ph.D. students in transportation and logistics, visited the FM Metro COG's offices in the central business district of Fargo. Executive director Wade Kline hosted the Feb. 28 tour. Discussion during the visit focused on travel demand modeling; environmental justice and impacts for existing and proposed transportation projects; public input meetings and stakeholders’ influence in the decision-making processes; MATBUS involvement in transit routes; and corridor studies in the metro area.

Students attending included Vu Dang, Yasaman Kazemi, Nimish Dharmadhikari, Zijian Zheng, Chijioke Ifepe, Yong Shin Park, Aslaam Mohamed Muhammad, Sardar Muhammad Zahid, Hamad Al Qublan. Also participating was Eunsu Lee, an associate research fellow with NDSU’s Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI).

Metro COG and the UGPTI have a working partnership and rely on UGPTI’s Advanced Traffic Analysis Center for travel demand models. “It is very good to see our transportation and logistics students taking a look at how some of our end products are being used to enhance transportation at the MPO level,” noted Bradley Wentz, ATAC program director.

Transportation and logistics student presents at regional conferences

NDSU transportation and logistics Ph.D. student Jaesong Chio recently presented two papers and several posters at research conferences in the region.

Choi attended the 2014 Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP) Intermountain GIS Conference in Billings April 7-11. The conference is the largest GIS event in Montana. He presented two papers at the conference. The first, “Integration of state and federal road information on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota,” outlined the inconsistencies within state and federal road information
with regard to physical road segments and the road network. Choi's second paper, "Mapping of Future Oil Production in North Dakota," focused on mapping of future oil development trends in the state.

He also presented two posters at the MAGIP Conference. The first, "Mapping of CO2 Emissions from Transportation Sector in the U.S.," described how U.S. carbon dioxide emissions will change during the next decade. His second, "Choropleth Mapping of North Dakota Oil Boom in the United States," discussed the use of mapping to compare oil production in North Dakota to production in the rest of the world.

Choi also presented a poster at NDSU’s 2014 Graduate School Research and Arts Forum April 24 at the Memorial Union. The poster described research using facility analysis and GIS network analysis tools to identify common locations for car crashes in North Dakota and typical response times of emergency responders. The study focused on car crash fatalities in North Dakota.

The research showed that the average paramedic response time from the closest dispatch facility was 8.52 minutes and the average distance traveled was 12.05 miles. The average patient transport time from the accident to the closest hospital was 12.08 minutes and the average distance traveled was 17.96 miles. The average national EMS standard response time is eight minutes, suggesting that North Dakota needs to focus attention on the areas that exceed the eight-minute response time. Choi’s academic advisor and co-author of that poster is David Roberts, assistant professor of agribusiness and applied economics at NDSU.

UGPTI Programs Highlighted for SBHE

UGPTI director Denver Tolliver highlighted UGPTI programs for the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education at its Feb. 27 meeting. A copy of his presentation can be found at http://www.ugpti.org/resources/presentations/view.php?id=39

NDUS Chancellor Larry Skogen’s introduction of Tolliver begins at about the 6:30 point in the video of the meeting found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SQE0vG7cQw&list=PLZlii65JmfcrOPYFRAe04K2vbtunQCl

Following the meeting, an article on the UGPTI was posted on the North Dakota University System blog at http://blog.ndus.edu/upper-great-plains-transportation-institute-making-an-impact-in-north-dakota-and-
New name for IACC is official

The official renaming of NDSU's Industrial Agriculture and Communications Center as the Quentin Burdick Building occurred during a ceremony Friday, May 2. The building was renamed to honor the memory of Quentin N. Burdick, the long-serving U.S. Senator from North Dakota, who was a strong advocate for agriculture, North Dakota and NDSU. Burdick was born and raised in North Dakota and represented the state in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. During his more than 30 years on Capitol Hill, he pursued funds to support agriculture research and education, including federal research stations and facilities at NDSU. Burdick was senator at the time federal funds were secured for the multi-function computer center at NDSU, and he helped move the project forward. In addition to the main offices for the UGPTI, the Quentin Burdick Building houses NDSU's main computer center as well as several other departments and offices. Construction on the building began in April 1991, and it was dedicated on May 14, 1993. The State Board of Higher Education approved the name change in September 2013.

Travel expense reminder

With the end of the fiscal year approaching, remember to submit travel reimbursement information as soon as possible. Travel documentation for June travel will need to be sent to NDSU Accounting as soon as travel is completed so that it can be posted to the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Policy reminder: Promotional Expenses

Often we purchase promotional items for those who attend our workshops and conferences, for display booths, etc. Therefore, please be sure to follow the guidelines for purchasing promotional items:
Promotional expenses must withstand the test of public scrutiny. Payments for promotional purposes to external customers, and properly documented, are allowable university expenses.

Examples include cards, flowers, candy, and other small gifts (mugs, clothing, blankets), sponsorship or an event or activity.

- The recipient of the promotional item must be an external party to NDSU who is a past, current, or prospective customer. External parties include students (including student employees), businesses, and other outside organizations.
- Current NDSU employees (including terminating or retiring employees) or departments must be considered internal parties. Promotional expenses directed to benefit internal parties are not allowable, regardless of funding source.
  - Personal gifts to employees, or the employee's immediate family, must not be charged to university funds. A gift in lieu of additional compensation is not allowable, regardless of funding source. Examples include: candy, flowers, clothes (not including required uniforms), mugs, tickets, gift certificates, cash or checks.
  - Payment of an employee's required university fees is not allowable, regardless of funding source. Example: parking permit.
  - Promotional items received by employees that are clearly intended for the benefit of external parties, are allowable. For example: there may be rare cases where an employee, in a promotional role, purchases items to later be disbursed as small gifts for promotional purposes. The employee may be reimbursed in such cases.
  - An exception to this guideline is made in cases of the employee length of service award and retirement awards. (See web site at: http://www.legis.nd.gov/information/acdata/pdf/4-07-18.pdf.)
  - Another exception to this guideline is the "Campus Kudos" program sponsored by NDSU Staff Senate where a certificate of appreciation, along with a $10 Bookstore gift card, is given to students, staff and faculty. These gift cards must be charged to a local fund.
- The promotional expense must support the mission and purpose of the University. This key point distinguishes a promotional expense from a donation. A donation does not further the mission or purpose of the university.
- University officials must exercise prudent judgment, common sense, and restraint when determining whether an expense is appropriate.
- The reason for purchasing promotional items must be well documented. The explanation must include a description of what is being purchased (if that is not apparent from the invoice),
the intended recipient, and reason for the purchase.

When purchasing promotion items for meetings and conferences, please be sure to complete the Promotional Items Purchase form located at - http://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/vpfa/forms/ACCT-PromoItems.pdf

Save the date

UGPTI's 19th Annual Awards Banquet will be held Oct. 16 at the Fargo Holiday Inn to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the transportation industry in the region. This year’s Agrey Award will go to Steve Strege in recognition of the transportation-related contributions made by the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association. Richard Goldberg will receive the Chairman’s Award and Duane Mutch will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. More information on award winners and the banquet will be provided in future newsletters. Updated information will also be provided at http://www.ugpti.org/awards/.

Remember your safety training

Baseline Safety Training is mandatory for all NDSU employees. If you are a supervisor, it is mandatory that you take both Supervisor Safety Training and Baseline Safety Training annually. The training can be completed online. To do so, log in using your NDUS username and password, review the training content and take the associated quiz. When you complete the quiz online, the system will record your completion of the training requirement.

Find the baseline and supervisor training modules at http://www.ndsu.edu/police_safety/training/

Submit news and events to: UGPTI Communications Coordinator Tom Jirik at Thomas.jirik@ndsu.edu.