



The
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TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH CENTER

Transportation Research, Education and Innovation for Vermont and Beyond

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UVM Transportation Research Center Awarded \$1 Million for Workforce Development Project

BURLINGTON, VT - The U.S. Department of Transportation announced that the University of Vermont's Transportation Research Center (TRC) has been awarded \$979,829 as part of a \$1.01 million workforce development project to help develop innovative programs to attract and retain skilled workers in the transportation sector of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

"The transportation industry is a major economic sector," said UVM President Dan Fogel, "and keeping it vibrant is critical to Vermont's economy and our quality of life. The Transportation Research Center and its partners on this workforce development grant are an excellent example of how UVM can partner with communities to advance Vermont and New England."

To construct and implement this workforce development program, the UVM Transportation Research Center is partnering with the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Vermont Technical College, AARP-Vermont, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, the Maine Department of Transportation, Vermont Local Roads, and The University of New Hampshire-Local Technical Assistance Program.

Given Northern New England's demographic changes and the turbulent nature of our 21st century transportation system, the transportation sector will require a comprehensive workforce development plan. The grant awarded to the TRC will fund four new programs to help transportation leaders attract and maintain workers in this challenging environment.

The programs will tackle a host of issues including the need for transportation professionals with interdisciplinary skill sets (e.g. environmental engineering, intelligent technology, energy, public involvement, and innovative financing). While these diverse

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needs may challenge some with traditional road construction or traffic expertise, this newer approach creates an exciting challenge that can be used to recruit new talent and to retain existing workers.

Also to be addressed is the challenge of recruiting and training skilled maintenance workers, at times a difficult task in northern New England's rural landscape.

And finally, the grant will fund a program that focuses on the statistics of our aging population by seeking to recruit and train the state's growing number of retirees. Demographics—particularly in New England—point to the need to make better use of the skills and talents of retirees, from both inside and outside the transportation sector.

“Like all industries, transportation has seen an evolution of skills needed to meet the demands of the 21st century,” explains Director of the TRC, Lisa Aultman-Hall. “However, transportation plays such an integral role in our community and economy and we expect these new programs to be very successful in attracting new talent to work on the complex challenges of the system.”

“The programs are especially designed to address the needs related to finance, energy and environment,” Aultman-Hall said. “We are very pleased to have Karen Glitman, former Vermont Deputy Secretary of Transportation as the program manager for this grant. Her interdisciplinary background and approach is well suited to this challenge.”

The mission of the TRC is to develop integrated interdisciplinary research and education programs that advance the state and regional transportation system that promote a sustainable economy, healthy communities, appropriate land use development and re-development, equitable mobility, minimal environmental impacts and efficient energy use. The Center works with faculty and students in multiple Colleges at UVM. The Center was founded in 2006 with an initial grant of \$16M from the U.S. DOT secured by U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy and former U.S. Sen. James Jeffords.

For more information about UVM's Transportation Research Center, visit its website at www.uvm.edu/transportationcenter.

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