PRESS RELEASE

June 7, 2012

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On Friday May 18, 2012, the Spaulding Center for Transportation home of the Iowa Transportation Museum inducted 12 individuals into their Heroes Center. The Center’s motto is “Honoring the People Who Make Life Go.

The Spaulding Center was excited to recognize Dr. Thomas Maze from Ames as a Transportation Hero by Example. Dr. Thomas Maze was a professor of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at Iowa State University. He was the former Director for the Center for Transportation Research and Education at Iowa State University, now known as InTrans.

At Iowa State University, Dr. Maze envisioned and then developed a robust program in transportation research, academic excellence, and outreach that has become one of the leading university transportation-related research programs in the United States.

Dr. Maze facilitated the development of a unique and progressive transportation research management agreement between the university and the Iowa Department of Transportation. This efficient administrative tool continues to facilitate the centers quick response to identified transportation-related research and technology needs in Iowa and reflects a level of university-agency partnering that is the envy of many states.

Dr. Maze also worked on advanced transportation technological innovations in intelligent vehicle systems for commercial vehicles, transportation-related applications of geographic information systems, and traffic and safety engineering innovations.

In recent years, he has focused on weather-related issues through a final program he initiated in 2003, the Center for Weather Impacts on Mobility and Safety (CWIMS).

One of his legacies is the Mid-Continent Transportation Research Symposium, a conference he initiated in 1996 in partnership with the Iowa DOT. Through ongoing activities like the symposium, as well as the extensive body of work he leaves behind, Dr. Maze’s accomplishments will continue to have an impact across Iowa, the country, and beyond for a very long time.
As a committed educator, Dr. Maze taught more than 70 courses at Iowa State University covering some 30 topics and introduced a new, interdisciplinary Master of Science in Transportation Planning degree. He was a demanding but generous academic mentor and the major advisor. He also took a keen interest in nurturing new faculty members and guided them in developing successful careers.

To an outstanding educator and a continuing influence in transportation research we award our Hero by Example to Dr. Thomas Maze. Tom’s wife Leslie Maze of White Bear Lake, Minnesota accepted the award. Also attending the ceremony was Dr. Marilyn Maze of Baldwin, Maryland and Dr. Marty Euwema of Parker, Colorado and her husband Mark Euwema. Tom’s associates of InTrans located in Ames, Iowa also attended; including Loma Smadi, Neal Hawkins, Marcia Brink, Dan Gieseman, Judy Thomas, and Sharon Prochow (please edit this as I listed names from my RSVP list). Omar Smadi nominated Dr. Maze as a Hero by Example.

The Spaulding Center held ground breaking ceremonies on Friday, September 1, 2010 in Grinnell, Iowa at the historic Spaulding Manufacturing Company building site, where thousands of horse-drawn vehicles and motor cars were produced in the early 1900’s. Transportation related exhibits are being completed, with the museum to open in the next few months.

The mission of the ITM is to explore the evolution of transportation, making it come alive to enhance our understanding of how transportation systems and workers contribute to the culture and quality of life we live. Content from the Heroes Center will be used to help develop future exhibits at the museum. For further information about the museum, visit [www.iowatransportationmuseum.com](http://www.iowatransportationmuseum.com) and [www.transportationheroes.org](http://www.transportationheroes.org). The stories of the 2012 Heroes and photos will be added to the web-site in the next few weeks.