
PREPARING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE: A MIDWEST SUMMIT

April 27-28, 2010
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Institute for Transportation



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16. Abstract <p>Preparing Tomorrow's Transportation Workforce: A Midwest Summit, held April 27–28, 2010, in Ames, Iowa, was one of several regional transportation workforce development summits held across the United States in 2009 and 2010 as part of a coordinated initiative to ultimately develop a national strategy to address future transportation workforce issues. The initiative is being led by the U. S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA). This particular summit was hosted by Iowa State University's Midwest Transportation Consortium (MTC) and Institute for Transportation (InTrans).</p> <p>The purpose of the Midwest summit was to assess the educational and training needs of the future transportation workforce and identify strategies to address those needs across various career paths. It addressed a broad spectrum of topics including strategies to attract women and under-represented minority groups, pre-college opportunities and strategies, post-secondary education, post-college continuing education, professional licensure, and specific industry perspectives. The goals of the summit were (1) to gain an improved understanding of the transportation workforce needs of Iowa and the surrounding states and (2) to identify best practices in addressing the workforce development needs. This event had two tracks: one focused on pre-college education and the other focused primarily on college education and practitioners.</p> <p>Attendees provided a good cross-section of the larger transportation industry. From what was learned at the summit, Iowa State University, like other regional hosts, can develop a "profile of needs" for Iowa including specific job categories over specific time horizons. The summit was also successful in identifying best practices in addressing the workforce needs that can be utilized by us and others as potential tools or in a "national-level list of attributes." Each regional summit has provided some guidance in developing statewide profiles. The collection of best practices or tools from all the regional summits can be shared and applied to address state (or regional) needs profiles to attract, develop, and retain an effective workforce.</p>			
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