UTC PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
02113

PROJECT TITLE:
Advanced Transportation Summer Institute

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
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PROJECT OBJECTIVE:
The objective of this project is to introduce female and minority students to the field of transportation engineering. The number of minorities in engineering fields are increasing, but not in the area of transportation. It is hopeful that many of the program participants will become interested in this field and choose it as a profession.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
Approximately 24 high school juniors will be selected to attend this one-week institute based at the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) headquarters in Montgomery, Alabama. Students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities and engage in real world experiences. It is important to target high school juniors who are nearing graduation and entering college or the working world. It is imperative to stimulate interest in transportation while these students are deciding their futures. Those chosen will be female and minority students. This project is focusing on diversity and human resources, two topics outlined by The University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) as part of its theme and goals. It is hopeful that these students will become interested in transportation engineering and consider that area for their futures. The point of this institute is to encourage increased interest in transportation engineering through fun and innovative projects and trips. Each day of the institute will focus on a different transportation topic. Topics will include bridges, materials, safety, environmental concerns, etc.
Different organizations and individuals involved with this project will provide a thorough review of transportation through information sessions. Field trips and seminars will be presented in order to illustrate, encourage, and educate young people on the many facets of transportation engineering.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
Task 1 - Recruiting and Advertising
Task 2 – Schedule Activities and Speakers/Mentors
Task 3 – Set-up Schedule and Laboratories
Task 4 – Run Summer Institute
Task 5 – Final Report

MILESTONES AND DATES:
- Task 1 January – March 2001
- Task 2 April
- Task 3 May
- Task 4 June
- Task 5 December 2001

TOTAL BUDGET:
One-year project: UTCA $48,190; Total $55,091.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
This project will involve possibly five graduate students.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
This project is related to Dr. Kathleen Leonard’s UTCA projects 00304 and 01326, “Gearing Up for Transportation Engineering Summer Institute”, Phase I and Phase II.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
Technology transfer activities consist of a written final report and its distribution.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
This project will be beneficial to UTCA’s theme and goals. By educating minority students, the goal of diversity is addressed. Hopefully, after attending this institute, many students will become familiar with the field of transportation engineering and consider it as a profession (human resources).

TRB KEYWORDS:
Transportation, education, safety, diversity, outreach