RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
06115

PROJECT TITLE
Advanced Transportation Institute 06

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
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PROJECT OBJECTIVE
The purpose for conducting the fourth Advanced Transportation Institute (ATI 06) is to introduce high school students to engineering disciplines to transportation careers. ATI 06 will attract rising junior and senior high school students to help increase the size of the workforce within the transportation profession, and to produce a more diverse profession.

PROJECT ABSTRACT
ATI 06 will be jointly conducted by the University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) in the ALDOT headquarters complex in Montgomery, Alabama. The week-long institute will feature presentations by practicing transportation professionals, design labs, field trips and similar activities to introduce students to the wide range of potential transportation careers. As in past years, each day will concentrate on one or two primary topics to thoroughly indoctrinate the students.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS
Task 1: Review the previous versions of the institute to identify highlights, along with needed improvements and potential obstacles.
Task 2: Identify high schools for participation in ATI 06. Applications will be solicited and evaluated to select participants.
Task 3: Establish the Institute agenda, potential field trip sites, and potential instructors. Make arrangements for lodging, meals and transportation as needed.
Task 4: Conduct institute (tentatively scheduled for one week in June in Montgomery and one week in July in Tuscaloosa).
Task 5: Prepare the project final report.
Task 6: Prepare a “student page” for the UTCA Web site.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Task 1: Jan. - Feb., 2006
Task 2: Feb. - April
Task 3: Feb. - May
Task 5: Aug. - Nov.
Task 6: Sept. - Dec., 2006

TOTAL BUDGET:
Twelve month project; UTCA budget $50,311; matching funds provided by existing SPR projects conducted by other UA faculty members.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
A minority civil engineering student will be hired for the spring and summer of 2006 to help with the project.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS:
This project is an extension of two previous Advanced Institutes, conducted as UTCA projects 02113, 03113, 04115 and 05107.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
None

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
Students and chaperones will gain familiarity with the transportation field through the Institute, and will be persuaded to consider transportation careers. Participants and assistants will ultimately become part of the transportation environment as pre-college, undergraduates, graduates and transportation professionals.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Transportation careers, transportation recruiting, diversity