TITLE:
Advanced Transportation Institute 2008

ABSTRACT:
The objective of the Advanced Transportation Institute 2008 (ATI-08) is to introduce junior and senior high school students, with preference to traditionally underrepresented groups in engineering disciplines, to transportation careers. ATI-08 is designed to attract rising junior and senior high school students to help increase diversity within the Transportation profession.

The University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) of The University of Alabama and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Personnel Bureau co-sponsor the Institute. It is held in ALDOT’s headquarters complex in Montgomery, Alabama. The agenda for the week-long program includes presentations on topics like transportation careers, how to select and enter a university, and how to obtain scholarships. Additional presentations are made by practitioners to explore various sectors of transportation, including planning, design, construction, maintenance, traffic engineering, and bridge design. There are many transportation professionals in the ALDOT headquarters complex, to provide good presentations and to serve as role models to the involved students.

Portions of the Institute are “hands on.” After a presentation on bridge design, they build their own model truss bridges using soda straws and pins, and then test them to failure. They also design virtual bridges using the West Point Bridge Designer software. The most popular event follows a presentation on road safety, when the students build “safety containers” to protect raw eggs dropped from one of ALDOT’s bucket trucks. In prior years, some students have reached the full capacity of the bucket truck (50 feet) without breaking their egg.

By the end of the week, students are familiar with transportation careers and ALDOT careers. The concluding student/staff/parent awards banquet is a wonderful success with lots of smiles and hugs.

START DATE:
01/01/2008

END DATE:
12/31/2008

PROJECT STATUS:
Complete

BUDGET:
$31,389

CONTRACT/GRANT NUMBER:
UTCA 08111
SECONDARY PROJECT NUMBER:
DTRT06-G-0047

PROJECT URL:
http://utca.eng.ua.edu/projects/project_num_results.asp?project_num=08111

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES:
None

SUBJECT CATEGORIES:
Education and Training

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