UTC PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER:
99236

PROJECT TITLE:
Delivery of Transportation Related Programs Through Interactive Telecommunications, Distance Learning, and Down Link Broadcasts 99-36

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:
Dr. Melinda Lalor
Associate Professor
Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Phone: (205) 934-8438
Fax: (205) 934-9855
mlalor@eng.uab.edu

Dr. Pauline Brown
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL
Phone: (205) 933-2750
Fax: (205) 348-0783
pbrown@coe_eng.ua.edu

Dr. Kate Leonard
Associate Professor
Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Alabama in Huntsville
Huntsville, AL
Phone: (256) 890-6854
Fax: (256) 890-6724
leonard@ebs330.eb.uah.edu

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:
The objective of this project is to open new avenues for the dissemination of information on transportation health and safety to transportation professionals, students, researchers and the general public.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
Technologies such as interactive telecommunication, distance learning and down link broadcasts can play an important role in information and technology transfer for UTCA, but in order for these tools to be fully utilized, faculty and other potential instructors must
be able to use them with minimal effort and a high level of comfort. Provided with adequate information and support documentation, professors, instructors and researchers involved with the UTCA can use new technologies to successfully and efficiently transfer information and technology to target audiences throughout the state and beyond. The resource guide and website resulting from this project should simplify and expedite the use of these technologies. This project will provide a system for the swift and efficient transfer of UTCA information and technology. Establishing such a system is important in order to gain visibility and credibility. With physical facilities already in place, project team members will develop the guidance documentation UTCA researchers, professors and instructors need to readily take advantage of existing opportunities.

PROJECT TASK DESCRIPTIONS:
- Identify facilities throughout the state and region that can be used for interactive telecommunication and down link classes and seminars.
- Develop contacts and standard operating agreements at facilities.
- Develop a resource guide to help instructors and speakers effectively identify and use new teaching technologies.
- Identify target audiences and contacts for specific types of programs.
- Endeavor to have links to a UTCA web site added to organizations’ sites in the future.
- Identify topics of interest to target audiences.
- Determine funding needs and locate potential funding sources.
- Develop a website residing, initially, at the UAB School of Engineering which will contain information in usable form for instructors.
- The products of this project will be a resource guide and a web-based information site.

MILESTONES AND DATES:
Project Start Date: August 1, 1999
September 30, 1999 - 1st quarter update forwarded to UTCA Director
December 31, 1999 - 2nd quarter update forwarded to UTCA Director
March 31, 2000 - 3rd quarter update forwarded to UTCA Director
July 31, 2000 - Resource guide presented to UTCA Director as project final report.
Project End Date: July 31, 2000

TOTAL BUDGET:
One-year project: UTCA $41,412; total budget $82,824.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:
Students will not be involved directly in this initial project phase.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS:
This project can be viewed as a stand-alone project as it does not tie into any other UTCA projects.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES:
This project will provide a framework which will facilitate efficient technology transfer by UA system faculty and UTCA researchers to target audiences throughout the state.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:
This project will provide necessary support documentation to facilitate information and technology transfer from the UTCA to transportation professionals, researchers, students and the public. It will also establish initial contact with many of UTCA's target audience groups and thus increase visibility of UTCA statewide.

TRB KEYWORDS:
Education, continuing education, technology transfer, information technology.