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Contact: Roger Lotz
Tel.: 202-366-2246

University of Wisconsin Receives RITA Grant for Transportation Education and Research at 8-University Consortium

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) announced today that a \$665,000 federal grant has been awarded to the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center (MRUTC), based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to apply research and technology to improve transportation systems.

MRUTC is part of the national University Transportation Centers (UTC) program, which is administered by RITA. RITA is dedicated to coordinating the Department's research and development programs and advancing innovative technology solutions to the challenges facing America's transportation system. Grant recipients are required to provide matching funds.

"UTC programs attract talented researchers and students today to engage them in creating the transportation system of tomorrow," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta. "This grant demonstrates the importance of research and technology to the Department's mission of making sure that transportation continues to be an engine of economic growth for the United States well into the 21st century."

MRUTC focuses on research, outreach and education that will maximize the benefits of a transportation program to its customers and users. The Center strives to not only provide innovative solutions to the transportation challenges of the 21st century, but also to education current and future transportation leaders.

The MRUTC consortium includes the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Superior, Northwestern University, University of Cincinnati, Marquette University, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, and Richard J. Daley College in Chicago. More information is available at <http://www.mrutc.org>.

More than 75 colleges and universities throughout the United States participate in the UTC program conducting transportation research, education and technology transfer. Last year, UTC colleges and universities graduated over 1,100 students with advanced transportation-related degrees, offered almost 2,000 undergraduate and graduate transportation courses, conducted 300 research projects, and trained 32,000 practicing transportation professionals.

More information about the UTC program can be found at www.rita.dot.gov.

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