

Press Release For Immediate Release



USDOT Awards Grant to Mississippi State University -- University of Denver Led Consortium

- Grant Will Advance Programs That Address Transportation Issues -

DENVER CO, January 18, 2012 - The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded \$3.5 million to Mississippi State University and University of Denver-led consortium with the theme of Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness. The center will be named the National Center for Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness (NCITEC) and will work to promote the development of an integrated, economically competitive, efficient, safe, secure, and sustainable national intermodal transportation network by integrating all transportation modes both for freight and passenger mobility.

Building on the successful partnership of Mississippi State University and the University of Denver through NCIT (National Center for Intermodal Transportation), the consortium members represent a diverse group of universities, including:

Hampton University	Hampton, Virginia
Louisiana State University	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Mississippi State University	Starkville, Mississippi
University of Denver	Denver, Colorado
University of Mississippi	Oxford, Mississippi

The new center and its members will serve the transportation industry through research, education, workforce development, and technology transfer activities. Areas of expertise include intermodal planning, safety and security, public policy, workforce development, and economic competitiveness. The NCITEC will focus on the economics, assessment, design, and development of planning methodologies, operational tools, technology, and human resources needed to improve intermodal connectivity, capacity, and to reduce congestion in our nation's transportation system. The NCITEC will also seek to improve the capacity and capability of the workforce to meet the challenges of the increasingly complex passenger and freight transportation system.

Congestion, competition, capacity, and conservation are the major challenges facing the U.S. transportation system that can be met with the adoption of a serious commitment to intermodalism. The intermodal point-of-view involves looking at how individual modes can be connected, governed, and managed as a fully integrated and sustainable transportation system.

The fundamental objective of intermodalism is not to optimize a single mode of transportation but to integrate the multiple modes into an optimal, sustainable, and economic system.

NCIT Director Patrick Sherry, PhD, noted that: “The competition included 46 proposals from universities around the country; of those, 10 were selected because of the importance of their theme and the combined team of experts from a group of five, top-tier universities.”

In addition, Professor Sherry said that the University of Denver’s endeavor was competitive in two centers, as the University of Denver will also join the Region 8 Consortium under North Dakota State University, located in Fargo, North Dakota. Region 8 consists of a consortium of universities from North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Utah, Colorado, and Montana.

About ITI

The Intermodal Transportation Institute at the University of Denver offers an Executive Masters Program that awards a Master of Science in Intermodal Transportation Management from the University of Denver. This graduate degree program prepares transportation industry managers for the increasingly complex, global business environment where knowledge of finance, quantitative processes, supply chain, transportation law, and public policy issues as well as freight, passenger, and intermodal transportation operational strategies are critical management tools for success. For more information on the ITI Executive Masters Program call: 303-871-4702 or visit: www.du.edu/transportation.

EDITORIAL CONTACTS:

Jim Martin
JDM & Associates
847-570-9100
jim@jdmandassociates.com

Cathy Johnson
ITI Executive Director
Intermodal Transportation Institute
University of Denver
303-871-4702
catjohn@du.edu

###