



MID-AMERICA
TRANSPORTATION CENTER

SCHOLARS PROGRAM

2017



September 27-30
Lincoln, NE



The goal of the MATC Scholars Program is to promote graduate study among underrepresented groups in the STEM fields with a special focus on doctoral-granting and research-intensive institutions.

Students attend seminars led by a diverse group of faculty members and industry professionals from across the nation, providing students with a unique networking opportunity.



SCHOLARS PROGRAM PRESENTERS



Dr. Laurence R. Rilett, P.E.
Keith W. Klaasmeyer Chair in Engineering and Technology
Distinguished Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Director, Mid-America Transportation Center
Director, Nebraska Transportation Center

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Dr. Laurence Rilett is a Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). He also serves as the Director of the UNL Mid-America Transportation Center, which is the U.S. Department of Transportation Region 7 University Transportation Center, and the Nebraska Transportation Center, which is the umbrella organization for all transportation research at the University of Nebraska. Dr. Rilett currently serves as the Associate Director of the University Transportation Center for Railway Safety, a Tier 1 U.S. Department of Transportation University Transportation Center at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Dr. Rilett received his B.A.Sc. degree and his M.A.Sc. degree from the University of Waterloo and his Ph.D. degree from Queen's University. He has held academic positions of Assistant Professor and Associate Professor at the University of Alberta, and Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor at Texas A&M University. Additionally, he is a professional engineer in the state of Texas.

Dr. Rilett has been a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on over 50 research projects. His field of research is transportation system analysis, which may be divided into two main areas: Intelligent Transportation Systems applications and large-scale transportation system modeling. He has authored or co-authored over 60 refereed journal papers and over 90 conference papers based on his research. In 2002 he was awarded the Texas Transportation Institute TTI/Trinity Researcher Award and in 2007 he received the UNL College of Engineering Research Award. Dr. Rilett is an Associate Editor of the ASCE Journal of Transportation Engineering and is on the editorial board of the Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems: Technology, Planning, and Operations.



Dr. Judy A. Perkins, P.E.
TAMU Regents Professor
Professor
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Prairie View A&M University

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Dr. Judy Perkins holds a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Southern University, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), and Georgia Institute of Technology, respectively. Her research has focused on statewide intermodal transportation planning, transportation logistics, hurricane evacuation analysis, military logistics, engineering education, minority outreach, optimization of transportation infrastructure investments, and radio-frequency identification (RFID) technologies used by motor carriers and for underground utilities. Dr. Perkins' current research activities involve working on projects funded by an array of state and federal agencies. The agencies are: (1) Mid-American Transportation Center (MATC),

(2) National Science Foundation (NSF), (3) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), (4) Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), (5) Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), and the (6) US Department of Transportation (US DOT).

Dr. Perkins has accumulated extensive experience in the development of survey design, data collection, state-level transportation planning, and the refinement of economic development methodologies used to evaluate transportation-related activities. Dr. Perkins' extensive record of publication extends into both the national and international transportation and engineering education arenas. Lastly, Dr. Perkins is a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas.



Dr. Erick C. Jones, P.E., CSSMBB, MSIE
George and Elizabeth Pickett Endowed Professor
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Dr. Erick Jones is a Professor in the Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering Department in the College of Engineering at the University of Texas Arlington. He is also the Deputy Director of the UT Arlington Homeland Security focused University Center SAVANT and Director of the (RFID & Auto-ID) RAID labs at UTA. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Industrial Engineering and later attained a Masters and PhD in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston with most of his secondary education obtained while concurrently working in industry. Dr. Jones has held positions

in industry which include Industrial Engineering Specialist, Director of Engineering, Consultant and Project Manager, and Executive Manager of a "Big 5" Accounting firm. Dr. Jones' unique background positioned him to develop one of the first and largest academic RFID labs in the country in 2003. Recently, Dr. Jones' interdisciplinary research with chemists and physicists, neuroscientists and surgeons, and bio- and biomedical engineers is leading to translational and commercial research for important national programs including the BRAIN initiative, Homeland Security and Safety, and Smart Planet initiatives. His research partnerships range from medical schools, international airports, and international university collaborations. Dr. Jones has received over \$9 Million dollars in funding for academic research projects, from organizations such as NASA, The National Science Foundation, Department of Transportation and US State Department. Dr. Jones' research activities are mainly focused in the areas of automated data capture using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technologies, Quality Control at the Six Sigma level, and Manufacturing Technologies that support the development of "Auto Sensing" technologies. He has published over 165 manuscripts including 3 textbooks.



Dr. Edgar R. Blevins
 Professor
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 Southern University and A&M College

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Dr. Edgar Blevins has a bachelors and masters degree from Southern University and Georgia Tech, respectively, both in Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Blevins also has a Ph.D. degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering with a concentration in Engineering Management from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Blevins is currently a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His primary interest is in engineering design and engineering education. He currently teaches engineering mechanics, engineering economics, statistics, technical communications, and introduction to engineering courses in the Mechanical Engineering Department.



Dr. Ibibia K. Dabipi
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Dr. Ibibia Dabipi's research interests include computer security and network management, parallel computing and algorithms development, performance evaluation of computer networks, optimization of transportation networks, and economic analysis of transportation facilities. Dr. Dabipi holds the following degrees: a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, 1987; a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1981; a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Physics/Mathematics, 1979 from Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas. He was the Chair of the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences from 2001 through 2006. Currently, Dr. Dabipi is a Professor of Electrical Engineering in the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Prior to coming to the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, he was the Interim Chairman and Chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His experiences include working at Bell Communications Research and AT&T Bell Labs as a member of technical staff during the summers of 1984 through 1987. He has authored or co-authored many technical articles for publications and presentations.



Dr. Deo Chimba, P.E.
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Dr. Deo Chimba, is an Interim Department Chair and Associate Professor of Civil and Architectural Engineering at Tennessee State University. He received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from University of Dar es Salaam in 2002, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Florida State University in 2004 and a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering from University of Miami in 2008. Dr. Chimba has approximately nine years combined teaching, research, and industrial experience in the transportation engineering and planning field. Prior to joining Tennessee State University, Dr. Chimba worked for four years as a Transportation Engineer with Stanley Consultants, Inc., located in West Palm Beach, Florida. His research interests include traffic forecasting and demand modeling, highway safety, traffic analysis, traffic simulation, public/transit transportation, bicycle and pedestrian studies, and the application of statistics in transportation and civil engineering. He has published quality papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings using advanced statistical modeling techniques for highway safety, traffic analysis, transportation planning, and traffic flow studies.



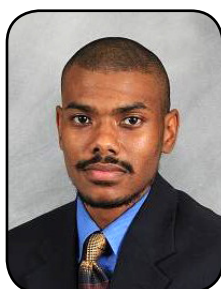
Dr. Luis A. Vázquez
 Regents Professor
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Dr. Luis Vázquez is the Interim Vice President for Research, serves as the Associate Vice President for Research since 2011, and a Regents Professor. Dr. Vázquez earned his Doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Iowa in 1990. Before coming to New Mexico in 1995, Dr. Vázquez was a senior staff psychologist for the University Counseling Center and Assistant Professor in Rehabilitation Psychology and Substance Abuse at the University of Iowa. He began as a Special Education student and diagnosed as Educable Mentally Handicapped.

Dr. Vázquez's greatest interest is the "empowering" focus of research on underrepresented student populations in education. He has published in the areas of acculturation, ethnic identity, and educational development, along with developing multicultural training videos used across the country in counseling and psychology programs. Dr. Vázquez has presented in numerous national conferences and has been an invited speaker at National Conventions to address the issues of academic success in underrepresented students of color. Dr. Vázquez has received several awards such as a Presidential Citation from the American Psychological Association for visionary leadership in Psychology, USDA Faculty Fellow for Washington D.C., and recently, the "Distinguished Career Award" from the American Psychological Association Division 45: The Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race, along with several "Excellence in Teaching Awards." In addition, he has been a consultant to higher education, agencies, and Fortune 500 Companies in their diversity development and policies.



Mr. Juhann Waller, P.E.
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Mr. Juhann Waller is a registered Professional Engineer in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia with a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. His professional practice and research is focused on transportation design and planning, site design and planning, water resources design and planning, engineering education, and minority outreach. Mr. Waller is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University and the Owner/CEO of JC Waller & Associates, professional corporation, civil engineering and surveying consulting firm in Greensboro, NC.



Ms. Amy O. Maki, M.Ed.
 Founder and President
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Ms. Amy Maki is the founder and president of A. O. Maki & Associates, L.L.C., a consulting company that focuses on improving the capability, capacity, and effectiveness of individuals and organizations. In addition to best practices, she integrates human development, leadership, and transition theory to educate and guide both individuals and organization toward successful outcomes. Ms. Maki holds a B.A. from the University of Washington, M.Ed. from the University of Washington Bothell, a Leadership Institute Certificate from the Harvard Consortium Program on Negotiation, and Certificate from the Eastside Leadership Program. She is a requested speaker, writer, and consultant with over 35 years of experience. Presently, she serves as a career and personal coach to a bank executive and has successfully assisted students and individuals in planning for their future—academic, professional, and personal. In addition to her education in human development, education, art of negotiation, and business organization, her experience is based on work as: Assistant to the Dean (College of Engineering) for the University of Washington Seattle; Founding Director of Admissions, Student Services, and Community Relations for the University of Washington Bothell; Lecturer, College of Education (Multicultural Education) for University of Washington Seattle; Consultant to the Hispanic College Fund (NASA Mentoring Program); Program Manager and Minority-serving Institutions Specialist for MentorNet; Founding Director for the Schick Shadel Foundation; and Reviewer for Seattle Community College articulation efforts with Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



Ms. Andria Hendricks, MBA, MA
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 Instructor, Department of Business
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Ms. Andria Hendricks is the Director of The Small Business Development Center and Business Instructor at Lincoln University. She brings more than 15 years of experience in business development, human resources, training, and consulting. Ms. Hendricks also brings vitality, professionalism, warmth, and a mindset of service and advocacy to work with clients and staff.

Ms. Hendricks received a Double Bachelors in Sociology/Philosophy in 2000 from Lincoln University. Immediately after graduating with her undergraduate, she proceeded to complete her Master's in Business Administration from William Woods University in 2003. She completed her second Master's in Sociology in May 2012. She is currently completing her Doctorate in Business Administration with an emphasis in Leadership and Management with Grand Canyon University, and is expecting to graduate in May 2018.

Ms. Hendricks is the wife of Adrian Hendricks (20 years) and the mother of three beautiful children. She is a native of East St. Louis, Illinois; however, she has resided in Jefferson City, Missouri for the last 25 years.



Dr. David Bouras
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Dr. David Bouras is the Associate Professor of Economics at Lincoln University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research interests include applied optimization, business forecasting, and New Empirical Industrial Organization.



Dr. Terri R. Norton, AM. ASCE
 Associate Professor
 Durham School of Architectural Engineering
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Dr. Terri Norton is an Associate Professor of Construction Engineering within the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction. She earned a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the Florida A&M University - Florida State University College of Engineering. Before joining UNL she was a member of the Technical Staff in the Structural Dynamics Department at the Aerospace Corporation. Dr. Norton's research interests involve evaluating the effects of dynamic loads or hazards on civil structures and sustainable building construction. She currently serves as the principal investigator (PI) for a NSF travel grant to expose underrepresented students to the international research in Japan. In addition, she serves as a researcher on the University Transportation Center (UTC) grant awarded to the Mid-America Transportation Center to assess preparedness and response to roadway disasters. Dr. Norton has served as the PI on grants funded by the US Geological Survey (USGS), Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR), and Department of Energy (DOE). Her present research is in the area of disaster recovery and reconstruction. She has been an invited lecturer and visiting scholar at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in Italy, the University of Tokyo, and Tohoku University International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) in Japan. Moreover, she has been a presenter of structural dynamics and vulnerability in both the national and international arenas. Dr. Norton recently earned a Fulbright Scholar Award for her research in disaster recovery. She has served as the major advisor for 3 Ph.D. students, 5 MS, 12 Masters of Arch. Engineering, and 13 undergraduate research assistants.



Dr. Lance C. Pérez
 Interim Dean, College of Engineering
 Omar H. Heins Professor of Electrical
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Dr. Lance Pérez began serving as interim dean of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering in July 2016. An experienced academic and campus leader, Dr. Pérez previously was Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies at the university. He has been a faculty member in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, where he is a tenured full professor, since 1996. In his previous administrative positions, Dr. Pérez was responsible for faculty and leadership development, promotion and tenure, instructional technology and classroom facilities improvements, and graduate education. He led the implementation of \$30 million in improvements to the academic facilities and played a pivotal role in Nebraska's entry into the Big Ten's Committee on Institutional Cooperation. As a faculty member, Dr. Pérez has won numerous teaching awards and has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on over \$15 million in federally funded research. His research interests include signal and information processing, engineering education and faculty leadership development. From 2008-10, Dr. Pérez was a program director in the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation. He has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Virginia, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

PRESENTERS



Dr. Velvet Basemera-Fitzpatrick, P.M.P.
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 Transit Cooperative Research Program
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The National Academies of
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Dr. Velvet Basemera-Fitzpatrick is a Program Officer for the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Her portfolio includes the Transit Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis (IDEA) Program, Rail Safety IDEA Program, and National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project 20-65 serving AASHTO's Standing Committee on Public Transportation (SCOPT). Previously, she worked for TRB's Policy Studies on Research, Development, and Technology (RD&T) agenda-setting challenges for federal transportation agencies. She also led the TRB Executive Committee's Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Initiative and constructed the now accepted D&I Management Plan. The D&I Initiative aimed to strengthen TRB's position as the premier forum for transportation innovation via research and convening. Dr. Basemera-Fitzpatrick earned her BS in Civil Engineering from Prairie View A&M University in 2007 and went on to earn her MS in Civil Engineering and Ph.D. in Engineering Education from Purdue University in 2009 and 2014, respectively. At Purdue, she worked for the Minority Engineering Program (MEP), Women In Engineering Program (WIEP), Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), and College of Engineering Graduate Programs. Dr. Basemera-Fitzpatrick is enthusiastic about innovation, strategic research programming, and leadership.



Dr. Marcus A. Huggans
 Senior Director
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Dr. Marcus Huggans is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and was educated in the University City and Lutheran parochial school systems. Dr. Huggans completed his engineering studies at the University of Missouri-Rolla now known as the Missouri University of Science and Technology. He received a B.S.E.E., M.S., and Ph.D. in Engineering Management. Dr. Huggans is an alumnus of the GEM Fellowship Program. Dr. Huggans has extensive experience in the STEM field with over twenty-five years of working in industry, academia, and non-profits. He has worked for 3M Company, AT&T Bell Laboratories, FBI, Texas Instruments Inc., Missouri S&T, and the National GEM Consortium. At GEM, Dr. Huggans recruits and conducts graduate programming to encourage under-represented minority students to pursue their graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics (STEM) fields. Dr. Huggans has been the Finance Chair for IEEE-ITSC, and recently appointed to the IEEE-HKN Editorial Committee. Finally, Dr. Huggans has been an invited speaker to many diversity conferences, the National Science Foundation, and multiple universities as well as corporations/national laboratories.



Ms. Elaine E. Armster
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Ms. Elaine Armster brings a depth of cross-functional, industry experience to the MATC team. Ms. Armster has successfully led major initiatives in both the private and public sectors; including serving as the Special Projects Chief at the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) where her team managed over \$160 Million in federal contracts for local governments for non-motorized transportation projects such as multi-use trails, sidewalks, and streetscape projects.

Ms. Armster earned her B.S. degree from Florida A&M University (FAMU) and earned her Master's degree from Georgia Tech's College of Architecture in City Planning. In 2010, Ms. Armster completed the Tuck Executive Education program at Dartmouth, the oldest business school in the Ivy League.

An avid tennis player, Ms. Armster currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Florida A&M University Foundation and provides volunteer leadership on several boards in the support of emerging eco-tech initiatives and the Arts.



Mr. Kevin Jones
 Transportation Specialist
 U.S. Department of Transportation

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Mr. Kevin Jones is a Transportation Specialist with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Founder/President of the NC based BAC Scholarship Fund. Since creating the BAC Scholarship Fund in 2014, Mr. Jones has used a national network to award more than \$40,000 in college scholarships to children while also preparing them to compete in today's global economy. Approaching a decade of professional experience in transportation, Mr. Jones also works to improve transportation and public policy at the federal, state, and local levels of government. In 2016, he was recognized by the White House for his work in improving accessibility to transportation in America's underserved communities. Mr. Jones serves on the Board of Directors for Communities in Schools as well as boards for Higher Achievement, Inc. and North Carolina A&T State University. He is a native of Rocky Mount, NC and graduate of North Carolina A&T State University. A first generation college student and once a teenaged parent, Mr. Jones has overcome many obstacles on his way to success after college and has dedicated his life to helping others do the same.



Dr. Yvette E. Pearson, P.E., F. ASCE
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Dr. Yvette Pearson is Associate Dean for Accreditation and Assessment in the George R. Brown School of Engineering at Rice University. A Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), she is recognized for more than two decades of contributions to engineering education and research. She has provided leadership in acquiring and administering millions in funding to improve opportunities for STEM majors from underrepresented groups. Among her numerous honors are UT Arlington's Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching (two-time recipient), the University of Texas System-wide Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, and, in 2013, recognition as one of the Top 25 Women Professors in Texas. Immediately prior to joining Rice, Dr. Pearson was a Program Director in the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation, where she managed a roughly \$70 million award portfolio. Dr. Pearson chairs ASCE's Formal Engineering Education Committee and is a member of the Society's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. She is a registered Professional Engineer in Louisiana and serves as a Program Evaluator for the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.



Dr. Timothy P. Carr
 Interim Associate Vice Chancellor
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Dr. Timothy Carr is Interim Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Graduate Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A member of the UNL faculty since 1996, Dr. Carr previously had faculty appointments at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and the University of Minnesota. He earned his M.S. in Food Science and Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Arizona.

His research focuses on cholesterol transport in the body and how dietary factors influence cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. He has published over 70 research articles, three textbooks, nine book chapters for textbooks, and numerous magazine and newspaper articles on diet and health issues. Dr. Carr has received several research and teaching awards, including the prestigious Donald & Mary Lee Swanson Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2004 and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Education in 2010. Dr. Carr has lectured on diet and health issues throughout the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, and South America. He has been a consultant to the World Health Organization and private industry, and he serves on the editorial boards for two professional journals.



Mr. Douglas K. McLemore
 Business Development Manager for Pre-Health
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 The Princeton Review

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Mr. Douglas McLemore is the Business Development Manager for Pre-Health Programs and Teacher, Tutor, and Trainer for The Princeton Review. As an undergraduate at Central Michigan University, Mr. McLemore studied chemistry but also focused on biology, physics, mathematics, and astronomy. His teaching experience began early as a TA in chemistry and ESL labs. He worked towards a Ph.D. in

Chemistry (Physical Inorganic) and a Master of Education in Adult Education from Colorado State University. While working on his graduate degrees, he worked for Pacific Northwest National Labs in Washington state doing computational research. He continued teaching undergrads throughout his graduate study and earned the Master Teacher Award from Front Range Community College as well as the Teacher of the Year and Mentor of the Year awards from Colorado State University. At The Princeton Review, Mr. McLemore teaches five MCAT subjects as well GRE, GMAT, OAT, DAT, PCAT, AP and SAT Science and Math. In his many years of teaching and his own experience with higher education, Mr. McLemore has seen almost everything that his students will face and enjoys helping them navigate the process.





Mr. Sherman Livingston
Project Coordinator
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Mr. Sherman Livingston is a native of Dallas, Texas. He is currently a Project Coordinator with the City of Dallas Mobility and Street Services Department. Mr. Livingston graduated from the prestigious Prairie View A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a minor in Construction Science. He also completed a business certification in Entrepreneurship. During his time at Prairie View, Mr. Livingston was actively involved on campus chairing various positions within the Marching Storm, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers, and Student Government Association. He was a Mid-American Transportation Center (MATC) scholar in 2012 and completed a summer research internship in 2013. His MATC summer research involved creating a traffic microsimulation model.

His “spare time” is dedicated to serving on his fraternity National Executive Board as the Corresponding Secretary, City Talkers Toastmaster Club Vice President of Public Relations, and Dallas Prairie View Alumni Association Financial Secretary, all while pursuing his Masters of Science in Finance from Southern New Hampshire University. Mr. Livingston’s number one hobby is shooting pool. He currently resides in Dallas, Texas.



Ms. Luz Sotelo
Graduate Research Assistant
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Ms. Luz Sotelo was born in Mc Allen, Texas, and raised in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico. She returned to the United States to pursue higher education and graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, having been named Mechanical Engineering Undergraduate Student of the Year. As an undergraduate student, Ms. Sotelo performed high academically, held teaching assistantships for multiple semesters, and was involved in the community through student organizations, such as the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and the UTRGV Baja racing team. Ms. Sotelo was also an active researcher in various projects, including cell dynamics, non-destructive characterization of metals, collection and analysis of thermal and vibration emissions from mechanical components, and polymer extrusion for 3D printing applications. Her undergraduate research work resulted in several conference presentations and a publication. Ms. Sotelo participated twice in the University Transportation Center for Railway Safety (UTCRS) Summer Research Program, hosted at the Mid America Transportation Center, in 2015 as a researcher and in 2016 as researcher and mentor. It was through these experiences that she met her current advisor and decided to pursue her graduate education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Currently Ms. Sotelo is pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics, specializing in dynamics and vibrations. Her research focuses on quantitative methods for ultrasonic inspection, and involves the assessment of current mathematical ultrasonic scattering models through the design and development of experiments, and their application to emerging materials, industries and technologies, such as metal 3D printing. She has been awarded multiple institutional fellowships, including the Nebraska Engineering Research Fund Fellowship, the Chancellor’s Fellowship, and the Mechanical and Materials Engineering Fellowship. Ms. Sotelo is also involved with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, collaborating to develop tutoring sessions for minority children from the local community, and is a member of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee. In her spare time, Ms. Sotelo likes reading fantasy books, working out, and dancing to Latin music. She is also an avid husker fan and spends the better part of her fall Saturdays at Memorial Stadium cheering for her team.



Mr. Ricardo Jacome
Graduate Research Assistant
Midwest Roadside Safety Facility
Nebraska Transportation Center
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Lincoln

Mr. Ricardo Jacome is a graduate research assistant at the Nebraska Transportation Center's Midwest Roadside Safety Facility. He received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and graduated Summa Cum Laude. Mr. Jacome spent the summer of 2015 at the headquarters of the Mid-America Transportation Center, where he participated in the University Transportation Center for Railway Safety's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. He has also previously worked as a science tutor and a teaching assistant. Mr. Jacome is currently a master's student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with a research focus on control systems and vibrations. Mr. Jacome is a first generation living in the United States. He moved to the U.S. and learned English at age 14.



Ms. Rubi Quiñones
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Lincoln

Ms. Rubi Quiñones is pursuing her Ph.D. in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She received her bachelor's from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). In the summer of 2016, Ms. Quiñones conducted research at the Mid-America Transportation Center as a participant in the University Transportation Center for Railway Safety's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. Ms. Quiñones is a fellowship recipient and currently conducts research on human-drone interactions at the Nebraska Intelligent MoBile Unmanned Systems (NIMBUS) Lab.



Mr. Oscar Peña
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Mr. Oscar Peña is a graduate research assistant at the Nebraska Transportation Center's Midwest Roadside Safety Facility. He received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). While an undergraduate at UTRGV, Mr. Peña participated in the University Transportation Center for Railway Safety's summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at the Mid-America Transportation Center. He is currently studying structural engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research focus is in roadside safety.

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

TIME	AGENDA	LOCATION
6:00 p.m.	Arrival and Check-in	Hyatt Place Lincoln/Downtown-Haymarket 600 Q Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

7:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception	Hyatt Place
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Thursday, September 28, 2017

Theme: The Why and How of Graduate School

6:30-7:15 a.m.	Breakfast (complimentary for hotel guests)	Hyatt Place
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7:15-7:30 a.m.	Transition from Hyatt Place to UNL City Campus	Pick up at Hyatt Place Entrance
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7:45-8:15 a.m.	Pre-Conference Assessment	Heritage Room, UNL City Campus Union, 2nd Floor
Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR), University of Nebraska-Lincoln		

8:15-8:30 a.m.	UNL Welcome and MATC Introduction	Heritage Room
Dr. Laurence Rilett, P.E. Director, Mid-America Transportation Center and Nebraska Transportation Center University of Nebraska-Lincoln		

8:30-8:50 a.m.	Overview of MATC Scholars Program	Heritage Room
Dr. Judy Perkins, P.E. Professor, Prairie View A&M University		

8:50-8:55 a.m.	Welcome from the Vice Chancellor	Heritage Room
Dr. Steve Goddard Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, University of Nebraska-Lincoln		

8:55-9:00 a.m.	BREAK	
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9:00-9:40 a.m.	Rotation 1	
Group 1	<i>Why Graduate School?</i> Mr. Juhann Waller, P.E. , North Carolina A&T State University	Heritage Room
Group 2	<i>Graduate School Student Experiences</i> Dr. Deo Chimba, P.E. , Tennessee State University	Georgian Suite Union, 2nd Floor

Thursday, September 28, 2017

9:40-10:20 a.m. Rotation 1		
Group 1	<i>Choosing a Graduate Program: Making a Short List</i> Dr. Ibibia Dabipi, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore	Heritage Room
Group 2	<i>Choosing Faculty Mentors & Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success</i> Dr. Edgar Blevins, Southern University	Georgian Suite
10:20-10:30 a.m. BREAK		
10:30-11:10 a.m. Rotation 2		
Group 1	<i>Graduate School Student Experiences</i> Dr. Deo Chimba, P.E., Tennessee State University	Heritage Room
Group 2	<i>Why Graduate School?</i> Mr. Juhann Waller, P.E., North Carolina A&T State University	Georgian Suite
11:10-11:50 a.m. Rotation 2		
Group 1	<i>Choosing Faculty Mentors & Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success</i> Dr. Edgar Blevins, Southern University	Heritage Room
Group 2	<i>Choosing a Graduate Program: Making a Short List</i> Dr. Ibibia Dabipi, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore	Georgian Suite
12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch		
	Dr. Velvet Basemera-Fitzpatrick, P.M.P. Program Officer, Transportation Research Board, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	Unity Room, 212 Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center
1:00-1:30 p.m. Group Photo		
1:30-2:30 p.m. GEM Overview and Opportunities		
	Dr. Marcus Huggans Senior Director, External Relations, The National GEM Consortium	Heritage Room
2:30-2:45 p.m. BREAK		
2:45-3:45 p.m. Graduate School Admissions Exams Overview		
	Mr. Douglas McLemore Teacher, Tutor, Trainer of Graduate Programs, The Princeton Review	Heritage Room
3:45-4:15 p.m. Explore Union and Visit University Bookstore		
4:15-4:45 p.m. Tour UNL Campus and Walk to Memorial Stadium		
4:45-6:00 p.m. Memorial Stadium Tour		
6:00-8:00 p.m. Dinner and Network with UNL Faculty and Graduate Students		
		WHIT Pre-Function Space, Rm 251
8:00 p.m. Transition to Hyatt Place		

Friday, September 29, 2017

Theme: Strategies for Succeeding in Graduate School

AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA	LOCATION
7:00-8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (complimentary for hotel guests)	Hyatt Place
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Transition from Hyatt Place to Prem S. Paul Research Center at Whittier School (WHIT)	Pick up at Hyatt Place Entrance
9:00-9:40 a.m.	Rotation 3	WHIT 2200 Vine St.
Group 1	<i>Communication Skills</i> Ms. Amy Maki, M.Ed., A.O. Maki & Associates, L.L.C.	WHIT 152
Group 2	<i>Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances</i> Dr. Luis Vázquez, New Mexico State University	WHIT 136
9:40-10:20 a.m.	Rotation 4	
Group 1	<i>Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances</i> Dr. Luis Vázquez, New Mexico State University	WHIT 152
Group 2	<i>Communication Skills</i> Ms. Amy Maki, M.Ed., A.O. Maki & Associates, L.L.C.	WHIT 136
10:20-10:30 a.m.	BREAK	
10:30-11:00 a.m.	UNL Graduate Studies: Meeting with the Dean	WHIT 152
	Dr. Lance Pérez Interim Dean and Omar H. Heins Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
11:00-11:30 a.m.	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and Internship Programs	WHIT 152
	Dr. Erick Jones, P.E., CSSMBB, MSIE Program Director, National Science Foundation; George and Elizabeth Endowed Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs, University of Texas at Arlington	
11:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Research Experiences for Undergraduates	WHIT 152
	Dr. Timothy Carr Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Dean of Graduate Education, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
12:00-1:15 p.m.	Lunch	WHIT
	Mr. Kevin Jones Transportation Specialist, US DOT Federal Highway Administration-Richmond, VA Founder/President of North Carolina BAC Scholarship Fund	
1:15-1:30 p.m.	Transition from Lunch to Sessions	

Friday, September 29, 2017

1:30-2:30 p.m.	Future of the Transportation Workforce	WHIT 152
	Ms. Elaine Armster President, Linkscape360	
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Voices from the Field: UTCRS REUs and MATC Interns	WHIT 152
	Mr. Sherman Livingston , Project Coordinator, City of Dallas Mobility Planning Division Mr. Oscar Peña , Graduate Research Assistant, Nebraska Transportation Center - Midwest Roadside Safety Facility Ms. Luz Sotelo , Graduate Research Assistant, Mechanical & Materials Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Mr. Ricardo Jacome , Graduate Research Assistant, Nebraska Transportation Center - Midwest Roadside Safety Facility Ms. Rubi Quiñones , Graduate Research Assistant, Computer Science & Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
3:30-3:45 p.m.	Break and Ice Cream Sundaes	WHIT Courtyard
3:45-4:45 p.m.	The Road to a New Tohoku: Rebuilding after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami	WHIT 152
	Dr. Terri Norton Associate Professor, Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction, University of Nebraska Lincoln	
4:45-5:30 p.m.	Focus Group Dialogue and Assessment	WHIT
	Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) , University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Group A - 151 C Group B - 151 B Group C - 151 D Group D - 152
5:30-6:00 p.m.	Transition from Prem S. Paul Research Center to Morrill Hall	
6:00-8:00 p.m.	Closing Dinner	Morrill Hall 645 North 14th St.
	Dr. Yvette Pearson, P.E., F.ASCE Associate Dean for Accreditation and Assessment, Rice University	
8:00 p.m.	Transition to Hyatt Place	



Saturday, September 30, 2017

Theme: Highlights from MATC Region 7 Institutions

TIME	AGENDA	LOCATION
8:00-9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (complimentary for hotel guests)	Hyatt Place
9:00-9:15 a.m.	Transition from Breakfast to Sessions	
9:15-10:00 a.m.	Transportation Careers	Hyatt Place
	Dr. Laurence Rilett, P.E. Director, Mid-America Transportation Center and Nebraska Transportation Center University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
10:00-10:45 a.m.	Future Logistics	Hyatt Place
	Ms. Andria Hendricks, MBA, MA Director, Small Business Development Center Lincoln University	
10:45-11:30 a.m.	Post-Survey	Hyatt Place
	Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) , University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
11:30-11:45 a.m.	Closing Remarks	Hyatt Place
	Dr. Laurence Rilett, P.E. Director, Mid-America Transportation Center and Nebraska Transportation Center University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
11:45 a.m.	Boxed Lunches and Adjourn	Hyatt Place

ABOUT MATC

Since 2006 the Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) has been designated as the United States Department of Transportation Region VII University Transportation Center. Region VII is composed of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. MATC is a consortium of eight universities within the region. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln serves as the lead institution of the consortium, where MATC has its headquarters.



MATC's research priority is promoting safety with an emphasis on reducing the number of incidents involving hazardous material transport, mitigating the negative effects of crashes, and improving emergency response to unexpected events. The implementation of MATC research increases the safety of surface transportation system users and workers in Region VII and across the United States.

MATC's education priority includes increasing the number of students from underrepresented groups in STEM education and transportation-related careers. To achieve this objective, MATC has implemented the Roads, Rails, and Racecars After-School Program, the Scholars Program, and the Intern Program.

SESSION 1

Why Graduate School?

Now that you have completed your undergraduate degree, there are several career options to be considered. Graduate school is an extremely viable option to not only consider, but actually pursue. The benefits to attending graduate school to obtain an advanced degree are endless and so are the reasons to pursue one. This session covers some of the major reasons that individuals attend to pursue advanced degrees, graduate school preparation, factors to consider when beginning the graduate application process, benefits of obtaining a graduate degree, and the various career paths of those that have graduate degrees in the transportation related as well as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

SESSION 2

Choosing A Graduate Program: Making a Short List

The nuances of choosing a graduate program in the context of the student's background, financial environment, and relative quality of the programs of interest are articulated. How the issues of online versus traditional coursework considerations as well as matters to doctoral decision-making process affect the ultimate path taken to achieve the student's graduate school goals is discussed. A synopsis of the process of identifying, evaluating, and choosing a program compatible with the needs of the prospective graduate will be examined. Also, the basics of how to create a competitive application packet that contains GRE scores, personal statements and letters of recommendation will be covered.

SESSION 3

Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances

This session provides students a working knowledge of the process of receiving funds as a graduate student and/or a research assistant. It describes the risks of losing funding due to things such as poor work ethic or program funds eliminated by the funding agency. Establishing a budget, savings, and investing strategies that are flexible enough to support a student with or without funding are discussed. Other topics include: strategies for supporting faculty to receive additional funding in order to possibly increase a student's stipend, graduate assistant work ethic, maintaining funding as a master or doctoral student, and teaching and research.



SESSION 4

Communication Skills

This session will address the components of active communication—written and oral. The importance of appropriate writing and speaking in academic and corporate settings will be stressed. In the interactive session, participants will be challenged to improve their communication skills through hands-on activities and oral activities. Participants will develop and/or critique their personal statements. Emphasis will also be placed on understanding the role of non-verbal communication cues.

SESSION 5

Graduate School Student Experience

Since graduate school is an advanced level of learning compared to undergraduate studies, it is associated with new challenges that students must prepare for. Students need to know how to choose a program of study, meet admission requirements and advisor expectations, connect with the right groups, and register for the right classes. Further, a student's mentality, networking with other students, and expectations from the faculty advisor are all part of the challenges that a graduate student will face. This session will discuss the graduate school challenges and will target different experiences a graduate student should expect throughout their program.

SESSION 6

Choosing Faculty Mentors & Finding "Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success

Mentoring in graduate school provides students with coaching, counseling, and nurturing support essential to developing academically, personally, and professionally. This session provides information on how to identify and select a faculty mentor and mentors from other communities. The topics covered include: students' perspectives of faculty mentors, what to look for in a faculty mentor and finding good match, the benefits of a positive mentor/mentee relationship, what is expected from a mentor, the social environment of graduate school, the difference between a faculty mentor and an academic advisor, and insight into what students may experience during grad school. The goal of this session is to show that faculty mentors and mentoring communities are essential to the success of graduate students.

MATC SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2017

<http://matc.unl.edu/education/scholars-program-home.php>



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