

## “What I Did During My MATC Summer Internship”

By: Brandon Prauner

The Mid America Transportation Center (MATC) has provided me a rare opportunity to further my education by means of a full time internship with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR). During my thirteen-week summer internship with NDOR I have been working in Interstate Design within the Roadway Design Department. While employed here, several opportunities have been provided to me. These opportunities covered a very diverse set of civil engineering activities ranging from implementing challenging aspects of roadway design to taking field trips to several different construction sites. While trying to understand all of the new concepts and software, the staff has been very supportive and helpful in answering any questions I have had.

During my time at NDOR, my internship has challenged me with several different responsibilities. One of these jobs includes the design of permanent and temporary culverts for I-80 between 56<sup>th</sup> St. and the Waverly Interchange just north of Lincoln, Nebraska. Erosion control, earthwork, phasing, contour maps, fencing and creating the roadway cross-sections have also been part of the design process with which I have been involved. Seeing the actual construction of the design I've made take place helps bring all the pieces of civil engineering full circle. On the construction field trips I have been able to watch new concrete being laid, a concrete overlay, and the construction of a soil-nail wall in Omaha, Nebraska. I have also been able to see the grading and sub-grade preparation of I-80 between Omaha and Lincoln for the project between Waverly, Nebraska and Greenwood, Nebraska, to which I have contributed.

Becoming a MATC intern has put me on track to graduate with a priceless amount of on-the-job training. No other internship could offer such a diverse mix of designing and field experience. From being able to design actual aspects of the interstate to seeing the designs built makes all of the scholastic endeavors of college worth it. By getting involved with the MATC intern program, student gains opportunities to work with professionals at their workplace and with other businesses, ensuring a background incomparable to those that have not been a part of the program.