

# *Transportation Workforce Development and Outreach Seminars*

## *CTME Grant Completion Report*

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Our proposal and subsequent funded project of outreach seminars and workforce development workshop, were to add in the task of having a trained workforce and introducing middle and high school students to the transportation industry to spark their interested in the field of engineering.

To meet these goals, we sponsored several seminars for middle/high school students, and one workforce development workshop. A synopsis of each of the event is listed below.

### ***Transportation Seminar for High School Students***

The purpose of the seminar for high school students was to expand their knowledge of the vast employment opportunities in the transportation industry, in turn increasing the interest of incoming college students in the transportation field. To conduct this seminar we teamed up with Phil Crish, Construction Director, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT); Dave DeChristofaro, Trumbull County Engineer; John Picuri, Deputy Engineer, Trumbull County Engineer; John Getchey, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments; Jeremy Levenson, Great Lakes Construction. Since each of the entities, except the Trumbull County Engineer, had a part in the Meander Bridge Project, the team chose to present what their part of the project entailed. This would provide to the students an overall understanding of how a project was developed from beginning to the end.

The seminar was held on March 9, 2009 at Youngstown State University. There were approximately 25 students in attendance, from various area middle and high schools. From the surveys, the students enjoyed the presentation/seminar, but expressed that they would like to see a more hands-on approach at the next event. We certainly will take this into consideration when planning another event in the future.

### ***Various High School Field Trips***

Throughout the duration of our funded grant, various high schools have visited YSU and the Engineering Technology Department. At these events, we provide hands-on projects for the students, to intrigue them in the Civil and Construction Engineering field. At some of these events we had them build balsa wood truss bridges, which we would then load test; at other events we would have them perform sieve analysis testing, in order to better understand the aspects of soils to the Civil and Construction Engineering field. These events/high school field trips usually happen two to three times throughout the academic year.

### ***Co-Sponsored Event with Student Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers***

Last year, in March, the student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, hosted Liberty Middle school students for a ‘Tear Apart a Toaster’ event. The student members of the chapter had collected various, broken, appliances in which the Liberty students, with the aid of college students, tore apart the appliances to see how they worked. Although this event was not directly and specifically focused on transportation/civil engineering, we felt that it was encouraging students to pursue studies in the engineering fields. As such, we co-sponsored the event with providing treats to the participants.

### ***Workforce Development Seminar - Microstation***

On August 3, 2009, we held a workforce development seminar on the use of Bentley Microstation. This seminar was a six hour seminar introducing professionals to the site development software, Microstation. The seminar was taught by ms consultants, inc. out of Columbus. There were approximately 20 participants who attended the seminar. Overall feedback for the seminar was positive, with requests for various other types of topics to be covered.