Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute at Marshall University

RTI TRANSPORTATION Building Jobs through Transportation FOCUS

News and Information from the Rahall Transportation Institute

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Mineta, Rahall, ARC, RSPA Members Visit RTI

Guests Participate in Transportation, Safety Roundtables; Tour Facilities

Top left: Anne Pope of the ARC, RTI Director Bob Plymale, Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II, Marshall University President Dan Angel and U.S. Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta are briefed by RTI Associate Director Richard Begley. Bottom left: Angel interviews Mineta and Rahall about transportation issues for an edition of Headliners, *Marshall University's news-talk television program. Right: Mineta and Rahall are greeted by Bob Plymale at the Tri-State Airport in Kenova, W.Va.*

by Errin Jewell

United States Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II, representatives from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the USDOT's Research and Special Programs Administration and members of the transportation industry met in Huntington, W.Va., March 29 to participate in transportation and safety

Continued on 3: Mineta

IDEA Helps Professors in Commercialization of Invention

by jennifer Wedge

Currently, the Institute for Development of Entrepreneurial Advances (IDEA) at Marshall University is assisting Dr. Richard Begley, RTI Associate Director, and Dr. Tony Szwilski, Chair, Division of Environmental Science and Safety Technology, with the commercialization of their invention, a sub-structure inspection system to determine the condition of railroad tracks and beds.

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Plymale's Perspective: *The Director's Report*

"Recognizing Achievements in Transportation Research, Education and Technology Transfer"

At RTI, we are very honored that several members of our team have recently received recognition for their work in the areas of transportation research, education and technology transfer.

Their efforts are bringing us closer to reaching our goal of "Building Jobs through Transportation," and provide us with further methods to contribute to future economic growth in the Appalachian region. Working with educational institutions, government agencies and other leaders who have committed their efforts to aiding the Appalachian community can only help us improve the overall well-being of its citizens.

We are proud of the labors of those groups and individuals, including: members of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration, State and Federal leaders, Marshall University faculty and staff, our numerous partner schools, fellow University Transportation Centers and many others.

The synergy that has been created among us is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to continuing to work with them for years to come.

Recent visits to our institution by United States Secretary of Transportation Norma Mineta, U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II, and distinguished members of the ARC, RSPA and other institutions, have given us an opportunity to demonstrate some of the new technologies developed at RTI. It honors us to be able to exhibit some of the good things we have in store for the future of transportation.

During this visit, our guests also met with pre-K-12 students who have benefited from RTI's outreach activities. Although many of the students were very young, it was delightful to see how the faces of future leaders lit up when they expressed basic transportation concepts to current leaders. Integrating basic transportation concepts into curriculum at an early age is essential to creating an educated, tech-savvy workforce, and RTI strives to bring these educational essentials to area youth.

Recently, Dr. Richard Begley, RTI's Associate Director and Dr. Tony Szwilski, a principal investigator and director of Marshall University's College of Information Technology and Engineering, have recently received MU's Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award and their research for the Federal Railway Administration is being considered as the first for commercialization support from MU's Institute for Development of Entrepreneurial Advances.

The Western Greenbrier County Co-Generation Plant, a $215 million clean coal project that will use coal waste to produce "woodbrik" material for construction, has been commissioned by the United States Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. According to *The Beckley-Register Herald*, the Co-Gen plant has the potential to provide 6,000 jobs in Southern West Virginia.

The quality of life in most regions can be directly tied to its transportation infrastructure and systems. Our researchers, educational outreach instructors and technology transfer specialists have been given a wonderful opportunity to improve and advance the Appalachian transportation system. We are very thankful our hard work is being recognized, and we hope to continue to make contributions that can enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Appalachia.

Sincerely,
Bob Plymale, RTI Director

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Never too Young to be the Next Picasso

by Ashlee Gibson

Children attending the Marshall Early Education Center (MUEEC) were encouraged to create pieces for the MUEEC art auction at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse at Marshall University April 21-24.

The children, ranging from 3 to 5 years, created artwork on canvases based on concepts learned during recent project enterprises. These topics include cranes, trucks, barges and a reflection of other subjects covered during the semester. RTI engineers collaborated with the staff at the MUEEC to teach kids about the transportation related topics.

The art show and auction raised approximately $1300. These funds not only provide additional materials needed to operate the MUEEC but also develop children's sensory skills, motor skills and the muscles required for the acquisition of writing skills.

Clayton Burch, director of the MUEEC, said a more important component of the auction was the exposure of the children's accomplishments to the community.

"Few people realize the potential of a three or four year old mind until they observe what our children are capable of. Through our hands-on approach to the early childhood curriculum our children are tackling and understanding ideas and concepts of their environment at a much higher level than many realize," Burch said.

Left: Guests viewed the children's works for several days before placing their bids that raised more than $1300 for the MUEEC.

Above: A young student puts the finishing touches on her masterpiece.

The children created approximately 25 pieces of artwork, some of which was collaborative to further teach kids how to work together.

RTI has worked in conjunction with the MUEEC to develop an extensive transportation curriculum, focusing on early childhood education. This partnership has led RTI and MUEEC to develop several outreach products to familiarize parents, educators and other curriculum development associated groups with the progression of the curriculum.

"Because of the children's inquiries about their environment, topics about various forms of transportation and transportation infrastructure in Appalachia have repeatedly emerged and constitute a great deal of the curriculum in the MUEEC," Burch said.

For more information on the MUEEC, visitwww.marshall.edu /coehs/mueec.

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Academy Introduces Students to the World of Engineering

by Ashlee Gibson

Practicing engineers led 34 high school students through building and programming intelligent robotic vehicles, constructing trebuchets, mapping GPS points and assembling CO2 racers and other activities during the "Exploring Engineering Academy of Excellence" camp at Marshall University June 20-25.

Juniors from high schools in West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio attended the fourth an-nual camp, which was hosted by the College of Info-rmation Tech-nology and Engineering (CITE) and co-sponsored by RTI and other engineering, transportation and technology organizations.

Above: Students test their trebuchets in competition for accuracy and distance with the assistance of local engineers.

Dr. Betsy Ennis Dulin, Dean of CITE; Dr. William Pierson, Interim Division Chair; and Dr. Richard McCormick, Ph.D. coordinated the camp and served as instructors. RTI research associate Asha Puttaiah, an environmental engineer, assisted as a counselor. Other instructors came from the Society of American Military Engineers Huntington Post and local engineering firms.

Participants explored engineering as a career by engaging in hands-on engineering activities, touring engineering facilities, and interacting with engineers and students from all major engineering disciplines, including civil, chemical, electrical, mechanical and environmental engineering.

The program also focused on skills important for success in the study and practice of engineering, such as problem solving, team-building, project management and communications.

Above: Students learn the basics of environmental safety and sampling at Beech Fork Lake.

Students were split into design teams to provide a more intimate learning environment and develop teamwork while completing the exercises. Field trips to Beech Fork Lake, the Toyota plant at Eleanor, W.Va., Heritage Farms and the Clay Center allowed them to take a hands-on approach to practical engineering principles, such as seeing examples of environmental, automotive and civil engineering.

"We have a great group of kids from all over the state, with more female students in attendance than in the past," Dulin said.

Students were selected based on their performances in college preparatory courses and letters of recommend-ation from their guidance counselors.

Right: Campers had fun using the tools of the trade, inlcuding survey-ing equipment.

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Continued from 1: Mineta

roundtables, receive a briefing of RTI research and education activities, serve as keynote speakers at local events and take part in other activities.

RTI Director Bob Plymale said, "We are extremely pleased and honored that Mr. Mineta and Rep. Rahall have taken the time to re-visit our facilities at the Appalachian Transportation Institute to examine our body of work.

"Our staff appreciates the fact that the potential impact of our research findings and pre-Kindergarten through post secondary educational programs and activities may have on the future of transportation in Appalachia is recognized."

RTI conducted two concurrent, half-day roundtable sessions during the morning. One session, "Mobility and Economic Development in Appalachia: Connecting Business to Markets and People to Opportunity in the Global Economy of the 21st Century," brought together transportation experts from throughout the Appalachian region to explore critical transportation mobility issues in Appalachia as they relate to economic health, quality of life and workforce opportunities for the region in the 21st century.

During the other concurrent session, members of the Rural Transportation Safety Roundtable met with RTI representatives and others to discuss rural transportation safety issues. Rahall and Mineta served as keynote speakers during each session's luncheons.

Mineta and Rahall also made an announcement of a $6.4 million grant secured by Sen. Robert C. Byrd to upgrade safety operations and taxiways at the Tri-State Airport in Kenova, W.Va. The grant will be used to "expand and rehabilitate" the airport's firefighting building, which was built in 1967, to purchase a new emergency response truck and to extend the taxiway next to the main runway.

A tour of RTI's facilities took place that afternoon, during which distinguished guests, including Mineta, Rahall, representatives from the ARC and RSPA, Marshall University faculty and staff and several Cabell-Wayne delegates, were briefed about RTI's research and education programs, watched a demonstration of RTI's prototype Transportation and Economic Development Information System (TEDIS) and were informed of four new West Virginia companies that are under development as a result of the RTI research program.

Mineta and Rahall also met with several students who have benefited from RTI's pre-K-12 outreach program and recognized RTI's 2003 student of the year, Pete Dailey.

> *"We are extremely pleased and honored that Mr. Mineta and Rep. Rahall have taken the time to re-visit our facilities at the Appalachian Transportation Institute to examine our body of work."*
> Bob Plymale
> RTI Director

After the tour, Angel interviewed Mineta and Rahall for the transportation-related edition of *Headliners,* a Marshall University-produced news-talk show. During the taping, the trio discussed topics including RTI's role in transportation research, the use of GPS, GIS and other mapping technologies and major issues facing modern transportation professionals.

Mineta and Rahall also toured CSX's Huntington Locomotive Shop, which is its largest heavy locomotive repair facility. They attended a safety briefing; visited the heavy repair shop, electric shop and wheel shop; and ended the tour by starting the engine of a recently built 4,400-horsepower diesel locomotive. Employees of the Huntington shop are the winners of CSX's 2003 Most Improved in Safety Award.

That evening, Rahall introduced Mineta as the keynote speaker for the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner, during which he discussed the tri-state area's role as one of the nation's busiest inland waterways and how the city's economy is "intrinsically tied with its transportation."

Continued from 1: IDEA

Drs. Begley and Szwilski's substructure inspection system combines a variety of inspection tools including Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) and a high resolution Geographic Positioning System. As a result, the system more accurately identifies potential failures of track structures, further allowing for more precise inspection. Additional benefits of the system include data analysis in real time and the dramatic increase of accuracy in locating the problem to a measurement of less than two centimeters.

In addition, they are also working on software for a database to coincide with the inspection system. The software would allow testers to enter results that would then be entered into a national database, monitoring railroads across the United States.

During the spring of 2004, the system was tested in the rail yard of NS Railroad Birmingham, Ala.; the second test will take place this fall at the Federal Railroad Administration's Pueblo, Colo. proving grounds. The system, called InSenSys, is already being used in small scale applications for branch lines and will be ready for full commercialization by the end of the year.

Established in July 2003, IDEA focuses on the commercialization of technological and scientific advances developed by Marshall faculty students and staff. One of the missions of the institute includes assisting inventors in the patent and royalties' process, as well as converting those inventions into new job creating enterprises for the region. Led by Dr. Calvin A. Kent, Vice President for Technology Commercialization and Director of IDEA, the institute consists of three areas of emphasis: Center for Biotechnology Commercialization (CBC), Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) and Entrepreneurship Education Program. Since its inception, IDEA has worked on more than 30 projects and assisted the Marshall community by filing eight provisional patents and two grants to help further protect and fund developing projects.

Begley, Szwilski Receive DASA Award from MU

by jennifer Wedge

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Richard Begley and Dr. Tony Szwilski for being awarded "MU Distinguished Artists and Scholars Team Award" (DASA) for 2003-2004.

Presented annually, this award is given to three individual faculty members and one faculty team at Marshall University.

Winners are selected based on evaluations of projects by committee members representing each of the University's eligible academic Colleges/Schools.

Begley and Szwilski have collaborated for nearly 10 years, producing a significant body of research that has increased the visibility of Marshall University regionally, nationally and internationally.

They were recognized for helping to support the institutionalization of the RTI grant, research on technologies to assist in railroad track monitoring and for developing student exchange programs with schools in Europe, Mexico and Canada.

RTI Employees Provide Operation Lifesaver Classes to Area

by Jennifer Wedge

Research Associate John Ball, along with Research Assistant LeAndria Reed, has been traveling the Huntington area providing presentations to groups on the topic of railroad safety.

Reed and Ball volunteer with Operation Lifesaver, a non-profit public awareness program aimed at ending collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and properties.

The first RTI Operation Lifesaver presentation given to pre-service professionals took place at the Marshall Community and Technical College Railroad Conductor Training School at the Cabell County Vocational and Technical School. The presentation focused on railroad worker safety. Tailored to fit the needs of the class, Ball and Reed targeted the lecture on the basics of crossing safety from a conductor's viewpoint.

A second presentation took place at the monthly Cabell County School Bus Drivers required in-service. As with the first presentation, Ball and Reed tailored the seminar to fit the needs of the county bus drivers. Concentrating on the dangers to bus drivers at railroad crossings, in addition to the presentation, an informational video was shown.

If you or your organization is interested in an Operation Lifesaver presentation, please contact John Ball or LeAndria Reed at (304)696-2525.

WVOL Rail Camp Teaches Kids Railroad Safety for a Lifetime

by Ashlee Gibson

RTI and the West Virginia Operation Lifesaver (WVOL) gave kids an alternative to the lazy days of summer with the WVOL Rail Camp June 27-July 1 at Camp Echo in Petersburg, W.Va. Twenty-five 12-17 year olds from West Virginia, Maryland and Minnesota participated in the camp.

The primary focus of the camp is to target this particular age group to encourage the children to form rail-safe lifestyles. WVOL attempts to reduce injuries and fatalities at highway-rail grade crossings and railroad rights-of-way in West Virginia.

Throughout the week, campers were exposed to Operation Lifesaver instruction in addition to their daily activities which included swimming at Moorefield City Park and motorcar trips through Smokehole Caverns and Seneca Rocks. They also got an opportunity to operate antique hand carts in races coordinated by the Southern Branch Valley Railroad.

RTI Research Associate John Ball and Research Assistant LeAndria Reed served as instructors/counselors.

"It's important to get young kids exposed to railroads and Operation Lifesaver, to learn safety and maybe be presenters to their peers," Ball said.

For the past four years, RTI has partnered with CSX, Norfolk Southern and the West Virginia State Public Service Commission in Operation Lifesaver, which operates on volunteer labor—mostly from transportation professionals throughout the state.

Left: Campers visit a hands on exhibit at Seneca Rocks.

New Software, RTI Training to Reduce Emergency Response Time

by Ashlee Gibson

Local first respond emergency personnel were introduced to new software that may reduce the response time in emergency situations.

Approximately 60 personnel from various emergency response centers throughout West Virginia attended the March 2 kickoff hosted by RTI at the Marshall University Performing Arts Center Frances Booth Experimental Theater.

Attendees included the WV State Police, Cabell County Sheriff's Office Poison Control Center, local municipal and volunteer fire departments, members of the Huntington District Waterways Association, US Army Corps of Engineers, Marathon Ashland Petroleum (LLC), West Virginia Port Authority, CSX Railroad and the United States Coast Guard.

The Operation Respond Institute, Inc. (ORI) is a non-profit corporation that develops software for the emergency response community. Its principal focus has been the transport of hazardous materials, messaging and alert systems and railroad mapping.

RTI developed the Operation Respond Emergency Information System (OREIS). This system is designed to protect the safety of first responders in emergency situations that involve hazardous materials by allowing them to quickly access information via the Internet concerning hazardous materials being carried by truck, rail or river.

The software provides first emergency responders with data including real-time hazardous materials content of freight railcars, chemical contents of select motor carriers, passenger railroad emergency schematics and chemical specific and situational guidance for dealing with different chemicals in an incident.

"We are also identifying the special needs of the inland marine industry and how we can integrate OREIS into their operations in case of incidents or accidents involving towboats and barges on the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers," Dana Robertson, Coordinator of the Marshall University Community and Technical College Inland Waterways Academy, said.

The OREIS system is currently in use by a small number of communities in West Virginia, but Robertson said he hoped to implement a statewide initiative. RTI is developing an e-training program for the fall in which first-responders would learn OREIS via the Internet.

For more information on OREIS, contact Dana Robertson at 697-5616 or robertson@marshall.edu.

OPERATION RESPOND

Coal Waste Will Fuel New Power Plant; Create up to 6,000 Jobs

by Jennifer Wedge

U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham visited Greenbrier County June 7 to commission a new power plant project in Rainelle, W.Va. The $215 million power plant is estimated to create about 6,000 direct, indirect and induced new jobs in the region.

Named the Western Greenbrier Co-Gen, the new 85-megawatt plant will be owned by the towns of Rainelle, Rupert and Quinwood, W.Va. With construction beginning in 2006, the plant will be the anchor tenant of a new "Eco Park." RTI helped locate the site through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the U.S. Department of Energy.

The power plant will burn waste from coal refuse piles located in the Rainelle area. Using an innovative technology called atmospheric-pressure circulating fluidized-bed combustion, coal waste will be burned efficiently in compliance with clean air standards.

The plant will capture fly ash residue and combine it with wood chips, which will later be used to produce a new type of building block known as "Woodbrik." Additionally, the plant will generate enough electricity to power 85,000 homes.

"The Greenbrier project will consume nearby waste-coal refuse, effectively reducing the total estimate of nearly 400 million tons located in several hundred southern West Virginia sites," Abraham said. "The refuse carries an estimated clean-up cost of $2 billion to $3 billion, which has been characterized as West Virginia's premier environmental hazard," according to *The Beckley Register Herald.*

Out of 36 proposed projects, the Western Greenbrier Co-Gen was one of eight clean-coal projects selected nationwide, according to Abraham. The plant is scheduled to open in the spring of 2008.

Rahall and Plymale Serve as Keynote Speakers at MU, MCTC Graduations

by Ashlee Gibson

U.S. Rep. Nick Joe Rahall, II served as the keynote speaker at Marshall University's 167th commencement exercise May 8 in Huntington, W.Va.

He established the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute, a consortium of five Southern West Virginia colleges, based at Marshall University. Recently, Rahall helped RTI win designation as a National Maritime Enhancement Institute to enable it to compete for federal grants related to maritime activities. RTI is one of seven so-named universities in the nation, thus further advancing RTI's mission of "Building Jobs through Transportation" for West Virginia.

First elected to Congress in 1976, Rahall is now serving his 14th term. He is also dean of the West Virginia Delegation to the House of Representatives. In the House, Rahall serves on the Committee on Resources, where he is the Ranking Democratic Member and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where he is the second senior Democrat. Rahall has been instrumental in the development of federal highway and transit legislation.

Rahall currently serves on three panels of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee: Highways and Transit (senior Democratic member), Railroads and Aviation. A veteran of every federal highway bill since coming to Congress, Rahall was a key architect in the formulation of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (known as TEA 21). In that bill, he secured more dollars for designated highway projects than any other Member of Congress.

RTI director Robert Plymale also served as the featured speaker at the Marshall Community and Technical College commencement in the Memorial Student Center May 7.

He is serving his third four-year term in the West Virginia Senate, where he is chair of the Senate Education Committee, focusing on community colleges as a force in economic development.

Graduate Research Assistant Completes Work with United Nations

by Ashlee Gibson

Galina Fet, an RTI graduate research assistant, recently returned from a two-week assignment in the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) where she served as a Biodiversity and Mapping Specialist for a program established two years ago by the Global Environmental Facility in the Russian Far East.

Fet, a native of Russia, had previously worked in a Biosphere reserve collecting ground data for her thesis in plant ecology and vegetation mapping. She completed the vegetation map of Nature Park without the aid of computer programming. After the project, she decided to upgrade her skills and enrolled in graduate classes at Marshall University.

"With RTI's sponsoring the graduate program, I have had the opportunity to obtain a valuable hands-on working knowledge with commercial projects and the challenge of using the RTI supported modern state-of-the-art computer lab during my studies. Enhancing the knowledge of mapping software while working on practical tasks is very rewarding," Fet said.

She chose to work on the forest classification and biodiversity database of the National Park in the Kyrgyz Republic for her thesis. Her presentation demonstrating the use of the Image Web Server for environmental assessments was successful. These applications developed by RTI evoked interest among international participants, especially in using satellite imagery as a map base and communication transportation information on the Internet.

Fet's previous international experience included participation in a study sponsored by the US Agency for International Development Environment and Energy Program (USAID) which evaluated five developing countries of Central Asia (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan). She also contributed descriptions of several ecosystems of Kamchatka and Eurasian mountains to the World Wildlife Fund's Global 200 list of the world's most important eco-regions.

RTI, WVCP Partnership Leads to a Proposed Wireless Incident Management System for Charleston, W.Va.

by Ashlee Gibson

A partnership between RTI, the West Virginia Courtesy Patrol (WVCP), the Citizens Conservation Corps (CCC) and AT&T Wireless may soon improve the emergency response time of WVCP vehicles.

The CCC and WVCP submitted a grant to the United States Department of Commerce's Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) for a Wireless Incident Management System (WIMS) in April. The project is to be launched in Charleston and surrounding areas. WIMS will involve wireless communications and technology applications including global positioning satellite (GPS) units, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and truck mounted variable message signs (VMS) and traffic cameras sponsored by corporations located along the corridors in the region.

The proposed three-year project will lead to shorter response times, skill upgrades and the launching of measurable outcomes in the area, including job training and information sharing for improved incident management.

The job training will intensively use wireless technology to increase future employability and advancement potential for GPS/GIS-trained WVCP drivers. WIMS will also result in information being shared more efficiently and swiftly so that coordinated incident management can occur enabling emergency responders to reach incident sites by alternate routes and allow normal traffic flow to be restored.

Faculty & Student Spotlight: Linda Hamilton & Brian Stephens

by Jennifer Wedge

Name: Linda Hamilton
Education: M.A. in Math
Title: Pre-K-12 Instructor
Birthplace: Billings, Mont.

Contributions to RTI: Lead instructor for RTI's Adopt-A-School program. Hamilton visits these eight schools on a weekly basis. She also helped develop the Intelligent Transportation Systems LEGO Robotics City and the Science and Engineering NASA Site of Remote Sensing (SENSORS) City, which are part of RTI's Transportation Outreach on the Web Program.
E-mail Address: hamilton@marshall.edu

Name: Brian Stephens
Education: Graduated May 2003 with a B.B.A. - Business Management. Currently enrolled at Marshall Graduate School pursuing a M.B.A.
Title: Graduate Research Assistant
Birthplace: Huntington, WV

Contributions to RTI: Includes conducting numerous surveys for the purpose of data collection including phone surveys, and field (economic) surveys.
E-mail Address: stephens9@marshall.edu

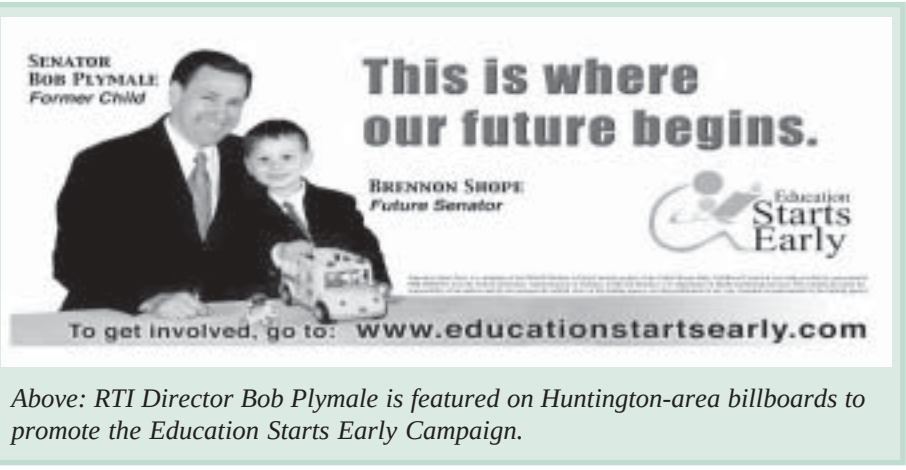
Plymale Volunteers as Spokesperson for Early Education Campaign

by Ashlee Gibson

RTI director Robert Plymale, along with other community leaders, recently volunteered his time to serve as a spokesperson for the Education Starts Early campaign.

The Education Starts Early campaign was started by the Cabell-Wayne Early Education Council, which is funded by a federal Early Learning Opportunities Grant. The campaign's message is that to improve the future of our area, we must work together and start early. The campaign states that by giving the youngest children quality care and experiences, their full potential as citizens can be realized.

Plymale joined the campaign to work to deliver this message, and he is featured with an area child on billboards, radio and television spots, and newspaper and magazine advertisements along with the campaign website.



Above: RTI Director Bob Plymale is featured on Huntington-area billboards to promote the Education Starts Early Campaign.

He will also be involved in area events that are related to the campaign.

"I think it is important to stress how essential education is at an early age, so kids can have all possible advantages to further their academic careers," Plymale said.

By providing such a campaign, the Cabell-Wayne Early Childhood Council states that children will accumulate quality early experiences and start school "ready to learn."

For more information on the Education Starts Early campaign, please visit its website at www.educationstartsearly.com.

Transportation Focus is a quarterly newsletter published by the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute.

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Read ***Transportation Focus*** online at www.marshall.edu/ati/news/newsletter.htmlx

Conferences

August 4-5, 2004
Geohazards in Transportation in the Appalachian Region, Dublin, Ohio.

Transportation Professional Development Courses

Sept. 3, 2004
Satellite Imagery as a Mapbase and GIS Appalications Workshop - Intermediate Level, Huntington, W.Va.

Sept. 22-23, 2004
Railroad and Highway Traffic Safety and Operations Seminar, Nashville, Tenn.

Pre-K-12 Outreach

July 13-16, 2004
LEGO DUPLO Activities at Cabell County Public Libraries; Cabell Co., W.Va.

July 22-22, 27-29, 2004
Pre-K-12 Outreach Workshops at Girls and Boys' Club; Huntington, W.Va.

August 4, 2004
"Interactive Internet Robotics from City Traffic to Mars" Presentation; Charleston Civic Center, Charleston, W.Va.

Register online at www.marshall.edu/rti or call Sandra Jones at (304) 696-7098.

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