



# TRANSPORTATION

Building Jobs through  
Transportation

# FOCUS

Spring 2007

News and Information from the Rahall Transportation Institute



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### Partner Schools:



## RTI Celebrates National Transportation Week

by Errin Jewell

"Roads, Rivers and Rails" was the theme of this year's National Transportation Week activities at RTI.

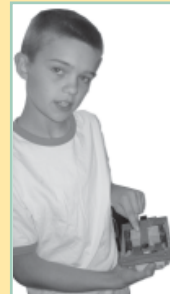
National Transportation Week officially took place May 13-19, 2007. However, RTI began activities the preceeding week with transportation career presentations to two local elementary schools beginning May 11.

The Heartland Corridor Working Group also met during the week to discuss the development of the public-private partnership and Prichard Intermodal facility.

The Port of Huntington's 2nd National Maritime Days Celebration began May 18 with the Maritime Impact Awards ceremony. Activities continued through the weekend with boat rides, deckhand demonstrations, more than 20 displays, commerical boat tours and other activities.



Above: The National Maritime Days Celebration began May 18 at Harris Riverfront Park with the 2nd Annual Maritime Impact Awards presentation.



## INSIDE

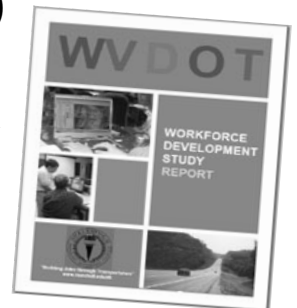
More Coverage of National Transportation Week Activities:

- Maritime Impact Awards
- National Maritime Days Celebration
- Heartland Corridor Working Group Meeting
- Career Presentations to K-12 Outreach Schools

## Workforce Development Study for the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) Completed

by Errin Jewell

By 2011, nearly half (43%) of workers employed by the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) will be eligible for retirement. In addition, the WVDOT is experiencing an increasing difficulty in attracting and retaining new employees. In order for West Virginia to maintain a stable transportation workforce for the future, RTI recently completed a Workforce Development Study for the WVDOT.



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



### *Work on Roads, Rivers, Rails Lead to Awards*

During this quarter, we've had the opportunity to honor many individuals who have been essential to building jobs through transportation in our region. In fact, during the month of May alone, we've recognized several folks who have made vital contributions

to the local road, river and rail industries.

It would take more space than we have in this letter to mention all of the individuals and organizations who have been significant to RTI's growth and development, but in this issue, I want to specifically highlight three recent honors.

To begin, the second group of Maritime Impact Award recipients were acknowledged May 18 at Harris Riverfront Park during the kickoff ceremony of National Maritime Days. Next, on May 24, the first recipients of the Rail-SOURCE Advisory Board were celebrated here at RTI's headquarters for their contributions to our FRA research, which has been our longest and largest-funded project. Also, RTI and several of our staff who volunteer for West Virginia Operation Lifesaver were honored for their efforts to promote railroad grade crossing safety at their annual meeting.

We want to recognize that our ability to present or accept these awards would not be possible without the hard work of our team of researchers, educational partners, technology transfer professionals and other staff who make all of our projects a reality.

Most importantly, we must thank our elected leaders, Senator Robert C. Byrd and Representative Nick J. Rahall, II, who, since 1998, have secured millions of dollars of research funding for our institution.

More detailed information about these awardees can be found within the pages of this issue of *Transportation Focus*. We are proud to honor them, and we also look forward to expanding new partnerships and recognizing more groups and individuals who will play important roles in the transportation industry in the future.

*Sincerely,*

*Robert L. Plymale*

### *7th Annual Technical Forum Geohazards in Transportation in the Appalachian Region to Take Place in Asheville, N.C.*

Regional and national transportation professionals may be interested in attending the 7th Annual Technical Forum, 'Geohazards in Transportation in the Appalachian Region,' Aug. 1-2, 2007 at the Haywood Park Hotel, Asheville, N.C.

The technical forum, which is an activity of the Appalachian States Coalition for Geological Hazards in Transportation, is sponsored by RTI and the Marshall University Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS). The forum is hosted by the State of North Carolina Department of Transportation, Environmental Engineering Geologists and the North Carolina Geological Survey.

Approximately eight sessions are scheduled to be presented during the two-day forum. Some of this year's topics are: Geotechnical Case Studies of North Carolina; Landslides: Present & Future; Cost Benefits of Geoscience Information; Economic Impact of Geological Hazards; Geological Mapping: Targeting Geological Hazards in Transportation; Innovations in Real-Time Monitoring for Geohazards; Karst and Mine Subsidence Hazards in Transportation; Rock Slope Problems and Stabilization.

In addition, limited space is available for organizations that are interested in exhibiting displays at the forum.

For more information, contact Dr. Tony Szwilski at 304-696-5457 or [szwilski@marshall.edu](mailto:szwilski@marshall.edu), Kirk Beach at 614-257-1342 or [Kirk.Beach@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:Kirk.Beach@dot.state.oh.us) or Jody Kuhne at 828-298-3328 or [jkuhne@dot.state.nc.us](mailto:jkuhne@dot.state.nc.us). Exhibitors may contact Rick Kolb at [rakolb@mactec.com](mailto:rakolb@mactec.com) or 919-831-8054.

Register online at [www.marshall.edu/rti](http://www.marshall.edu/rti). Registration forms may be downloaded and faxed or emailed to Barbara Roberts at 304-696-6099 or [robertsb@marshall.edu](mailto:robertsb@marshall.edu).



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## Overcoming our Transportation Challenges

Guest Column by  
*U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall, II*

Our State, throughout its history, has struggled with the economic hardships associated with our mountainous terrain. Because of our steep hillsides and narrow river valleys, the costs of transportation construction are necessarily higher than those of many surrounding States, impeding our ability to compete economically. But that is all changing as we invest more in our roads and railways, airports and waterways. So much of the modernization that we are seeing in our transportation sector results from multi-level partnerships. While I have been working hard to bring in new investments of funding from the Federal level, the success of these initiatives relies, as well, on State and local support.

One initiative that exemplifies this type of multi-level approach is the Heartland Corridor Project, which will allow the double-stacking of rail containers traveling through southern West Virginia. In Congress, I helped to secure \$90 million dollars for the modification of tunnels and other infrastructure improvements for this project, including the intermodal facility planned for Prichard, Wayne County. The Heartland Corridor Project will enhance interstate commerce, and facilitate cooperation between our friends throughout the region by making shipping more efficient and cost-effective. Of course the highways have always been the backbone of our transportation system, and I have been proud to support projects such as the design and construction of Route 10 and the King Coal Highway and the revitalization of downtown Huntington through Pullman Square and the Rahall Intermodal Center.

We can take pride that we are continuing to harness the potential of the Ohio River through, among other things, the Port of Huntington. With foresight and planning, the River and the Port of Huntington appear to be among our most promising economic catalysts for the future. Unfortunately, at present, there is no governing body that specifically steers the River's development and plots its course for 21<sup>st</sup> century. The National Maritime Enhancement Center, through the Rahall Transportation Institute (RTI), is working to bridge that gap by providing recommendations for improving and enhancing the Port of Huntington. It is preparing a demonstration project to test new software for use by emergency responders as they monitor navigation along our Nation's waterways. Just a few weeks ago, RTI announced a new initiative to expand ongoing Global Positioning System (GPS) deployment efforts to assist law enforcement agencies in acquiring and employing GPS technology. This initiative is being funded by a \$493,000 COPS grant, which I helped to secure last year.

As a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I oversee Federal transportation policy, and, from that seat, I have been able to help our State make numerous positive transportation strides. The Committee is currently addressing reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which is an important bill for southern West Virginia's rural airports. I am working, through this bill, to ensure that our rural airports remain competitive and receive the federal investments they need to prosper. For example, I recently cosponsored H.R. 237, which would waive the local matching fund requirements for EAS airports in communities that are experiencing economic difficulties, such as a per capita income of 80 percent or less than the national average or an unemployment rate for the most recent 24 months that is at least 1 percent greater than the national rate. Our rural airports are among our most vital economic engines for the communities they serve and the FAA legislation, on which I am working, is integral to their success.

Additionally, the Transportation Committee has recently reported out legislation to restrict the Department of Transportation's pilot program that would allow greatly expanded access to U.S. roads by Mexican trucking firms. Since 1982, Mexican trucks – which are not subject to the same safety requirements as American trucks – have only been allowed to cross the border and travel about 25 miles inland. A provision in the North American Free Trade Agreement – which I opposed – allowed for the entire United States to be opened to Mexican trucks, starting in 1995. However, that expanded access has been delayed repeatedly over the years by Congressional opposition. This new bill, which I support, would place certain limits on the Administration's proposal for broad access to U.S. roads for Mexican trucks, helping to keep our roads safer and protect the jobs of American truckers.

I applaud all of the West Virginians who play a role in the construction, maintenance, and operation of our improving transportation network. Their hard work and dedication is helping to move our State to new heights. For my part, I will continue to do all that I can to address our transportation challenges of the future. And I will, as I have always done in the past, keep my fellow West Virginians first.





# Staff and Student Spotlight

## Brad Cains

**Birthplace:** Huntington, W.Va.  
**Title:** Research Associate  
**Education:** B.S. Integrated Science and Technology  
**Projects with RTI:** Most of Brad's time is devoted to the Appalachian Development Highway System to Complete Estimate GIS for the Appalachian Regional commission in cooperation with 13 state Departments of Transportation.



## Sinaya Dayan

**Birthplace:** Israel  
**Title:** RTI Graduate Assistant  
**Education:** B.S. Marine Science from "Maritime College" in Israel. Currently working on a graduate degree in Technology Management  
**Projects with RTI:** Geographic Information System-oriented projects and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) projects.



## TDAT Classes Offered in Four Locations throughout W.Va.

RTI provided Truck Driver Awareness Training (TDAT), in cooperation with the Public Service Commission (PSC) of West Virginia, four times in 2007 at locations throughout West Virginia. Professional truck drivers, mostly from private industry, participated in the course.

The first training session took place in Huntington at Marshall University's Memorial Student Center March 8, with 26 participants. Martinsburg was the site of the second TDAT training class, which took place April 27, and had 67 participants. The third training session took place May 10, in Wheeling, where 70 individuals completed this training. On May 30, the fourth training session took place in Beckley, where 45 truck drivers completed this training.

Instructors for the courses were Reggie Bunner, Scott Morton, Jon Cline and Robin Swiney, all of the PSC. RTI coordinators were John Ball and LeAndria Reed. Topics included: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation and Transportation Workforce Issues, Definition of Commercial Motor Vehicles, Definition of Inter-State and Intra-State Commerce, Definition of Private Carrier, Definition of For-Hire Carrier, Hours of Service, CDL Requirements, Types of CDLs, Driver Qualifications, Seat-Belt Enforcement Initiative, Share-the-Road PSA for Schools, SAFE 07 and Highway Watch Program, Driver/Carrier Education and Training Opportunities and Contact Information.

## Rahall Speaks at Huntington Chamber Dinner; TTA Presented with Plaque for Pullman Square Shuttles

On April 12, 2007, the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce presented its 116th Annual Dinner.

Before introducing the keynote speaker, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez, Congressman



*Above: Shaffer and Rahall share a plaque that represents the funding he secured for the creation of three shuttle buses for Pullman Square.*

Nick J. Rahall, II stressed the importance of transportation to the tri-state area's economic development. More specifically, he recognized the significance of Pullman Square in revitalizing downtown Huntington, RTI's first royalty checks for developing products that use new electroluminescent lighting, a \$90 million investment in the Heartland Corridor and the potential that will come from increasing development on the Ohio River. Guterrez spoke about economic opportunities in southern West Virginia and opening international markets to American companies to create jobs and build a stronger America.

In addition, Vickie Shaffer of the Tri-State Transit Authority was presented with a plaque to commemorate three new Pullman Square shuttle buses, which were made possible through a grant secured by Rahall.

## Two Additional Employees Complete All Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute Rider Course Training



Above: Dr. Raymond Busbee receives certification from Instructor John Hall.

On April 5, 2007, two more RTI employees traveled to Logan County to receive all terrain vehicle safety training from the ATV Safety Institute.

Upon completing the ATV RiderCourse, Dr. Raymond Busbee and Errin Jewell now join the approximate 20 RTI staff members who have received the hands-on, half-day training.

The course was instructed by John Hall and Noah Lombardo, trail rangers with the Hatfield-McCoy Trail Systems. During training, instructors taught students to perform pre-ride safety checks, make turns and stops, adjust driving according to terrain and weather and minimize the disturbance of riding environments. After completing the course, Hall and Lombardo escorted the newly trained riders on a segment of the Dingess Rum trailhead of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail System.

## Helmer, Litteral Present Trails Info at NOHVCC Conference in Charleston, W. Va.



Trails Specialist Bryan Helmer and Research Associate Theresa Litteral presented information about RTI's trail-related projects to more than 200 trail professionals and enthusiasts during a plenary session at the 2007 National Association of OHV Program Managers and NOHVCC Annual Conference.

Helmer and Litteral's presentation took place Friday, March 30, 2007, in Charleston, W.Va. During their presentation, they discussed RTI's work with creating maps for the Hatfield-McCoy Trails System, new trail contracting projects with the Raleigh County Commission, GIS Training for the WVDOT, Share the Road Program, TIPS activities, West Virginia State Trails Highway Project and OHV Management graduate/undergraduate courses in cooperation with Marshall University.

In addition, RTI hosted Friday evening's reception, which immediately followed the presentation.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: STUDY

The purpose of the study was to collect and analyze data concerning the current and projected demographics of the workforce and to recommend strategies, which would address any critical shortage of workers, reduce turnover, attract the skilled personnel needed by the departments and develop a cooperative infrastructure of education and training providers.

Four major components comprised the study: a review of current literature; a web-enabled worker survey; interviews with southeastern states' DOT personnel to collect data for salary comparisons and other unique practices; and an analysis of WVDOT database demographics.

In the study, researchers answered the following research questions: what are the current demographics; what are the potential retirements during the next five years (2007-11); of those eligible to retire, how many will retire during the next five years; what job classifications have the highest level of turnover; how do West Virginia salaries compare to other southeastern states', especially those states that border West Virginia; what is the relationship between WVDOT and education and training providers in WV; what education and training programs need to be developed and implemented to meet WVDOT future needs; what new credentials, job classifications are on the horizon; which job classifications are being impacted by technology and need to be reclassified, upgraded or eliminated; what can WVDOT do to reduce turnover; how have other states addressed workforce issues; are those practices applicable in West Virginia?

Paul A. Mattox, Jr., Cabinet Secretary, said, "the West Virginia Department of Transportation now has a document that addresses our workforce and the shortage in critical areas which is looming in the very near future.

"Management of the WVDOT will take the information provided in the report and work closely with Governor Manchin's administration, the state legislature and the State Personnel Board to evaluate the contents in its entirety with emphasis on the recommendations and implement those that are feasible." Mattox added that the WVDOT appreciates the work undertaken by RTI in producing the study.

The Workforce Development Study Executive Summary and Report are available on RTI's website at [www.marshall.edu/rti](http://www.marshall.edu/rti). For more information, contact Dr. Diana Long, RTI Workforce Development Specialist, at [longd@njrati.org](mailto:longd@njrati.org) or 304-542-3304.



# Maritime Impact Awards Bestowed Upon Four Individuals for Service and Contribution to the Local Maritime Industry

by Kate Jordan



Above: RTI Director Bob Plymale reads a proclamation naming May 18, 2007, National Maritime Recognition Day.

National Maritime Recognition Day took place Friday, May 18, 2007, at 10 a.m. at Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington, W.Va.

Ret. Col. Dana Robertson, director of the National Maritime Enhancement Institute, opened Friday's ceremonies with information concerning the origin of Maritime Days, along with an enthusiasm and appreciation for the river workers of West Virginia and the United States.

He led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and offered some statistics concerning Huntington as a river city.

One of the most interesting facts he mentioned is that Huntington has the largest river inland port in the U.S., which sees approximately 83 million tons of cargo each year. Coal is the majority of what is shipped on the river, and it is essential to providing support for the economy of West Virginia.

Following Robertson's remarks, Captain David Smith of the Huntington District Waterways Association addressed the audience, followed by Col.

Dana Hurst, CDR, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), Huntington District and Commander Kevin Kiefer, U.S. Coast Guard, MSU Huntington.

All three spoke to the audience from a point of view that concerned their careers and how the local waterways are important to what they do. Col. Hurst noted that the USACE is responsible for nine locks and dams in W.Va. and Commander Kiefer acknowledged a safe boating campaign that began this year and took place May 19-25.

While the distinguished speakers informed the audience of a higher importance of Maritime Day, Robert H. Plymale, RTI director, shared a proclamation from West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin III, which stated that future maritime events will bring together the community and governors from Ohio, West Virginia and Virginia.

Plymale noted that RTI brings all modes of transportation together and "attempts to enhance the economy of our nation and state."

Following his remarks, Plymale honored four distinguished guests with certificates in recognition of the work they do on the river and the success they have brought to the port of Huntington.

Captain Omer Coleman was first recognized and is still active as the Legislative Committee Chairman of the Huntington District Waterways Association.

Captain David Reed was second in receiving recognition and was instrumental in the formation of the Huntington District Waterways Association, as he served as its first president. Reed is currently Chairman of the Central Ohio River Maritime Industry Group.

Captain Bruce Darst was unable to attend Friday's ceremony, but his award was accepted for him, and it was noted that Darst was responsible for the formation of a Deckhand Training Course, which was the forerunner of the present day Marshall Inland Waterways Academy.

The final honored guest to receive an award was Captain John Whiteley, who is the Director of the Inland Waterways Academy at Marshall Community and Technical College.

National Maritime Days was approved May 20, 1933, and has been celebrated for 74 years, but for Huntington, this was only the second annual celebration, Robertson said.



Above: The 2007 Maritime Impact Awards were given to (from l to r) Capt. Omer Coleman, Capt. David Reed, Capt. Bruce Darst (accepted by Capt. David Smith) and Capt. John Whiteley.





News and Information from the Rahall Transportation Institute

## Heartland Corridor Working Group Meets during National Transportation Week



*"If we collectively do things together in our three states, we will move forward and we will have job creation," Bob Plymale.*

Above: Members of the Heartland Corridor Working Group convened in Huntington, W.Va., Thursday, May 17, 2007.

by Errin Jewell

Transportation and economic development professionals from West Virginia, Ohio, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and other areas met in Huntington, W.Va., during National Transportation Week with the goal of furthering the Heartland Corridor project.

The Heartland Corridor is a public-private partnership that will facilitate more efficient intermodal transportation from Norfolk, Va.'s port region to Chicago, Illinois. A large section of the Heartland Corridor will pass through southwestern Virginia, southern West Virginia and southern and central Ohio.

One of the goals of the Heartland Corridor is to allow trains to stack intermodal cargo containers for increased capacity with the end resulting in less tractor-trailer traffic and to construct shipping terminals at key points for intermodal connections. An intermodal facility located in Prichard, Wayne County, W.Va., is planned and expected to provide an economic boost and jobs to the area.

During a luncheon, which ended the working group meeting, RTI Director Bob Plymale said, "We have the greatest opportunity we've had in our area for economic

development, and we need to capitalize on that.

"If we collectively do things together in our three states, we will move forward and we will have job creation."

Mark Bugher, president of the Huntington Area Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Stephen Kopp, Marshall University (MU) President; Dana Robertson, director of the Maritime Enhancement Institute at MU; Patrick Donovan, executive director of the West Virginia Port Authority; and Dr. Robert Martinez, chief engineer of bridges and structures at Norfolk Southern; also spoke at the luncheon.



Above: Bob Plymale presents, "The Tri-State Area's First Step towards Global Competitiveness." Left: Patrick Donovan of the West Virginia Port Authority speaks during the luncheon.



## RTI Provides Two National Highway Institute Courses to WVDOT and FHWA Workers in 2007

### *29 Transportation Professionals Complete NHI Course #139001*

Twenty-nine transportation planners and freight transportation planners completed NHI Course #139001, "Integrating Freight in the Transportation Planning Process," May 30-31, 2007.

The purpose of the course was to provide a greater understanding of freight trends, its stakeholders and its issues, so that public-sector transportation planners are better able to incorporate freight into their respective transportation planning processes and programs.

Participants were from the West Virginia Department of Highways and Federal Highway Administration personnel, by contract with the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

The course took place at the West Virginia Department of Highways headquarters in Charleston, W. Va. David Hunt and Jim Brogan instructed the course, and RTI's Barbara Roberts was the local coordinator.

Upon completion of the course, participants were able to: identify the stakeholders involved in freight transportation; explain the role of different modes in freight transportation; describe some trends affecting freight transportation, and their impact on a State's transportation system and communities; discuss some of the common issues that prevent freight from being fully incorporated in the planning process; and identify key resources to help guide statewide and metropolitan freight planning efforts.

### *NHI Course #134001 Presented to 27 Transportation Professionals*

Twenty-seven transportation planners and freight transportation planners completed NHI Course #134001, "Principles of Writing Highway Construction Specifications," April 10-11, 2007.

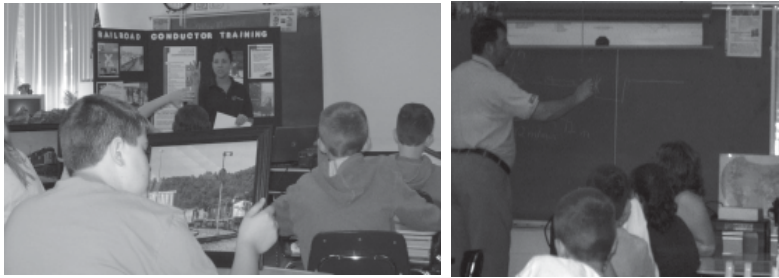
Participants were from the West Virginia Department of Highways and Federal Highway Administration personnel, by contract with the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

The course took place at the West Virginia Department of Highways headquarters in Charleston, W. Va. Geoffrey Page and Bryce Nahas instructed the course, and RTI's Barbara Roberts was the local coordinator.

This course addressed the engineering and legal aspects and linguistics of writing specifications. It also addresses issues of how to draft new specifications or rewrite existing ones in clear, readable, and definitive statements of contract requirements. Classroom activities included lectures, case studies, workshops and writing assignments.

Upon completion of the course, participants were able to: recognize and apply the principles of writing clear, concise, complete, and technically correct specifications; write specifications in the active voice imperative mood; write specifications without ambiguities and with measurable standards; describe the difference between traditional methods specifications and statistically based quality assurance specifications; identify newer types of procurement and contracting methods; and demonstrate appreciation for the importance of specifications for highway construction contracting.





Above: Erika Bailey informs students of the steps to becoming a railroad conductor. Left: Capt. John Whiteley of the Inland Waterways Academy explains how locks and dams work. Right: Sang Yoo and St. Joseph Grade School discussed careers that use GIS and the educational steps required to achieve them.



## Professionals Discuss Careers on Roads, Rivers, Rails in Preparation of National Transportation Week

Transportation professionals from the local road, river and rail industries informed local elementary school students of careers in these industries May 8-11, 2007, in preparation of National Transportation Week.

Visits were made to fifth graders at Davis Creek Elementary and St. Joseph Grade School to describe the educational steps, which range from professional certifications to associate, bachelor's or master's degrees, that are required to become eligible for transportation careers.

National Transportation Week took place May 13-19, 2007, but the presentations began the previous week, because Cabell County students are required to take the state-mandated WestTest during National Transportation Week.

### GIS Careers

RTI's Sang Yoo spoke about careers that use GIS technology. He showed them the steps to generate a map by collecting points with GPS units, entering them into a computer and distinguishing characteristics such as climate, environ-

mental features, manmade structures, hazards and other features. The students watched a video from National GIS Day, which said there are currently 75,000 jobs that use GIS and require highly-skilled workers. Yoo then informed students how to prepare for the training required for these jobs, including training Marshall University and RTI can provide. He also presented "Transportation Scholar" T-shirts after his Davis Creek Presentation.

### Railroad Conductor Careers

Erika Bailey of the Marshall Community and Technical College (MCTC) Railroad Conductor Training School informed students about careers as railroad conductors. Her presentation began with informing students about the different kinds of trains and what they carry. Then they learned about conductor's duties, including knowing how to safely arrange

cars, reading signals, doing safety checks and using GPS technology to communicate with other trains, switches and stations. They discussed the steps to becoming a conductor from the application process at MCTC's conductor school to hands-on training and classroom work.

### Maritime Careers

John Whiteley, director of the MCTC Inland Waterways Academy, provided information about job training for careers on the rivers and oceans. He surprised students by informing them that the Port of Huntington Tri-State is the fourth largest port in America. He stressed the significance of the Port in moving coal and other cargo to and from the region. Civilian and military maritime careers were discussed, and the requirements for deckhand and other training courses, which are offered by the Inland Waterways Academy, were presented.

*I am writing to let you know that all three RTI Transportation speakers were great. The students were engaged and asked questions that showed they understood and were interested in the material presented. Many were fascinated by the GIS presentation. The presentation on the Railroad Conductor Academy was equally well received. The Waterway Academy presentation also brought up a career none of my students even knew existed in this area. I am very pleased with all the speakers.*  
**Sharon Simon, 5th Grade Instructor, Davis Creek Elementary**



### Engineering Career Day, Success by 6, Summer Camps Highlight Spring LEGO Robotics Activities

by Kate Jordan



Above: Graduate Research Assistant Derik Taylor demonstrates how robotics are used in transportation careers at Engineering Career Day at Marshall University.



Above: A student displays a piece of road construction equipment he designed and created using LEGO Robotics.

As always, Linda Hamilton keeps a busy schedule with the youth of Cabell County and LEGO Robotics. While the FIRST LEGO League Challenge is the one thing that is the highlight of many of Hamilton's students' year, there are many other LEGO Robotics events in which she participates and that students have to look forward to.

Part of RTI's mission is encouraging students to find interest in careers in engineering and during Engineering Career Day at Marshall University; Hamilton offered her support in this mission. This year's Engineering Career Day took place February 22, and Hamilton and student Derik Taylor set up displays in the Memorial Student Center that pointed out, "careers in transportation, which were demonstrated by various robotics."

Youths and adults stopped by to try out the new robotic technology, which contains onboard programming. Hamilton stated that science testing was done on a proximity sensor, and students learned that programming the robot could be done on site or over the web.

Following Engineering Career Day, Hamilton participated in the Success by 6 Program which took place this year at Huntington High School May 20, 2007. Success by 6 is a program that is sponsored by the United Way and is the nation's largest network of early childhood coalitions, focused on improving school readiness through community change. Children and families went to Huntington High to build a place to live, a place to work and a kind of transportation, one of Hamilton's most popular themes.

Although Hamilton has wrapped up her events for the school year, there are many LEGO summer camps in which to look forward and preparations are already being made for next year's FIRST LEGO League Challenge.

Hamilton invites any interested parties to visit LEGO City, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of RTI. To schedule an appointment to visit LEGO City notify Linda Hamilton at [Hamilton@marshall.edu](mailto:Hamilton@marshall.edu). For more information on LEGO robotics, summer camps and past projects, please visit: [www.marshall.edu/LEGO](http://www.marshall.edu/LEGO)





## Transportation Injury Prevention and Safety, Operation Lifesaver Activities Reach Out to Local Schools, Health Fairs with Safety Info

by Kate Jordan

TIPS, an acronym for Transportation Injury Prevention and Safety, is a program that is made possible through St. Mary's Medical Foundation and RTI and is designed to increase awareness about transportation safety. On February 24, 2007, TIPS had its annual TIPS for Extreme Fun Event at the Memorial Field House in Huntington, W.Va.



Above: RTI staff presented safety information to parents and students at the TIPS for Extreme Fun Event.

The event is open to the public one weekend each year to educate children and adults about transportation safety and injuries prevention. This year, children who attended the event were introduced to the Hatfield-McCoy trails when some of the systems rangers visited to discuss ATV safety. Other representatives at the event had booths on fire safety, drug prevention and information on automobile, motorcycle, bike and ATV safety.

Keeping safety in mind, Operation Lifesaver (OL) has also been involved in a handful of events to maintain awareness on railroad safety. One major event was the annual presenters meeting, which took place March 29. The meeting highlighted statistics on how much of the public had heard the OL message and suggested strategies that presenters may use to educate more people on railroad safety. Many presenters were acknowledged for their hard work and effort, four of those presenters being RTI employees. Errin Jewell accepted an award on behalf of RTI for being the year's education partner, while John Ball and

LeAndria Reed both received the Mountaineer Award, which recognizes someone who has gone above and beyond in their service to OL. Kim Baker also received an award for RTI, which acknowledged the role that the institute has played in helping OL spread its message.

Beginning the spring and summer months with railroad safety in mind, OL attended the annual health fair at Wayne County High School April 18, 2007, to hand out literature on train safety. The health fair encouraged students from grades 9-12 to ask questions about railroad safety and pick up materials to take home.

OL then attended the Boy Scout Jamboree in Barboursville, W.Va., which again gave them an opportunity to drive home the message of railroad safety April 20-21. Following the jamboree, OL offered presentations to students at the annual Fourth Grade Day at the local 4-H camp April 23-26. To reach elementary students, OL uses two cartoon-style mascots, Sly Fox and Birdie, who help children, through cartoons, coloring books and slide shows, understand the importance of the OL slogan: Look, Listen & Live. Finishing the school year, OL also attended Cox Landing Elementary May 23rd where Sly Fox and Birdie delighted pre-schoolers with their railroad safety message.

On the following day, May 24, OL attended a health fair at Kellogg Elementary where TIPS was also on hand to provide information. More than 500 students took home the Operation Lifesaver and TIPS messages.



Clockwise from top: Roger Lipscomb presents Errin Jewell with RTI's Educational Partner of the Year Award. LeAndria Reed and John Ball receive Mountaineer Awards for their work with OL.





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

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### Upcoming Events

#### Conferences

**Aug. 1-2, 2007**

7th Annual Technical Forum, Geohazards in Transportation in the Appalachian Region, Asheville, N.C.

#### K-12 Outreach

**June 17-22, 2007**

Exploring Engineering Academy of Excellence, Marshall University, Huntington, W.Va.

**June 24-29, 2007**

Operation Lifesaver Rail Camp, Camp Echo, Petersburg, W.Va.

**July 30-Aug. 3, 2007**

LEGO DUPLO Camps, Marshall University, Huntington, W.Va.

**W.Va.**

**July 30-Aug. 3, 2007**

LEGO Technology Building, Marshall University, Huntington, W.Va.

**Aug. 6-10, 2007**

City Sights - Program LEGO Robotics, Marshall University, Huntington, W.Va.

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