HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CUTR’s Transit Safety and Workforce Development (TSWD) Program has demonstrated a consistent level of excellence in the wide ranging and far reaching programs and projects administered and managed by the program team. Transit safety activities include research, administration, and management of transit safety resources for transit agencies across the country through our national and state specific resource websites, technical assistance, and networking opportunities. Workforce development includes state certificate programs and various subject training offerings. Our management of FDOT sponsored transit networks provides transit agency professionals the opportunity to engage with and learn from each other. In addition, they provide us with valuable insight on training, technical assistance, and applied research needs.

Workforce Development – Our Central Mission

While “Transit Safety” takes the lead in our program name, central to our success and most recognized within the state of Florida and nationally are our workforce development programs. The TSWD Program has extensive expertise in the development, delivery, and management of workforce development programs designed for both those within the public transportation profession and for those in Florida’s aviation sector. We also provide subject training in areas such as transit planning, operations, safety, security, and maintenance.

In addition to traditional classroom training, we develop, produce, and manage asynchronous and synchronous e-learning solutions, such as self-paced computer based training (CBT) and videos, as well as interactive webinars, netcasts, and online courses in a wide range of disciplines and topics. Our programs are cutting edge and we strive to improve our programs by continuously assessing our training courses to evaluate the efficacy of the programs and our participants’ progress in their professions. Through these workforce development initiatives, we offer distinctive, innovative training and networking opportunities that provide our participants with the tools to help them succeed and advance in their fields.

Lisa Staes
Program Director
TSWD

January Birthdays

- Pei-Sung Lin
- Nikhil Menon
- Mohammadreza Kamili
- Nevine Georggi
- Todd Parsons
- Rob Gregg
- Kelly Douglass
- Melissa De Leon
- Omkar Dokur
- Karen Seggerman
- Kristin Larsson

January Anniversaries

- Dennis Hinebaugh — 22 yrs
- Phil Winters — 22 yrs
- Joel Volinski — 21 yrs
- Martin Catala — 21 yrs
- Ed Bart — 12 yrs
- Sean Barbeau — 11 yrs
- Jennifer Iley — 7 yrs
- Kristin Larsson — 5 yrs
- Siwon Jang — 1 yr
- Nour El Mehraz — 1 yr
- Raj Ekambam — 1 yr
- Max Mantius — 1 yr
- Christen Miller — 1 yr
Our central focus and the programs for which we are recognized nationally are our certificate programs. These include the Transit Manager Certificate Program, the Florida Bus Operator Trainer Training Program, the Certified Transit Technician Program, and the Airport Leadership Program. The success of these programs is primarily due to the partnerships that we have developed and nurtured with transit agencies, federal and state government organizations, associations, and consultants. These partners have played a pivotal role in the development of our certificate programs and have assisted in the development of a variety of transit training curriculum. A summary of our certificate programs and a list of some of our training products are provided in the segment below.

The **Transit Manager Certificate Program** (TMCP) is offered through the University of South Florida’s (USF) University College (UC). Participants in this professional development certificate program experience skill and leadership building sessions and have the opportunity to expand their network of transit colleagues. The TMCP offers tracks for operations, maintenance, or administration personnel. A specialized seminar series provides participants distinctive and specific training in each of the three tracks from industry experts. The seminars challenge participants with real-world issues and ideas. The orchestration of the program within USF is made possible through a cooperative agreement between CUTR and UC that establishes a framework so that both organizations can collaboratively administer and manage this certificate program. UC and CUTR have developed and are delivering self-paced, computer-based courses and traditional classroom seminars that form the structure of the program’s training content. The program’s contemporary delivery methodology, along with dedicated faculty, offer a certificate program that is relevant and accessible to today’s busy public transportation professional. (Program Manager: Ed Bart)

The **Certified Transit Technician Program** delivers technical training in a variety of subject areas specific to transit vehicle maintenance, and was developed to be at the forefront of the longitudinal training
In addressing the transit industry’s important challenges: attracting people to the industry, keeping incumbent maintenance technician skills current, and retaining those technicians who have a desire to rise into leadership positions, the program enables employees to acquire and maintain both job specific and organizational credentials. The curriculum has been approved by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), and those who complete the program will earn Post-Secondary Adult Vocational (PSAV) certification and an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Master Certification in transit vehicle maintenance. The program is comprised of classroom and hands-on training to ensure that training is both realistic and current. Students who desire to continue their education can receive up to 28 credit hours towards an Associate in Science (AS) degree at participating community colleges. This training program incorporates cutting edge instructional methodologies, including Virtual Hands-On Training (VHOT) and 3D Modeling, to deliver an unprecedented distance learning experience. A comprehensive assessment strategy is used to continuously monitor program performance. The program is housed within the Transit Maintenance Analysis and Resource Center (TMAARC) Program. (Program Manager: Ed Bart)

The Florida Transit Operator Trainer Training Program was developed and is administered by CUTR in partnership with United States Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) and offers a series of federal and state certificate training classes for operator trainers. There have been 267 participants in the program, 106 of whom have graduated and received their certificates. In addition, 16 of these individuals have been designated as TSI Associates, authorizing them to provide TSI courses and award US DOT certificates of completion to Florida’s transit professionals. (Co-Program Managers: Rob Gregg and Lisa Staes)

Airport Leadership Development Program is offered through the TSWD Program. This program is sponsored by the Florida Airports Council and the Florida Department of Transportation. The Airport Leadership Development Program was developed to increase the number and effectiveness of emerging and existing aviation leaders in Florida. The course curriculum incorporates a feedback survey to help participants understand their strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. Course material addresses five leadership dimensions facing modern airport leaders: strategic thinking, developing culture, self-management, communication, and relationship building. Participants who complete the program are awarded a certificate from USF. (Program Manager: Michael Audino)

The Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Management Certification Program (currently in production) will be designed specifically for Florida’s transit agencies’ Designated Employer Representatives (DERs) – those who manage the implementation of drug and alcohol regulatory compliance programs, are responsible for mitigating the risks associated with substance abuse within their transit systems, and who play a vital role in overall transit system safety within their organizations. This certification program will culminate in the graduate’s thorough understanding of the prohibited substances testing program regulations, the ability to accurately evaluate the transit agency’s level of compliance, and to implement corrective measures where areas of concern exist. (Program Manager: Diana Byrnes)

Course Development and Delivery
As mentioned earlier, we have developed successful and well-utilized training curriculum and associated products across multiple platforms, including Instructor Led Training (ILT), webinars, Computer Based Training (CBT), and Online
Training. A few examples are listed as follows:

- **Transit Dispatch and Supervisor Training** (ILT)
  - Client: FDOT

- **Instructor’s Course in Paratransit Operator Training** (ILT)
  - Client: U.S. DOT Transportation Safety Institute (TSI)

- **Transit Supervisor’s Certification Course** (ILT)
  - Client: U.S. DOT TSI

- **Curbing Transit Employee Distracted Driving** (CBT)
  - Client: U.S. Department of Transportation, FTA

- **Wireless Distractions Training Resource Program** (CBT and ILT)
  - Client: Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

- **Clean Sober and Safe** (Training Video and CBT)
  - Client: FDOT

- **REACT (Reasonable Suspicion Drug and Alcohol Testing Decision Training): Supervisor Training Package - DVD**
  - Client: FDOT

- **REACT for FTA Covered Supervisors Refresher Course** (CBT)
  - Client: FDOT

- **Disability Etiquette for Transit Operators** (CBT)
  - Client: FDOT

- **A Prescription for Safety** (Training Video)
  - Client: FDOT

- **Rule Chapter 14-90, Florida Administrative Code: A Review for You, A Course for Transit Bus Drivers** (CBT in development)
  - Client: FDOT

We recognized the importance of establishing an E-learning Environment for our participants. As such, we have transitioned to a fully integrated Learning Management System (LMS) platform that includes:

- Centralized and automated administration
- Self-service and self-guided services
- Assembly and delivery of learning content rapidly
- Consolidated training initiatives on a scalable web based platform

This transition has enabled us to continue our success and expand our outreach. In 2014, in courses managed through the LMS and in those offered during the annual Professional Development Workshop, the TSWD Program recorded over 18,000 contact hours with Florida’s transit professionals.

**Transit Network Management**

The TSWD Program currently manages three networking, training, and resource programs including the Florida Operations Network (now co-managed with Rob Gregg), the Florida Transit Maintenance Consortium, and Florida Transit Safety Network. Each of these programs includes a networking component providing a platform for Florida’s transit agencies to meet on a regular basis and discuss topics of interest and importance to their respective roles.
within their agencies. Each is also supported by very active listservs and resource websites. Florida’s Transit Safety Network is also central to the planning and program for Florida’s Annual Transit Safety Summit, a gathering of transit professionals who meet in June each year to focus on transit safety-related research, information sharing, and engagement on issues such as bus operator and passenger safety, efficacy of and leading practices in transit safety training, driver fatigue, distracted driving, and collisions.

Transit Safety-Related Research Projects and Collaboration

Success driven by collaboration – CUTR has tremendous human resources and we have been able to capitalize on those resources. We are proud of the way in which we have been able to collaborate with members of other CUTR program teams to produce exceptional products and services. Specifically, in the area of transit safety-related, the participation of the following individuals were critical to the success of the research effort and were responsible for the accolades received from our primary sponsor, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA):

Martin Catalá – Transit Safety Research Roadmap; Bus Safety Study: A Report to Congress; State of Bus Safety in the US
Jan Davis – Transit Safety Research Roadmap; Transit Safety Data Presentation and Analysis 2008 - 2011
Jennifer Flynn – State of Bus Safety in the US; Summary of State and Federal Transit Laws and Regulations
Vicky Perk – Bus Safety Study: A Report to Congress; State of Bus Safety in the US
Justin Begley - Bus Safety Study: A Report to Congress; State of Bus Safety in the US

Other Critical Initiatives and Programs

The TSWD program houses FDOT’s longstanding Transit Research Inspection Procurement Services (TRIPS) Program. (Program Manager: Ed Bart)

Three Vehicle Line Inspectors - FDOT’s Springhill Vehicle Testing Facility
Assisting the Florida State University in vehicle structural integrity (crash) and component testing
Examining vehicles in production and performing post production inspections
Providing technical assistance to Florida’s transit agencies, including issue resolution and investigation (e.g. warranty claims and thermal events)
Managing vehicle contracts (405 paratransit vehicles purchased from program in FY 2013-2014)
Performing manufacturing plant and post-production vehicle inspections
Developing performance and safety standards
Providing statewide emergency management and response assistance

The Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) provides training and technical assistance primarily to rural public transportation agencies and transportation service providers throughout the state. Florida RTAP Center provides training, continuing education, and technical assistance on all levels to the rural transit providers, through on-site programs, distance on-line programs, and regular webinars. The Center maintains a website, RTAP-listserv,
and produces a quarterly newsletter. The Florida RTAP Center is held up as one of the premier state RTAP programs by FTA. (Program Manager: Jay Goodwill)

The **Substance Abuse Management (SAM) Oversight and Technical Assistance Program** provides a number of services for FDOT to ensure statewide compliance of Federal drug and alcohol testing regulations (Program Manager: Diana Byrnes). These roles include:

- Conducting on-site compliance reviews of FTA Section 5311 sub-recipients
- Assisting FDOT with the technical specifications of contracts with drug and alcohol testing vendors
- Compiling and submitting FTA Drug and Alcohol Management Information System (DAMIS) reports for FDOT
- Supporting Florida’s transit agencies in maintaining compliance with federal regulations through onsite technical assistance and training
- Providing outreach to Florida’s transit agencies through a program website and e-mail notification system

**The Key to Our Success – Our People**

Lisa Staes – Program Director
Michael Audino – Senior Research Associate
Ed Bart – Senior Research Associate
Jay Goodwill – Senior Research Associate
Diana Byrnes – Substance Abuse Management Program Manager
Todd Parsons – Learning and Development Facilitator
Stephanie Zavacki Lewis – Instructional Designer/Media Specialist
Brian Bickhardt – Purchasing Administrator
Carlton Allen – Senior Vehicle Field Inspector (Tallahassee based - Springhill facility)
Cecil Carter – Vehicle Field Inspector (Tallahassee based - Springhill facility)
Kevin Daniels – Vehicle Field Inspector (Tallahassee based - Springhill facility)
Roberta Yegidis – Affiliated Faculty
James (Jim) Tucci – Affiliated Faculty
Molly Buffington – Training Specialist
Lazara Stinnette – Administrative Specialist
Kim Koutnik – Substance Abuse Management Program Specialist

**For more information on our programs, visit our program websites:**

Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program: [www.floridartap.org](http://www.floridartap.org)
Florida Transit Safety Network: [www.floridatsn.org](http://www.floridatsn.org)
Florida Transit Operator Trainer Training Program/Florida Operations Network: [www.transitoperations.org](http://www.transitoperations.org)
National Transit Safety Research and Assistance Center: [www.transitsafetycenter.org](http://www.transitsafetycenter.org)
Substance Abuse Management Oversight and Technical Assistance: [www.sam.cutr.usf.edu](http://www.sam.cutr.usf.edu)
Transit Manager Certificate Program: [www.floridatmcp.org](http://www.floridatmcp.org)
Transit Maintenance Analysis and Resource Center: [www.tmaarc.org](http://www.tmaarc.org)
Transit Research Inspection Procurement Services: [www.tripsflorida.org](http://www.tripsflorida.org)
WELCOME NEW CUTR EMPLOYEES

Richard Hartman, also known as “Ric,” joins CUTR after several years working as a certified city planner (AICP) for local governments in Sarasota and Manatee counties, preceded by five years dealing with land use issues for a national homebuilder. As a planner, he represented jurisdictions on several regional committees, including the Sarasota – Manatee MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Trails Advisory Committee. Richard is accredited by the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU-a) and a member of the Speakers Bureau for the National Coalition of Complete Streets. In 2013, he returned to Texas to complete his Masters in Applied Geography at Texas State University at San Marcos, where his research focused on the economic value of greenways and trails. City planning became a passion while studying the design and functionality of Mexican border cities in pursuit of a law degree (JD) from California Western School of Law in San Diego. A BA degree in Political Science from UCLA completed his undergraduate education. Richard’s primary interests are the interplay between land use and mobility, the impact of walkable, bicycle-friendly communities, urban form, and streetscapes on the economic vitality of communities, and opportunities to integrate open space master plans with long-range transportation plans through the integration of greenways and recreational trails within LRTPs. Richard is also a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit and County Court Mediator. **Please welcome, Ric to the ITS group!**

Albert Baxter has been a member of the adjunct faculty of the Institute of Police Technology and Management at the University of North Florida since 1992. He is currently a private consultant in the field of traffic crash reconstruction. His responsibilities with IPTM include instructing in the Motorcycle Crash Investigation, Commercial Vehicle Crash Investigation and Advanced Reconstruction with WinCRASH Computer courses. **Please welcome, Albert to the ITS group!**

Victoria Salow graduated from the University of Miami with a BA in Psychology in 2012 and she is currently working on her MPH with a concentration in Health Education in the College of Public Health. She is expected to graduate in August 2015. **Please welcome, Victoria to the ITS group!**

NOTEWORTHY ACCOLADES

Katrina Corcoran was recently accepted into USF’s Master’s in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) graduate program and will be starting August 2015.

Makarand Gawade, PhD candidate in Civil and Environmental Engineering was recently appointed as a member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP).
NOTEWORTHY ACCOLADES

Be A Santa program

BIKE ESSAY CONTEST—LET'S RIDE OUR BIKES TO SCHOOL!
CUTR sponsored an essay contest, in the fall of 2014, to increase awareness about riding a bicycle to school by encouraging students to write about the benefits of riding a bike to school. The essay, now in the third consecutive year, was open to all 5th grade students currently enrolled in Hillsborough County Title I schools. The CUTR essay committee included Karen Seggerman, Jennifer Flynn, Jason Jackman, and Christen Miller. The contest was funded through the CUTR Jeans Fund.

Asher Montgomery from Lee Elementary came in 1st place with an outstanding essay and won the grand prize of a new bicycle, bicycle lights, one bicycle helmet, and a guide to bicycle safety. The 2nd place winner Caden Spokas and 3rd place winner Abby Merriman received bicycle lights, safety vests, and a guide to bicycle safety. Check out the essays here.

From the Left: Asher Montgomery, Lee Elementary Principal Joyce Miles, Karen Seggerman, Jennifer Flynn, Jason Jackman, Christen Miller, 5th grade teacher Alexa Gaber, Caden Spokas

Asher Montgomery 1st Place Winner

1st Place Asher Montgomery & 2nd Place Caden Spokas

Food Drive for Feeding America
UPCOMING EVENTS
Jan 12-16  93rd Annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) Meeting in Washington, DC
Jan 13-14  Risk Assessment for Transit Capital Projects, CUT102
Jan 19     USF Holiday — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 20     CUTR Staff Meeting, CUT102, 9:00 am
Jan 27-30  Instructor's Course Bus/Paratransit, CUT102

NEW AWARDS/CONTRACTS

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<td>FDOT Substance Abuse Program Management Oversight &amp; Technical Assistance Program</td>
<td>Fla Dept of Transportation</td>
<td>Staes/Byrnes</td>
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<td>Transit Research Inspection Procurement Services (TRIPS)</td>
<td>Fla Dept of Transportation</td>
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**NEW AWARDS/CONTRACTS**

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<td>Transit Threat &amp; Vulnerability Assessment Course Delivery</td>
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<td>Florida Commuter Choice Training Program - PGI</td>
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<td>Winters/Winters</td>
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**PROPOSALS SUBMITTED/UNDERWAY**

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<td>Understanding Interactions between Drivers and Pedestrians</td>
<td>FDOT</td>
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