



Transportation Industry & Workforce Development Symposium

8:00am – 4:00pm
April 30, 2024

University of Oklahoma
Thurman J. White Forum Building
1704 Asp Ave, Norman, OK 73072



8:00 am	BREAKFAST - SPONSORED BY STV, INC.
8:45 am	WELCOME <i>Tara Cullum</i> , Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet, Deputy Chief Innovation Officer <i>Tomás Díaz</i> , University of Oklahoma, Vice President for Research and Partnerships
9:00 am	WFD NEEDS AND CHALLENGES IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING TRANSPORTATION SECTOR; UTC ROLE <i>Robert Hampshire</i> , United States Department of Transportation, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology and Chief Science Officer <i>Firas Ibrahim</i> , United States Department of Transportation, Director of the Office of Research, Development, and Technology, Chief Scientific Integrity Officer, and Deputy Chief Science Officer
9:30 am	ENGINEERING PATHWAYS: PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING WORKFORCE NEEDS IN OKLAHOMA <i>Randa Shehab</i> , University of Oklahoma, Gallogly College of Engineering, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Faculty Development
9:45 am	PANEL: INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE ON TRANSPORTATION WFD AND TRAINING Moderator: <i>Bobby Stem</i> , Association of Oklahoma General Contractors, Executive Director Speakers: 1. Design/Consulting: <i>David Streb</i> , Poe & Associates, President 2. Cement/Concrete: <i>Nancy Beltran</i> , Concrete Pavement Cement Council of Texas, Director 3. Asphalt: <i>Larry Patrick</i> , Oklahoma Asphalt Pavement Association, Executive Director 4. Materials: <i>Mike Brown</i> , Texas Materials, a CRH Co, Executive Vice President
10:45 am	BREAK + DOOR PRIZE DRAWING *
11:00 am	PRESENTATIONS: STUDENT ROLE IN RESEARCH Moderator: <i>Melissa Tooley</i> , Texas A&M University, Southern Plains Transportation Center, Associate Director Students: 1. TRIP Intern: <i>Joshua Cunningham</i> , University of Oklahoma, Biomedical Engineering 2. Ph.D. Candidate: <i>Elizabeth (Bette) Poblete</i> , University of Arkansas, Civil Engineering 3. Community College Student: <i>Luis Chavarria</i> , El Paso Community College, Mechanical Engineering 4. Master's Student: <i>Sebastian Morales</i> , University of Texas at El Paso, Civil Engineering

12:00 pm	NETWORKING LUNCH - SPONSORED BY WSB + DOOR PRIZE DRAWING* Time to visit vendor booths and participate in round table discussions.
1:00 pm	PANEL: UTCs AND WFD - WHAT WORKS, WHAT DOES NOT WORK, WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE, BEST PRACTICES, AND FOCUS ON RURAL AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES Moderator: <i>Tara Cullum</i> , Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet, Deputy Chief Innovation Officer Speakers: 1. Regional UTC: <i>Musharraf Zaman</i> , University of Oklahoma, Southern Plains Transportation Center (SPTC), Director 2. Tier 1 UTC: <i>Panagiotis Danoglidis</i> , University of Texas at Arlington, University Transportation Center for Durable and Resilient Transportation Infrastructure (DuRe-Transp), Program Coordinator 3. Regional UTC: <i>Aemal Khattak</i> , University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC), Director 4. National UTC: <i>Judy Perkins</i> , Prairie View A&M University, National Center for Infrastructure Transformation (NCIT), Director
2:00 pm	BREAK + DOOR PRIZE DRAWING*
2:15 pm	PANEL: TRANSPORTATION CAREER PATHWAYS Moderator: <i>Michael Molina</i> , University of Oklahoma, Southern Plains Transportation Center, Workforce Development Coordinator Speakers: 1. Technical School: <i>Lee Dow</i> , Moore Norman Technology Center, Transportation, Director 2. Technical School: <i>Cole Atkinson</i> , Moore Norman Technology Center, STEM, Director 3. Social Services: <i>Margaret Zientek</i> , Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Workforce and Social Services Department, Director 4. Development Center: <i>Jacob Kniffen</i> , University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP for the Future, Mentoring Coordinator
3:15 pm	OST-R REMARKS: LESSONS LEARNED, PATH FORWARD <i>Caesar Singh</i> , United States Department of Transportation, University Transportation Centers Grants Program, Director
3:45 pm	CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE SOUTHERN PLAINS TRANSPORTATION CENTER + DOOR PRIZE DRAWING*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



TARA CULLUM

Tara Cullum was named the Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet's Deputy Chief Innovation Officer in February 2022. Cullum assists the Chief Innovation Officer in overseeing all modernization and innovation-related efforts, including third-party technology services and research. Since 2017, Cullum served as the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Coordinator of Executive Administration and previously served in numerous and oftentimes concurrent roles from 2013 to 2017 within the Department. She holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in Sociology and began her state service career at the Oklahoma Department of Human Services in 2009. Later she moved to the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System and eventually joined ODOT in 2013. Originally from Ardmore, she and her three children live in Moore. She enjoys spending time at her children's sporting events and with family.



ROBERT HAMPSHIRE

Dr. Robert C. Hampshire serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology and Chief Science Officer. Hampshire was previously an associate professor at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. He was also a research associate professor in both the U-M Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) and Michigan Institute for Data Science (MIDAS), and an affiliated faculty member in the Department of Industrial and Operations Engineering (IOE). His unique blend of engineering systems research with public policy has made him a leader in not only transportation research but also on the disparate impact of policy decisions in transportation systems. This has led to important strides in our understanding of transportation equity. His research applies operations research, data science, and systems approaches to analyze novel transportation systems such as smart parking, connected vehicles, autonomous vehicles, ride-hailing, bike sharing, car sharing, as well as pedestrian and bicyclist safety. His research focuses on environmental impacts, equity, and access to opportunities. His work has been cited widely and covered by major press outlets. He has worked extensively with both public and private sector partners worldwide. He has also been a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University and a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Hampshire received a PhD in operations research and financial engineering from Princeton University.



TOMÁS DÍAZ

Dr. Tomás Díaz de la Rubia is a science and technology leader, strategist, and administrator with extensive experience in government, academia, and the private sector. At present, Tomas is the Vice President for Research and Partnerships at the University of Oklahoma. In this capacity, he leads OU's efforts to enhance the scale and scope of the university's research enterprise and to develop a new strategic framework for research to propel the university forward, particularly in the areas of national security, energy and sustainability, and the life sciences.

Prior to this assignment, Tomas was the Chief Scientific Officer and Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at Purdue University. In that capacity, he helped the university pursue major new research initiatives and contracts and led Discovery Park, a transdisciplinary complex of centers, institutes, and facilities focused on turning new ideas and discoveries into disruptive innovations with a global impact on society. During Tomas' tenure at Purdue from September 2015 to September 2019, Discovery Park focused strategically on the development of real-world solutions to major global challenges in health and the life sciences; sustainability and the nexus of energy, food, water, climate and the environment; and national security and defense.

Tomas also served as the Deputy Director for Science and Technology (DDST) at the U.S. Department of Energy Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in California, where he oversaw a \$250M program of basic and applied research in support of the Laboratory's missions in science and technology, nuclear security, defense, counterterrorism, energy and technology commercialization.

In addition to these leadership roles, Tomas is a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Intelligence Community Studies Board, which was tasked in 2016 by the U.S. Director of National Intelligence to discuss science and technology issues of importance to the nation's intelligence community. He is a board member of the National Defense Industry Association and of CRDF Global.

FIRAS IBRAHIM

Dr. Firas Ibrahim is the U.S. DOT's Director of the Office of Research, Development, and Technology, Chief Scientific Integrity Officer, and Deputy Chief Science Officer. In these roles, he provides the strategic direction and priorities that guide the U.S. Federal investments in transportation research, technology, and education. He provides coordination, stewardship, and oversight leadership to ensure that RD&T programs and activities across the Department and externally funded entities are effective in advancing the Department's strategic priorities, and that research, development, and technology activities are of the highest quality. As the principal advisor to the Secretary on scientific issues, he ensures that DOT's research programs are scientifically and technologically well-founded and conducted with integrity. Dr. Ibrahim is also responsible for the administration of high-priority multimodal RD&T programs and initiatives including equitable mobility, transportation systems, autonomous vehicles, climate change, and resilience. He oversees the administration of 35 University Transportation Centers, and associated research, education, and technology transfer activities across over 159 universities. Dr. Ibrahim was previously the Federal Highway Administration's Lead Manager for Stewardship & Oversight. In that role, he provided stewardship and oversight leadership to ensure the successful delivery of the \$44 Billion highway program annually, and the effective alignment of enterprise activities, resources, and priorities. He served in various leadership positions within FHWA. Dr. Ibrahim served as the Surface Transportation Leader at the United States Embassy in Kabul, and Transportation Counselor and Attaché at the United States Embassy in Baghdad. He also held positions in Academia and the private sector. Dr. Ibrahim holds a Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Science, and Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Pennsylvania.





RANDA SHEHAB

Dr. Randa L. Shehab is the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Faculty Development at the University of Oklahoma Gallogly College of Engineering. She is a professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering and holds the title of Nettie Vincent Boggs Professor of Engineering. She was a co-founder of the Data Science and Analytics Institute, a multidisciplinary institute that provides education and workforce training to expand the technical data science community. Dr. Shehab has led transformative changes in engineering education at OU. Informed by her research on equity and diversity in engineering education, Dr. Shehab focuses on constructing systems and pathways that support the success of students and faculty. In her role as Senior Associate Dean, she led the development of the Engineering Pathways program, which provides opportunity and access to engineering for students from across the state and region, while ensuring that systems are in place to help them achieve their academic and career goals. The Pathways framework is intentional in providing scaffolds and supports that build motivation, increase academic performance, and support the professional preparation of engineering students. Dr. Shehab has served her professional community as a board member for the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, and now as a board member for the Women in Engineering Proactive Network (WEPAN).



BOBBY STEM

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Bobby completed his undergraduate work at the University of Central Oklahoma and his law degree at Oklahoma City University. Bobby has worked for two Oklahoma Governor's, a Speaker of the House, and a President of the Oklahoma Senate. Bobby started Capitol Gains in 1998. He has been proudly serving as the Executive Director of the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors since 2007.

DAVID STREB

David is a proud graduate of the University of Oklahoma and has served as President of Poe & Associates since early 2019. He is responsible for the overall operations of the 85-person company as well as company policy in leading the Board of Directors.

Prior to being President, David served as Principal-In-Charge managing the Oklahoma City and Wichita offices for 5 years since joining the Poe team in 2013. In that role, David was responsible for providing the project team with the personnel and physical resources needed to complete a project on time and within budget. In addition, he provided technical guidance to ensure the quality of all deliverable products to the client. Of special note, David led the team of consultants managing the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's \$1.3 billion Driving Forward Program and is currently leading the team on the \$5 billion ACCESS Oklahoma Program.

Prior to joining the Poe Team, David retired from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in 2013 after 27 years of service with the last 12 years as the Director of Engineering. As Director of Engineering, he managed 400 personnel in all areas of design, planning, research, traffic, right of way, and environmental clearance in the delivery of projects for the ODOT 8-Year Construction Work Plan. David has over 37 years of experience in project management, planning, and engineering of all scales of projects, up to mega-projects with budgets in the hundreds of millions of dollars.



CAESAR SINGH

Mr. Singh is the Director of University Grants Programs at the US Department of Transportation. He has more than thirty-five years of experience within the transportation industry, involved in a diverse range of surface transportation programs and projects, from remote sensing technologies, transportation planning, traffic and highway engineering, and intelligent transportation systems, to supply chain management and transportation logistics. His experience, both in private and public sectors, covers areas of planning, operations, design, and management of transportation projects internationally.

Mr. Singh is a registered licensed professional engineer; he received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, India and his M.S. from the University of Illinois, Chicago.



NANCY BELTRAN

Dr. Nancy Beltran is the Director of Concrete Pavements for the Cement Council of Texas (CCT), with research experience in concrete pavement analysis and finite element modeling. Nancy joined CCT in August 2019, and she is responsible for expanding market share for the use of cement in all concrete paving applications by offering sustainable and resilient concrete solutions to common problems related to the design, construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of concrete pavements. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and a Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). During her graduate studies, Nancy worked on a project related to the mechanistic analysis of continuously reinforced and jointed concrete pavements. Currently, she is a member and past president of the ACI Central Texas Chapter, a young member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) - Standing Committee on Design and Rehabilitation of Concrete Pavements and serves as Co-Chair for ASCE's Young Members Committee.

PANELS, GROUP PRESENTATIONS, AND MODERATORS



LARRY PATRICK

Larry Patrick is highly respected in the Asphalt Industry. He is an expert in asphalt pavement mix design, application, and quality control with over 50 years of practical experience. Prior to joining the Oklahoma Asphalt Pavement Association (OAPA) in 2011, he served as the Field Services Director in the Oklahoma City office of Jacobs Engineering, Inc. Larry got his start in 1974 working for the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. He has provided asphalt mix designs for a majority of the contractors in Oklahoma. In addition to his asphalt design experience, he has worked for Haskell Lemon Construction Co., Inc. as Director of Quality Control. During his time there, his work included the award-winning section of I-40 in Canadian County in Oklahoma. He designed the full-depth asphalt project. If there is a problem with asphalt, he's seen it and knows how to fix it. He enjoys educating people on the intricacies and capabilities of asphalt. Larry has served on numerous local, state, and national committees. He most recently served as Chairman of the State Asphalt Pavement Associations, Inc., in 2020.



MELISSA TOOLEY

Dr. Melissa S Tooley is an Assistant Agency Director at TTI, which includes managing large federally funded research programs and federal affairs. As part of her activities in federal affairs, she has contributed to the discussion regarding transportation policy and research for the last three transportation reauthorization bills. Her research interests include automated and connected vehicles and transportation policy and planning. Dr. Tooley has been a leader in the University Transportation Center (UTC) community for decades, from being selected as a UTC Student of the Year in 1993 to serving as the first female president of the Council of University Transportation Centers. She chaired the UTC Spotlight Conference on Automated and Connected Vehicles. She has served on invited panels at CUTC meetings discussing UTC management topics including diversity, equity and inclusion, marketing, and leadership, among others. She has 17 years of experience as a UTC Director, having served as Director of three different UTCs at the University of Arkansas and TTI. She currently serves as Deputy Director of the National Center for Infrastructure Transportation, a national UTC led by Prairie View A&M University.

Dr. Tooley was recently honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Engineering at the University of Arkansas. Prior to joining academia, she spent 10 years as a civil engineering consultant on projects involving roadway design, flood control, construction management, forensic engineering, and civil infrastructure improvements.

MIKE BROWN

Michael Brown, a Professional Engineer (PE), currently serves as an Executive Vice President at Texas Materials, in the Central Texas Area. He joined the Texas Materials Team in November 2010, after 27 years of service with Austin Bridge and Road, an Austin Industries Company. Texas Materials, Inc. is a vertically integrated company that specializes in construction materials and infrastructure solutions. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Mike has been actively serving on committees with the AGC of Texas, TxAPA (Texas Asphalt Pavement Association), and NAPA (National Asphalt Paving Association). He is currently serving as the State Advisor for Texas for NAPA. He is an active member of the SPTC Advisory Board. His contributions and leadership have positively impacted the organization and transportation industry in Texas. Mike's journey reflects dedication, expertise, and a commitment to excellence. Whether in the asphalt industry or beyond, his contributions continue to shape the landscape of Texas and beyond.



JOSHUA CUNNINGHAM

Joshua is a full-time biomedical engineering student at OU. Concurrently, he is working as a part-time subcontractor. In his biomedical engineering pursuits, he delves into the fundamentals of anatomy, physiology, biology, chemistry, and physics. His daily activities involve applying principles of fluid dynamics to analyze blood rheology, utilizing the Beer-Lambert Law to measure nanotechnology concentrations, and analyzing sinusoidal signals for brain wave therapy. Joshua believes biomedical engineering encompasses elements of applied mechanical and electrical engineering, with a focus on biological systems. Simultaneously, his subcontracting role exposes him to the intricacies of various trades. Currently, he is engaged in re-engineering a small investment property in SW OKC. Originally built in 1929, he has overseen the demolition of its interior, replacement of floor joists and subfloor, and implementation of a redesigned floor plan.

PANELS, GROUP PRESENTATIONS, AND MODERATORS



BETTE POBLETE

Elizabeth "Bette" Poblete is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Arkansas. She previously earned her BS and MS from the University of Arkansas in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Her research interests include alternative cements, concrete structures, and concrete mix design development. She is an active member of ACI where she participates in committees 242 – Alternative Cements and 237 – Self-Consolidating Concrete. She also enjoys participating in events with the Women in ACI and Young Professional groups. She is a former member of the Razorback women's soccer team which won the championship of the Southeastern Conference Tournament three of her four years. Her interests outside the lab and classroom include walking her dog, cooking food for friends and family, traveling, and lifting weights.

LUIS CHAVARRIA

Luis Chavarria is a second-year Mechanical Engineering student at El Paso Community College, transferring to UTEP in Fall 2024. He joins us to share his research challenges and experiences as an assistant to Farzad Khallaghi, a Civil Engineering PhD student at the CTIS lab. He is passionate about the practical application of his learning, gaining expertise in the EPCC Maker space working on 3D printing and scanning, laser cutting and engraving, and woodshopping. He has toured the Northrup Grummon warehouse in Phoenix, as well as the Amazon warehouse in El Paso. Luis also serves at the vice president of the EPCC Engineering Club.



MUSHARRAF ZAMAN

Musharraf Zaman holds the David Ross Boyd and Aaron Alexander Professorship in Civil Engineering and Alumni Chair Professorship in Petroleum and Geological Engineering at the University of Oklahoma. He has been serving as the director of the Southern Plains Transportation Center since 2013. His leadership has been instrumental in strengthening partnerships with state DOTs and the private sector and enhancing impactful research, workforce development, outreach, and tech transfer programs regionally. He served as the associate dean for research and graduate education at the OU Gallogly College of Engineering from July 2005 to December 2013. During his tenure at OU, he has received several prestigious national-level teaching awards from the American Society of Engineering Education and more than \$60 million in external funding from various state and federal agencies and the industry. He has published more than 475 peer-reviewed journal and conference papers, 17 books and book chapters, and supervised more than 90 theses and dissertations. Several of his papers have won prestigious awards from international societies and organizations. He is a fellow and life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He has been serving as the editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Pavement Research and Technology since 2022.



SEBASTIAN MORALES

Sebastian is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). He specializes in transportation and holds the role of Webmaster for the ASPIRE Student Association (ASA) UTEP chapter. His research focus involves the examination of electrified pavements, employing thermal distribution analysis, strain, and stiffness measurements under various environmental conditions. Sebastian achieved his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from UTEP in August 2023.



PANAGIOTIS DANOGLIDIS

Dr. Panagiotis Danoglidis holds the Assistant Professor of Research position in Civil Engineering at The University of Texas at Arlington and is currently serving as the Program Coordinator of UTA's Tier 1 University Transportation Center for Durable and Resilient Transportation Infrastructure (DuRe-Transp). His research interests focus on the development, multiscale characterization, and implementation of multifunctional nanoengineered cementitious materials for decoupling concrete manufacturing and greenhouse gas emissions. Dr. Danoglidis is a member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) and the International Union of Laboratories and Experts in Construction Materials, Systems, and Structures (RILEM). His work has resulted in 40 publications in peer-reviewed journals and international conference proceedings.

AEMAL KHATTAK

Dr. Aemal Khattak is a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Director of the Mid-America Transportation Center – a Regional University Transportation Center for USDOT Region 7 – at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The theme of this center is transportation safety and equity. Dr. Khattak teaches undergraduate and graduate courses and conducts research in highway safety. He is an editorial board member of the Transportation Research Records and area editor for the Journal of Transportation Safety and Security. In the past, he chaired the Transportation Research Board Standing Committee on Highway/Rail Grade Crossings (AR080).



PANELS, GROUP PRESENTATIONS, AND MODERATORS

JUDY PERKINS



Dr. Judy A. Perkins has served as a civil engineering educator for over three decades. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Southern University (Baton Rouge, Louisiana); a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign, Illinois); and was the first African American female to graduate with a PhD in Civil & Environmental Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, Georgia). Dr. Perkins has taught in the Departments of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Southern University, the University of New Orleans, and North Carolina A&T State University. From 2004 - 2011, she was the first African American and the first female to serve as the Department Head of the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU). Currently, Dr. Perkins is a Professor in PVAMU's Civil & Environmental Engineering Department, a Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) Regents Professor, the Google Endowed Professor, and the Director for the National Center for Infrastructure Transformation (NCIT). NCIT is the first HBCU-led national University Transportation Center (UTC), funded by the USDOT. Through her involvement in research, Dr. Perkins, and her colleagues in 2023 received the largest competitive grant ever awarded to PVAMU. This was a historic achievement for PVAMU and TAMUS. Lastly, Dr. Perkins is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and a licensed professional engineer.

LEE DOW



Lee Dow has been a part of Oklahoma's Career Tech system (CTE/ACTE) since July of 1997. It was then that he made the transition from industry as an A.S.E. master-certified professional technician, to a master-certified instructor in Trade/Industrial Education at Moore Norman Technology Center. Lee holds a Master of Administrative Leadership from the University of Oklahoma, a Master of Education from East Central University, a Bachelor of Applied Science from the University of Central Oklahoma, and an Associate's from OCCC - General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program. As an educator, Lee considers his 25-plus years of impact on thousands of students' lives and community stakeholders to be some of his greatest personal and professional accomplishments. In December of 2020, he made the transition into educational administration when accepted the position of Director, Aerospace and Transportation at Moore Norman Technology Center. He integrates training to meet current workforce demands in both long-term and short-term classes, providing opportunities for growth for all stakeholders, including local community businesses, and ensuring student success!

MICHAEL MOLINA

Dr. Michael Molina is the librarian for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's library as well as the workforce development coordinator for the Southern Plains Transportation Center. He has served in both organizations since 2017. As workforce development coordinator, he works closely with SPTC members to develop and review workforce development activities for the center. He holds a PhD in history and a master's in library science from the University of Oklahoma. He has served as PI for several projects, including knowledge management and workforce development efforts at ODOT, and the Transportation Research and Connectivity pooled fund study. He has also served as the chair of the Western Transportation Knowledge Network and currently serves as coordinating committee member of the National Transportation Knowledge Network, secretary for the Special Libraries Association Transportation Division, and most recently, panelist for NCHRP 23-17 Assessing and Measuring the Business Value of Knowledge Management.



COLE ATKINSON

Cole Atkinson serves as the Director of STEM for Moore Norman Technology Center (MNTC). As the Director of STEM, he supervises PLTW Engineering and Biomedical programs at MNTC and five different partner public school campuses. At present, 686 students are served through these courses and opportunities.



PANELS, GROUP PRESENTATIONS, AND MODERATORS



MARGARET ZIENTEK

Margaret Zientek is a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and a graduate of Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, majoring in Business Administration and Tourism Management. Margaret's employment background and experience spanned over 40 years and involved working with businesses and assessing their employment needs. For the past twenty-seven years, Margaret has worked directly with her tribe – the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Margaret works closely with the employment and training needs of Native Americans residing in a 6-county area within central Oklahoma. Margaret handles a wide variety of federal programs and is passionate about helping native people help themselves to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. She believes tribes must exercise sovereignty and know how best to serve their people. Margaret was elected to serve as P.L. 102-477 Tribal Work Group Co-Chair in 2000 and continues to hold this position today. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has strongly supported P.L. 102-477 education and legislative efforts. In this capacity, Margaret has testified before legislative committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives. She has also served as a Co-Chair for the National Indian and Native American Employment & Training / 477 Conference for several years.

JACOB KNIFFEN

Jacob Kniffen is the Mentoring Coordinator for the federal Department of Education GEAR UP for the FUTURE grant at the University of Oklahoma K-20 Center. In this role, Jacob works with stakeholders in nine high schools in the OKC and Lawton metro areas to help expose students to career fields, pathways, and post-secondary opportunities through Career Cafes, Career Expos, and College2Career Forums. During the 2023-24 school year alone, the K20 Center – and the three GEAR UP grants the center houses – have served 1,593 students with these career exploration opportunities. As a veteran high school teacher with a decade of experience, Jacob knows how valuable early career exposure can be for students deciding their post-high school plans.



VENDORS

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- OU K20 CENTER
- OKLAHOMA ASPHALT PAVEMENT ASSOCIATION
- MESHEK & ASSOCIATES
- TERRACON CONSULTANT

DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS

Drawings will take place during the two 15-minute breaks, lunch, and during closing remarks.

Must be present to win.

Winners must cooperate with the Southern Plains Transportation Center to file appropriate paperwork* required by the University of Oklahoma's Prizes, Acknowledgements, and Appreciation Policy, including but not limited to the Prize Tax Data Collection Form and IRS Form W-9.

*Please note that awards over \$600 (ie: iPad + Apple pen) will be reported on IRS Form 1099-MISC by the University of Oklahoma. The IRS has stipulated that amounts less than \$600 are required to be self-reported by the recipient on their personal income tax return. Please consult with your personal tax advisor for any questions or concerns.

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Any changes to this printed program will be announced at the beginning of the day of the event.