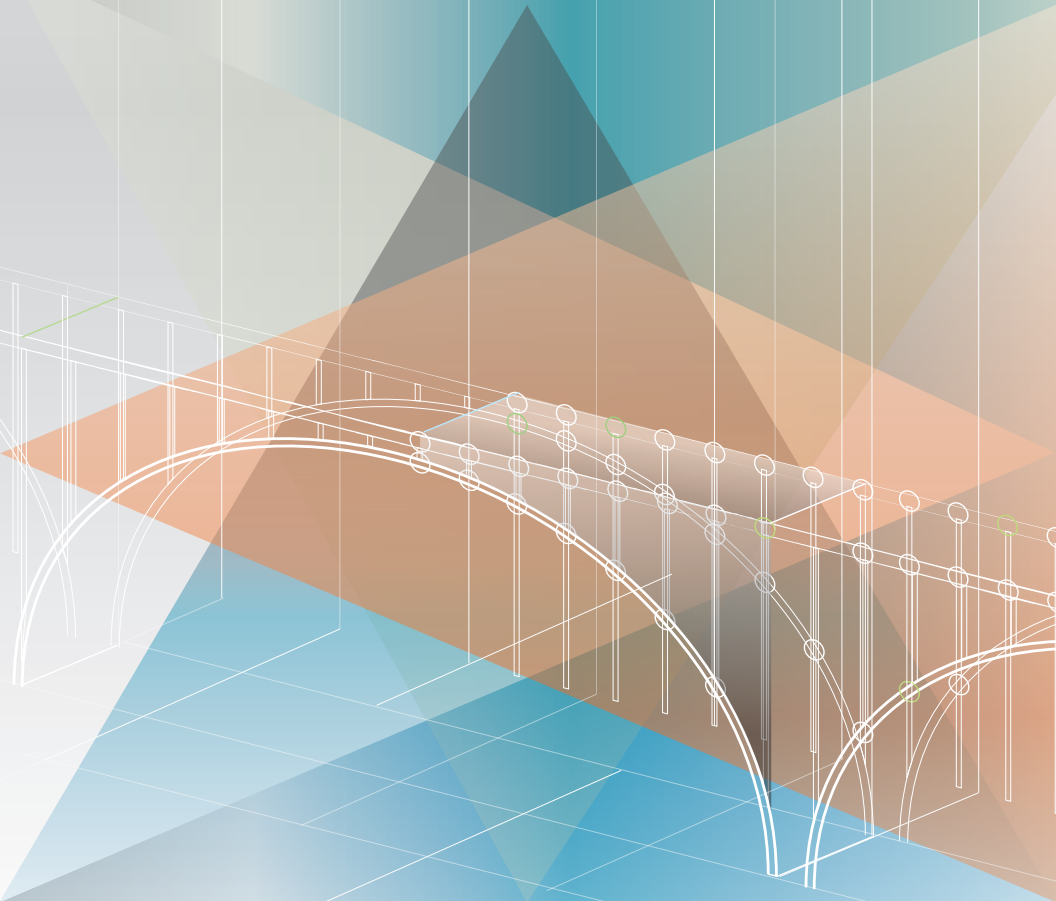




NATIONAL SUMMER TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE PROGRAM

CAREERS IN TRANSPORTATION



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



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About the National Summer Transportation Institute Program

In 1991, the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority Institutions of Higher Education Task Force recommended that partnerships be established to increase the participation of HBCUs, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic Serving Institutions in the Agency's programs. The partnerships were required to have, at a minimum, the active participation of an FHWA Division Office, a State transportation agency (STA), and a college or university.

In response to the recommendation, the FHWA South Carolina Division Office, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, and the South Carolina State University developed a transportation-focused career awareness initiative known as the "Summer Transportation Institute" (STI). This USDOT/FHWA educational initiative addressed a critical workforce development objective for the transportation industry. The STI program was designed to introduce secondary school students to all modes of transportation careers and encourage them to pursue transportation-related courses of study at the college and/or university level. After a 6-year pilot program, Congress, in the *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century*, authorized funding for the first transportation career education program for secondary school youth known as the "National Summer Transportation Institute" (NSTI).

To date, the NSTI Program has expanded from one university to more than 65 colleges and universities, with more than 8,000 students having participated in the program. Participating colleges and universities throughout the United States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico serve as host sites. From fiscal years 2008 - 2009, ten host sites had students with various disabilities participate in their program.

Vision

Provide a diverse, well-qualified workforce for the transportation industry in the 21st century.

Objective

To create awareness and stimulate interest in secondary school students to take advantage of the opportunities that exist in the transportation industry, and encourage them to pursue transportation-related courses of study at the college/university level.



STI Counselor and students participating in a rocket testing contest.

STI instructor and students engaged in a bridge building exercise.



Program Administration

FHWA Headquarters' Office of Civil Rights (HCR) administers the NSTI Program, develops guidelines/data collection instruments, and provides technical assistance to its Division Offices. In addition, HCR analyzes and approves host sites' budgets and prepares an annual report.

FHWA Division Offices monitor the NSTI Program, conduct site visits, and provide technical assistance/guidance to its STA, and host sites. In addition, the Division Offices notify STAs regarding funding status, and the reimbursement of funds. The STAs enter into cooperative agreements with host sites, and determine the level of oversight and requirements that host sites must follow based on their State procurement rules and regulations. The STI host sites, under the leadership of a Project Director, develop, implement, and direct all phases of the STI according to established guidelines.

Organizational Structure

The NSTI Program consists of:

- ◆ Host Sites (institutions of higher education).
- ◆ 2-4 week residential or non-residential programs with a minimum of 15 participants.
- ◆ Middle school (grades 7-9) or high school (grades 9-12) students.
- ◆ Curriculums that introduce students to all modes of transportation.

Program Components

All host sites conduct academic programs that introduce students to all modes of transportation, transportation careers, and provide enhancement activities. In addition, a sports and recreation program is recommended for residential programs only.

The academic program includes exposure to all modes of transportation, professional presentations, field trips, and hands-on activities. The enhancement program exposes students to methods and activities that improve study habits and increase academic achievement. Enhancement activities may include sessions on time management, SAT prep, library use, vocabulary development, and computer skills. The sports/recreation program instills a healthy team and competitive spirit in participants. Activities such as bowling, swimming, movies, and basketball may be included.

Types of STIs

Host Sites conduct residential or nonresidential programs for either middle school or high school students. Residential programs provide students with college dormitory housing, meals, and a weekend program, in addition to academic and enhancement programs. Non-residential programs provide academic activities and may include some enhancement programs. High school programs include courses and activities that are designed to assist in preparing students for post-secondary school. Middle school programs focus more on career exploration.

Who can participate in this program? Whom do you contact?

Any institution of higher education (college/university) may apply to serve as a host site for this program. Interested parties should contact their local FHWA Federal-Aid Division Office. Specific contact information for the Division Offices, as well as STI host sites, can be found on FHWA's HCR Web site (www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights) under the NSTI Program. In addition, you may contact Ann Wicks, the NSTI Program Manager, at (202) 366-2213.

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