MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

The TTI awards program was started in 1995 through a staff-lead initiative. A staff group recently completed a review of the awards program to ensure it continues to meet its intended objectives.

The review group was headed by Ginger Goodin. Team members included Gene Buth, Gene Hawkins, Janice Konecny, Tim Lomax, Dock Burke, Cindy Estakhri, Becca Simons, Sandy Tucker, and Katie Womack.

The TTI Management Team asked this group to review the eight years of experience with the awards program. The group was specifically asked to look at the number and type of award categories, the criteria for each award, the nomination process, and the selection process. As appropriate, the group made suggestions on changes or modifications to enhance the awards program.

The awards review group met a number of times and recently presented its recommendations to the Management Team. Overall, the group found that the awards program is well-crafted and has served TTI well. It recommended minor adjustments to enhance the program.

The major recommendations focus on encouraging more nominations, addressing equity concerns between the Trinity and non-Trinity awards, and clarifying some of the award categories.

To encourage more nominations the group recommends a two-step process – nominators will first submit the nomination form, with nomination support letters due four weeks later.

To reestablish parity between the Trinity and non-Trinity awards the group recommends making the size and inscription of the plaques the same and including all winners in the separate award luncheon.

The group recommends minor clarifications to some of the award criteria.

The group also made other suggestions relating to providing tips for developing nominations and guidance on writing award citations.

The Management Team accepted these recommendations and the group is working to implement them. More information will be available soon on the 2004 awards program.

The group also encouraged management to help recruit nominations. Many SPP&E staff have been nominated and selected for awards over the years, but there are many more deserving candidates.

There are many outstanding researchers and support staff who have yet to be recognized with an award. I would strongly encourage you to nominate deserving SPP&E and other TTI staff.

In keeping with the recommendation from the awards group, expect to receive further encouragement from me on submitting nominations!

Thanks!

Katie
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 30 – TAMU FIRST DAY OF FALL CLASSES
OCTOBER 12-13 – TRANSPORTATION SHORT COURSE, COLLEGE STATION, TX
NOVEMBER 25-26 – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WELCOME

Teresa Rogers has joined the Urban Analysis Program as a Research Associate. Teresa holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Design from Texas A&M University. She also completed one-year of the Masters Program in Community and Regional Planning at the University of Texas at Austin. She plans to continue work on her masters at the University of Texas at Arlington. Teresa will be working on projects for TxDOT’s Transportation Planning and Programming Division and other sponsors.

Welcome Teresa!

Goodbye

Joanna Rakes, Research Development Office, has taken a job in San Antonio to be closer to her fiancé. While we will miss Joanna, we wish her the best of luck with her new job.

FY 05 HOLIDAYS

The following holiday schedule has been approved by the Board of Regents for FY 2005.

Thanksgiving – November 25-26
Christmas-New Year’s Day – December 24-31
Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 17, 2005
Spring Break – March 18, 2005
Memorial Day – May 30, 2005
Independence Day – July 4, 2005

August
Claire Fazio 8/7
Robert McLain 8/15
Ming-Han Li 8/16
Craig Shupe 8/16
Jeremy Snow 8/20
Ed Sepulveda 8/23
Jimmie Benson 8/24
Todd Carlson 9/26
Laura Higgins 9/28

September
Ginger Goodin 9/7
Nancy Stratta 9/8
Josias Zietsman 9/16
Scott Cooner 9/20
Jimmie Benson 9/24
Todd Carlson 9/26
Laura Higgins 9/28