THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND TRANSPORTATION CENTER

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Abstract

Workforce development encompasses recruiting, retraining and retention activities. The URITC-sponsored programs are designed to recruit the transportation workforce of tomorrow by introducing career options to middle school and high school students.

We know from the career choice literature that the top factor influencing career choice is the people around you. Since not every young person has a transportation professional in their circle of family and friends, providing early exposure to transportation careers is important for these options to become a part of the choice set.

Experiential learning techniques are used to introduce transportation careers through after school enrichment activities and summer camps. Students are given the opportunity to meet and learn from engineers, business leaders, department of transportation officials, university faculty and college students.

The support of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers (RICE) has been crucial to the success of the URITC's programs.

Workforce Development Initiatives

Transportation and Civil Engineering (TRAC) Program

The Infinity Project (www.infinity-project.org)

ZOOM for kids (www.pbskids.org/zoom)

Building Big (www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig)

ExCEEd – Excellence in Engineering Education (www.asce.org/exceed)

Discover Engineering (www.discoverengineering.org)

Construction Career Day events (www.uritc.org/nccdc)

URITC-Sponsored Programs

Rhode Island Construction Career Days

Engineering Career Day

Summer Transportation Institute

Summer Academies
- Business Academy
- Construction Academy
- Engineering Academy

Middle School Robotics Challenge

Science & Math Investigative Learning Experiences (SMILE)

Guaranteed Admissions Program (GAP)

URITC-Sponsored Workforce Development Initiatives

Guaranteed Admissions Program

Robotics Challenge

Construction Academy

Summer Transportation Institute

SMILE Program

Engineering Career Day

Engineering Academy

R.I. Construction Career Day