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November 2011 A newsletter of The University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service Vol. 6 No. 11

University expertise for community and workplace needs

CIS Part of $1.64 Million Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Grant

The UT Center for Industrial Services (CIS) and its partners, led by Roane State Community College, received a $1.64 million grant that will fund several initiatives designed to promote the growth of the composites industry in East Tennessee.

The grant, the only award in Tennessee and one of 20 awards nationwide, is part of President Barack Obama's $37 million Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge, a multi-agency competition to support the advancement of high-growth, regional industry clusters. Investments from three federal agencies and technical assistance from 13 additional agencies will promote development in areas such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, aerospace and clean technology. The Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge aims to accelerate innovation-fueled job creation and global competitiveness by awarding grants to regions that demonstrate the existence of high-growth industry clusters that support a wide range of economic and workforce development activities.

"The Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge brings the public

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CTAS Consultant, UT Professor Present Paper at China Web Conference

Left to right, Dr. Shih-Lung Shaw, a UT professor currently on a research assignment in China; Dr. Bruce Ralston; and Mike Meyers on the Wuhan University campus.

UT County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) Geographic Information System (GIS) Consultant Mike Meyers and Dr. Bruce Ralston from the UT Knoxville Department of Geography recently co-presented a paper at the International Workshop on Web-GIS in Wuhan, China.

The paper they presented, Developing Rich Web GIS Applications for Visual Analytics, was based on research associated with the Tennessee Data Portal, a collaboration of the UT Institute for Public Service, the Department of Geography and the UT Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER). The paper explored how to present simple-to-use interfaces for rapidly changing data in the form of maps, charts and tables that present census information and Tennessee city and county data.

The workshop was part of the 12th Annual Web Age Information Conference held in Wuhan, a large city in Central China. Researchers from all over the world attended the conference. This year, about 29 percent of submitted papers were accepted. Social media was a popular topic at the conference where all papers were presented in English. One researcher from Japan displayed a 3D interactive map of all Twitter messages resulting from the March tsunami that hit Japan.

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CIS Part of $1.64 Million Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Grant

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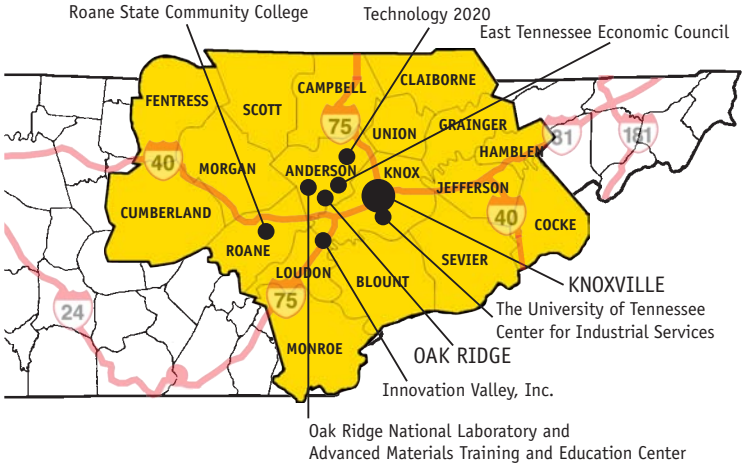
and private sectors together to build on America's regional strengths and create local jobs in key industries of the future," Acting U.S. Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank said. "This initiative is a shining example of how the federal government is working collaboratively and leveraging existing resources to enhance local efforts to build public-private partnerships that support economic growth and job creation."

The grant targeted composites, with a focus on low-cost carbon fiber technology. Composites, such as carbon fiber, are used to create lightweight, durable and energy efficient products. Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL) is developing processes to significantly reduce the cost of carbon fiber to a point that it is feasible for widespread use in automotive and other transportation industry applications. The region has a significant cluster of transportation equipment manufacturers, including automotive suppliers and boat manufacturers.

The scope and focus of the initiative, called the Advanced Composites Employment Accelerator (ACE Accelerator), is to assist these regional firms in exploiting the advanced lightweight materials and carbon fiber technology capabilities found at ORNL and at the leading colleges and universities contained within the region.

Partnership efforts are expected to result in 750 new jobs in the composites industry within the 18-county region around Knoxville.

ACE ACCELERATOR REGIONAL INNOVATION ASSETS



"This successful grant proposal was the result of tremendous effort from the CIS staff, Roane State, ORNL and a number of East Tennessee agencies," said CIS Executive Director Dr. Paul Jennings. "We look forward to working with our partners to promote innovation and grow jobs and investment in the advanced composites sector."

Other partners in the initiative include the Oak Ridge Carbon Fiber Composites Consortium, East Tennessee Economic Council, Innovation Valley Inc., Tech 2020, Tennessee Automotive Manufacturers Association and advanced materials cluster industries in the region. ■

CTAS Consultant, UT Professor Present Paper at China Web Conference

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"On the way to Wuhan, we visited ShenZhen, a former fishing village that is now one of the world's fastest growing cities with a population of more than 10 million and one of the largest high-tech manufacturing centers in the world," Meyers said. "We visited with Xiaohung Xing, a former CTAS intern who now runs a software company that employs 20 people and supplies the GIS software to manage the Shenzhen road system. Her first experience in this field as an intern was a solid waste routing project for Hamblen County." ■

Knoxville Company Wins Government Contract with Help from PTAC

With the assistance of the UT Center for Industrial Services' (CIS) Procurement Technical Advisory Center (PTAC), a Knoxville company was awarded a $24 million environmental contract from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Midwest regional office.

VRHabilis, LLC is a service-disabled veteran-owned small business whose owners, Elliott Adler and Tom Rancich, and employees are former Navy explosive ordinance disposal, special warfare and deep sea diving professionals. The company specializes in range unexploded ordinance remediation, underwater unexploded ordinance, dive team services, precision blasting, environmental remediation and emergency response.

Paul Middlebrooks

Adler was frustrated because the company had received only sub-contracting opportunities and were being overlooked for prime contracts with groups such as the Army Corps of Engineers and NAVFAC. That led him to approach PTAC Consultant Paul Middlebrooks who provided Adler with information on marketing to the government and suggested to him that the company should focus on securing business from NAVFAC.

Middlebrooks, who had met the NAVFAC midwest contact at a recent East Tennessee veterans conference, facilitated a call between the business and the agency. The meeting allowed the company to introduce its capabilities to NAVFAC.

In September, VRHabilis, LLC was awarded a $24 million Environmental Multiple Award three-year contract NAVFAC for environmental services and remedial actions at environmentally contaminated sites at Naval Station Great Lakes, Great Lakes, Ill.; Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane, Ind.; and Naval Support Activity in Millington.

"I want to thank CIS for helping us get this award. We appreciate the advice we received and look forward to a long and profitable relationship," Adler said. ■

MTAS Welcomes New Assistant Director Thomas

Jim Thomas

The UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) has hired Goodlettsville City Manager Jim Thomas as its assistant director.

As assistant director, Thomas will serve as the chief operating officer for MTAS and work closely with Executive Director Steve Thompson. Thomas, who will begin work on Nov. 1, also will consult with municipalities and supervise consulting and administrative staff working from five MTAS offices across the state.

"We are very familiar with Jim's work because he has served on our advisory council for several years," Thompson said. "MTAS is very fortunate to be able to bring someone of Jim's caliber to the staff."

Thomas has served as both assistant city manager and city manager in Goodlettsville since 1999. The Chattanooga native received his bachelor's and master's degrees from he University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He served as president of the UT National Alumni Association in 1991 and has filled other roles in the association since 1988.

He has been a member of the Tennessee Municipal League since 1998, the Tennessee City Management Association since 1998 and the International City/County Management Association since 1999. ■

UT National Forensic Academy™ Introduces Virtual Reality Training

Since 2001, the UT National Forensic Academy™ (NFA™) has trained hundreds of crime scene investigators from across the country.

Now the center is ready to roll out NFA Investigator Virtual Reality training. The virtual reality-based training was developed with a grant from the National Institute of Justice and in partnership with the National Forensic Science Center. NFA is a program of the UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC).

"With the popularity of virtual reality video games, we worked with the National Forensic Science Center to create a training tool that appeals to younger law enforcement personnel," said Don Green, executive director of LEIC. "The training will take participants through several crime scenes and teach them various investigative techniques."

Don Green

Emily Miller

The training was launched in October through an online class designed for law enforcement. This virtual reality-based training is targeted toward entry-level law enforcement personnel who may want to become crime scene investigators and forensic practitioners.

"Many different types of classes are taught online these days," said Emily Miller, curriculum specialist with LEIC. "We wanted to find a way to conduct crime scene investigation training online and to make it as realistic as possible." ■

Group Discusses Alternative Energy Sources in East Tennessee

The mayors of the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) recently collaborated with Genera Energy, Tennessee Reservoir Development Agency, Michael Brady, Inc. and Monroe County Office of Economic Development to provide a free community outreach forum to area citizens and clean energy stakeholders.

Attendees gathered to examine strategies to develop alternative energies in East Tennessee and to learn about renewable energy-related case studies. UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Management Consultant Warren Nevad, with the assistance of the Monroe County Office of Economic Development, developed the agenda, which consisted of morning presentations from representatives of the UT Institute for Public Service (IPS), Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Genera Energy, Frontline Bioenergy, 49 Green, LTA Consulting, Inc., Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). UT President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson said that people who had attended the previous forums were now working together and building a series of partnerships to help bring solar energy development to the town of Sunbright and alternative transportation fuels to Crossville and other cities statewide. ■

YOUR VOICE. YOUR UT.

Employees of the University of Tennessee will get a chance to have their voices heard through an Employee Engagement Survey that begins Nov. 1.

The system human resources office is working with an outside vendor to administer the confidential survey. The survey will be sent to about 12,000 regular faculty and staff statewide who work 50 percent time or more. It will cover pay, benefits, work culture, training, job satisfaction, performance evaluation, leadership, communication and other areas. The data will be shared with employees in the spring. Employees will receive an e-mail from ModernThink, the vendor contracted to conduct the survey. The e-mail will contain a user name and password for each employee. ■

Dennis Wolf Receives CMO Designation

UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Fire Management Consultant Dennis Wolf recently renewed his personal accreditation as a Chief Medical Officer (CMO) through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE).

Dennis Wolf

The designation verifies past training and accomplishments and demonstrates applicable knowledge, skills and abilities. Sixty-seven people nationwide have the CMO designation, and Wolf is the only person in Tennessee to have it. He also is a CMO peer reviewer for the CPSE. ■

The 34th Autumn in Knoxville Fall Festival was held Sept. 30 at the UT TRECS complex on the Knoxville campus. Thousands of Knoxville-area faculty and staff attend this employee appreciation event for fun, food and giveaways.

One of the most popular events of the festival each year is bingo, which again featured celebrity callers from around campus and some great prizes. Dr. Mary Jinks, vice president for public service, served as hostess for a session of bingo. ■

CTAS Partners with TnAAO

The UT County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) and the Tennessee Association of Assessing Officers (TnAAO) joined forces in September to offer the first regional education seminars for property assessors and their staff.

The four-hour programs were held in Jackson, Nashville and Knoxville. The seminars provided participants with workshops tailored to their job duties: Business Tangible Personal Property, Map Auditing and Assessment Change Notices. The program line-up also included a focus on current hot topics for the profession such as Tennessee's Greenbelt Law and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. County Officials Certificate Training Program (COCTP) credit hours were available for seminar participants enrolled in the COCTP. ■

These excited Vol fans were guests at a mini-tailgate party in the IPS Central Office which was hosted by LEIC Executive Director Don Green, left, prior to kick-off of the Oct. 8 Tennessee/Georgia game.

LEIC Receives $1 Million in Grants to Further Training

The UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC) has received more than $1 million in federal grants to continue its National Forensic Academy™ (NFA™) and to offer a traveling crime scene investigation class.

With the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant of $600,000, along with program fees and donations, the NFA will be able to continue through December 2013. This grant is a continuation of prior ones from BJA that have been used to fund NFA. The NFA is a 10-week intensive program designed to meet the needs of law enforcement agencies in evidence identification, collection and preservation.

"We are very grateful for the funding from BJA and NIJ to help us continue our successful training programs," said Don Green, executive director of LEIC. "We have a highly capable staff and independent instructors who are able to address the ever-growing needs of law enforcement nationwide."

The NFA is currently in its 29th session with 24 participants from across the country. Close to 500 law enforcement personnel from the U.S. and one from Iceland have completed NFA training since the program started in 2001. The overall popularity of the NFA has led LEIC to develop a collegiate forensic training program in partnership with UT Martin. That program will begin in July 2012.

The NIJ awarded LEIC with a $450,000 grant to deliver one-week crime scene investigation training through the next year at select sites throughout the U.S. These courses will use the NFA curriculum to cover forensic digital photography and crime scene mapping. ■

Naifeh Center to Host Application of Lean Principles Workshop

The UT Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership is partnering with the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) to host a Lean Conference Nov. 15 in Nashville.

"Improving Public Service: Application of Lean Principles" will focus on business practices that can add value, effectiveness and efficiency to any government organization. Participants will learn about successful approaches to optimizing production that have been applied in the public sector. Speakers will include Chuck Parke from the UT Knoxville College of Business; Mark Emkes, Tennessee Commissioner of Finance and Administration; Consultant Keith Groves from the UT Center for Industrial Services; and Walt Matwijec, assistant vice president, continuous improvement for the Nashville Airport Authority.

This is the second seminar hosted through the partnership between the Naifeh Center and TNCPE. In mid-October, the two groups held a workshop focused on applying the Baldrige criteria in government.

The Lean Principles seminar will be held at the One Century Place Conference Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The registration fee is $65.

Those interested in attending can register at www.leadership.tennessee.edu/leanconference. ■

Staff Applause

Walter Idol

To: Paul Jennings, CIS

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Safety and Health Congress, thank you and your company for permitting Walter Idol to present a workshop at this year's congress. Your support and the support of others have contributed significantly to the success of the congress for 34 years.

Ted Helms, Program Chairman

Beth Phillips

To: Beth Phillips, CIS

Thank you for moderating the panel at the Governor's Conference for Economic and Community Development. It was a good topic for an audience who needed to hear things that are difficult. The difficult topics were tempered with levity that made it a great session; and I thought you handled the speakers and topic flow expertly. I heard from several people who thought it was the best session that they had attended. I appreciate your making the time in your schedule!

Wisty Pender, Director, Business Enterprise Resource Office (BERO)
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

Johnny Winstead

To: Johnny Winstead, CIS

Hey, great seminar this week. I worked harder in this one than any other environmental seminar I've been to, but I'm glad it was tough … I learned a lot. Next time, I have to take training on a subject that I really have to know about, I'll see if you're teaching it.

Christopher Rouser, Quality/Environmental Affairs, Thomas & Betts Corp.

Macel Ely

To: Macel Ely, IPS CO

Thank you for presenting at our 65th Annual Conference in Nashville. The program was a success, and your direct personal involvement helped make that a reality. Our delegates received a wealth of educational insight and knowledge from your session to take back to their municipalities. Our institute's primary purpose is the professional and personal development of our members. Please know that your contributions to our conference program were a significant part of this effort.

Jennifer Ward, International Institute of Municipal Clerks

Tom Kohntopp

To: Tom Kohntopp and Macel Ely, IPS CO

I genuinely want to thank you for presenting your session "How to Maximize the Mentor Experience" at this year's Career Development Expo. The expo was a success, and I cannot thank you enough for your participation. I have heard many great comments. It was a pleasure having you facilitate, and I truly appreciate your time and effort in helping us make the seminar possible.

Brian Roe, Expo Coordinator, The University of Tennessee Employee and Organizational Development

Richard Stokes

To: Richard Stokes, MTAS

Thank you for your phenomenal presentation to (UT Knoxville professor) Dr. Dave Folz's class. I am so grateful for your knowledge and your willingness to share it so generously. I'm also stunned that you could provide so much useful information in such a short amount of time; I've endured corporate trainings that were 10 times the length with one-tenth the content.

Dori Stiefel, Student, MPA 562, Public Management Seminar

IPS November Calendar of Events

♦ CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Nov. 1-3	Local Government Leadership Program (LGLP), Knoxville
Nov. 3-4	LGLP Alumni Event, Knoxville
Nov. 9	TGMI/TGEI Graduation, Nashville
Nov. 15	Lean Government Conference, Nashville
Nov. 16	IACET CEU Training, Cookeville

♦ CIS

Nov. 7	40-Hour Site Worker, Gatlinburg
Nov. 15	OTI500 Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards for Construction, Knoxville
Nov. 15	OTI501 Trainer Course in OSHA Standards for General Industry, Knoxville
Nov. 15	West Tennessee Veterans and Small Business Conference, Jackson
Nov. 16	Business Retention and Expansion Workshop, Jackson
Nov. 28	8-Hour Emergency Response Refresher, Nashville
Nov. 29	8-Hour Site Worker Refresher, Nashville
Nov. 30	8-Hour DOT Refresher, Bartlett

♦ CTAS

Nov. 8-10	County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT) Conference, Nashville

♦ LEIC

Nov. 2-3	Domestic Violence, Vernal County, Utah
Nov. 7-8	Domestic Violence, West Jordan, Utah
Nov. 7-9	Survival Spanish, West Feliciana Parish, La.
Nov. 7-11	Crime Scene Management Field Techniques, Lynchburg, Va.
Nov. 14-15	DNA Evidence Identification, Collection and Preservation for Law Enforcement, Vidalia, La.

♦ MTAS

Nov. 1	Court Clerk Training, Cookeville
Nov. 2	Planning and Organizing (Municipal Management Academy), Chattanooga
Nov. 2	Council at Work (Elected Officials Academy), Knoxville
Nov. 2	Court Clerk Training, Smyrna
Nov. 3	Planning and Organizing (MMA), Germantown
Nov. 4	Governmental Accounting II, Memphis
Nov. 8	Financial Accounting II, Columbia
Nov. 8	Financial Accounting II, Jackson
Nov. 8	Financial Accounting II, Morristown
Nov. 9	Court Clerk Training, Bartlett
Nov. 9	Performance: Positive Discipline (MMA), Chattanooga
Nov. 9	Retail Economic Development (Municipal Administration Program), Jackson
Nov. 9	Council at Work (EOA), Jackson
Nov. 10	Court Clerk Training, Jackson
Nov. 15	Court Clerk Training, Johnson City
Nov. 16	Court Clerk Training, Knoxville
Nov. 16	Human Resource Overview (MMA), Chattanooga
Nov. 16	Police Review (EOA), Knoxville
Nov. 16	Financial Accounting II, Lebanon
Nov. 16	Financial Accounting II, Loudon
Nov. 16	Financial Accounting II, Martin
Nov. 17	Communication Skills and Behavioral Styles (MMA), Columbia

The IPS 40th anniversary logo appeared on the tailgate picture on page 4 in the October issue of The Exchange.

The October winner was Sherri Brown from the IPS Central Office. Can you find the logo this month? E-mail your guess to susan.robertson@tennessee.edu.

RECRUITMENTS

♦ **MTAS**
Administrative Support Assistant, Nashville
Finance Consultant, Knoxville
Finance Consultant, Martin

NEW HIRES

♦ **CIS**
Martha Kelley, Coordinator, Nashville

♦ **MTAS**
Jim Thomas, Assistant Director, Nashville

DEPARTURE

♦ **LEIC**
Deidra Phillips, Specialist, Oak Ridge

STATE SERVICE LONGEVITY

Doug Brown, MTAS	5 years
Mandy Johnson, LEIC	6 years
Judie Martin, IPS CO	7 years
Gregg McAlister, LEIC	4 years
Paul Middlebrooks, CIS	25 years
Ann Mitchell, CIS	11 years
Earl Pomeroy, CIS	4 years
Bob Schettler, CTAS	26 years
Bill Wiley, CIS	21 years

the EXCHANGE

The EXCHANGE is a newsletter of The University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service
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IPS0921 230 E13-0110-000-009-12