Ultimately, balanced traffic engineering planning and design studies along with context sensitive solutions will determine the most appropriate intersection alternative for any intersection improvement, however it is critical that agencies consider all viable intersection alternatives prior to selecting a preferred alternative.

**ITE Student Members Engage in Trans-Atlantic Master's Program**

In an effort to prepare its students for transportation careers in an increasingly global climate, the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) teamed up with the Czech Republic’s Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU) and the Slovak Republic’s University of Zilina (UNIZA) to create a dual master’s degree program in transportation and logistics systems. In November of 2010, the three universities signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in this program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the European Union’s Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

The degree will “expose students, faculty, and staff to professional practices, innovative research, and cultural understanding in the U.S. and E.U.” The students will spend their first year at their home university, and their second year will take them abroad to finish their studies. Students will be required to complete a master’s thesis that is relevant to both the U.S. and the E.U. Graduates of the program earn two degrees—a master of science in civil engineering from UTEP and a corresponding degree from one of the EU partner universities, depending on where the student accumulates the most credits.

This fall, UTEP welcomed its first European students participating in the program—four from CTU and three from UNIZA. ITE also welcomed them into its community as student members of the UTEP Student Chapter, where they have become active participants. Last month, they attended the TexITE 2011 Fall Meeting in Garland, TX, and look forward to presenting their master theses during the student poster session at the district’s 2012 Spring Meeting in San Marcos this coming March.

Students Jana Cervinska and Marketa Vavrova, who provided content for this article, explain that during the time they have spent in El Paso they “have gained a lot of new and useful knowledge and experienced how the transportation systems work in the region.” They go on to say that being part of the ITE chapter is helping them to build a professional network, which will be advantageous as they embark on their careers. After the academic year, the CTU and UNIZA students will return to Europe as “ITE ambassadors” and plan to establish ITE student chapters at their home universities.

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