



2015 Annual National LTAP/TTAP Conference Recap

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So about Savannah...as expected, it was humid, muggy, rainy, and sticky. Typical Savannah weather nonetheless but rich culture and fine southern cuisine made the conditions more than tolerable. For those who have never been, the riverfront is a cross between Louisiana's French quarters and D.C.'s Georgetown. There are tons of restaurants, gift shops, an open air market, ghost tours and lots and lots of southern hospitality.



The 2015 National LTAP/TTAP Conference was held in this charming city from July 20th – 23rd. Here's a recap for those of you who could not make it down this year:

Kim Carr (West Virginia LTAP) kicked off the pre-conference day with **LTAP/TTAP U** (hosted by the **Joint Professional Development Program**), a presentation and discussion platform used to introduce LTAP/TTAP newbies to the program and provide them with an in-depth look at the types of resources and trainings Centers offer their customers; it also allows them to share their successes (or not) and best practices.



Jeff Zaharewicz (FHWA) discussed the benefits of the PAR & CAR, **Byron Bluehorse (Alaska TTAP)** introduced the TTAPs and **Matthew Enders (Washington LTAP)** handed us all 'Alphabet Soup' while testing our knowledge of program acronyms; then **Denise Brown (North Dakota LTAP)** and **Jeff Zaharewicz (FHWA)** shared how Centers can get professional development resources and learn more about products and services of the Joint Professional Development Program including LTAP/TTAP U the LTAP Academy, New Director Orientation, Forums, Mentorship Program etc...; and **Lee Cabeza de Vaca (New Mexico LTAP)**, **Ken Skorseth (South Dakota LTAP)** and **Lou Ferretti (Pennsylvania LTAP)** talked about how University-based and DOT-based Centers are operating in their designated affiliations, how they form and maintain the relationships they

need for success and addressed the advantages and challenges that exist with their operating structure.

While sharing Center best practices, **Dale Heglund (North Dakota LTAP)** discussed how their staff expanded a “You Show Us” award winner into a larger training opportunity through the new Sign Truck Roundtable “Show and Tell” training sessions and **Nick Jones (Utah LTAP)** conducted a 5 state scan tour comparing how Montana, Alaska, Colorado, Wyoming and North Dakota LTAPs are organized, what their strengths are, what makes them unique, what they emphasize in their program and what programs Utah LTAP could use and exchange with them; **Rusty Lee (Delaware LTAP)** discussed customer service and building partnerships while Kim closed out the first session with questions and discussions.

After using the lunch break to regroup and recharge, the pre-conference afternoon safety session was in full swing starting with the **Joint Safety Program** hosting a workshop on **Local Data Integration: Noteworthy Practices**



which addressed how local agencies integrate local data into a state's system for safety analysis followed by a presentation on **Marketing and Communicating Safety** covering marketing transportation safety with local elected officials on community safety issues and

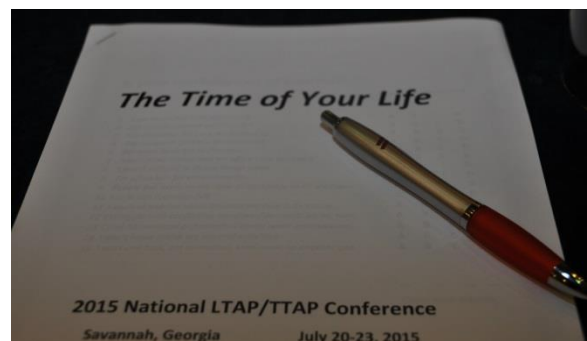
developing messages that are both concise and impactful.

And this was just the beginning!

The official first day of the conference started with the presentation of colors and the national anthem courtesy of the **165th Airlift Wing “Georgia Guard Dogs”** followed by remarks from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Deputy Commissioner, **Todd Long**. **Actor Zonde (Zimbabwe Transportation Technology Transfer)** gave a presentation on the 2015 7th Africa Transportation Technology Transfer (T2) Conference held in Bulawayo before the first networking break of the conference.



After Part 1 of the NLTAPA Business Meeting, guest speaker **Mike King** showed us how to have the '**Time of Your Life**' by teaching us how to effectively manage our time and productivity in and out of the office.



Afternoon breakout sessions included **Safety: Local Road Safety Plans, Training Resources/Technologies: Creating a Good Poster, Professional Development: People**

*Come in All Shapes, Sizes and Colors and
Communications: Electronic Newsletters for
LTAP/TTAP Centers.*

This year's annual banquet was held at the **Pirates House**, rumored to be the oldest standing building in the state of Georgia and Black Beard's go-to hang out spot. Legend has it, the Pirates House has trap doors and secret tunnels that were once used to lure unsuspecting and inebriated patrons to the ship as captives who were flogged if resisted.



The food on the other hand was nothing short of AH-MAZING!!!! Probably some of the best soul food I've ever had! After feasting on the best the Riverfront had to offer, **Susan Monahan (Director, LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse)** announced the 2015 Build a Better Mousetrap National Competition winners and **Valerie Pitts (Kentucky LTAP/2014-2015 NLTAPA President)** presented two awards and turned over the presidency.

Virginia LTAP took home the first place win, **Kentucky LTAP** and **Michigan LTAP** tied for second and **North Dakota** was third for the **2015 Build a Better Mousetrap National Competition**. This year the Clearinghouse received 11 entries! We hope to have more next year. The booklet will be available for download on LTAP.org soon!

Congratulations to **Stephanie Hubble** and **Shaughn Kern** (for his assistance in Stephanie's absence) from **Michigan LTAP** for winning the NLTAPA Logo Contest!

Major congratulations to the following:

Ken Skorseth (South Dakota LTAP) for receiving the **National Program Achievement Award** (sponsored by the **NLTAPA Professional Development Work Group**) for his many, tireless years of service to the locals and surrounding communities and his expertise and unmatched knowledge on gravel roads. This kind of recognition couldn't have come at a better time and the LTAP/TTAP family wished him the absolute best!

Cameron Ishaq (Strategy and Management Consultant, Office of Technical Services, Technology Partnership Programs, FHWA), also a recipient of the **National Program Achievement Award**, was caught completely by surprise and rendered speechless while recognized for being an instrumental team member to FHWA and serving as a wealth of programmatic knowledge to the Centers (he looked pretty nice in his blue University of Kentucky polo too).

Valerie's installation of the 2015-2016 NLTAPA Officers included:

John Velat (Eastern TTAP) is the new 2015-2016 NLTAPA President

Matthew Enders (Washington LTAP) 2016-2017 President-elect

Denise Brown (North Dakota LTAP) 2015-2016 Vice President

Day three of the conference started off with a bang as the morning general session lead to breakout groups with NLTAPA partners from the American Association of State Highway and

Transportation Officials (AASHTO), American Public Works Association (APWA), National Association of County Engineers (NACE) and National Transportation Training Directors (NTTD). Mid-morning and afternoon breakout sessions included the following topics: **Safety:** *Safety Needs for Rural Roads Customers;* **Training Resources/Technologies:** *The Benefits of Transitioning to E-Learning in an Age of Open Community;* **Professional Development:** *Finding, Recruiting and Training Trainers;* **Communications:** *Customer Relationship Management (CRM), Event Management Systems and Managing a Customer Database;* **Safety:** *Safety Outreach;* **Training Resources/Technologies:** *Applying E-Learning Skills to Course Development – Show and Tell;* **Professional Development:** *Creative thinking and Best Practices for Marketing Your LTAP/TTAP Center;* **Communications:** *Best Practices for Marketing your LTAP/TTAP Center.*

The afternoon general session opened with FHWA TPP and Office of Safety presentations from **Amy Lucero (Director of Technical Services, FHWA)**, **Mike Burk (Director, Technology Partnership Programs, FHWA)**, **Jeff Zaharewicz (LTAP/TTAP Program Manager, FHWA)**, **Susan Monahan (Director, LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse, ARTBA)** and **Rosemarie Anderson (Transportation Specialist, FHWA Office of Safety)**.

As the conference came to a close the following day, **Jim Grothaus (Minnesota LTAP)** kicked the morning off with *Hot Topics*. The NLTAPA Executive Committee wrapped up the second half of their business meeting and an invitation to next year's conference was extended.

Overall, the conference was outstanding! It was fun, there was great food throughout the conference (lots of healthy choices too by the

way), filled with laughter, extremely interesting topics and discussions, lots of great information and takeaways and new memories to boot. If you missed it this year, we hope to see you in **Madison Wisconsin July 18th – 21st, 2016!**