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CUTR Connections [December 2012]

CUTR

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December 3, 2012

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR
As we bring 2012 to a close, I just want to take a moment and let you all know how proud I am of our accomplishments this year. Every team has celebrated successes this year—from new sponsors to publication and project accolades. The CUTR Transportation Achievement Awards Event allowed us to showcase some of these successes, but there are so many more. We reached a record level of federally sponsored awards. We were selected for new work in pedestrian and bicycle safety. We took over a high-profile, nationally recognized publication through Dr. Polzin's Commuting in America project. We were recognized specifically for our efforts related to MPOs, tollways, and bus rapid transit. We adopted a strategic plan to guide our efforts. And you all continue to impress me with your charitable and volunteer work. I am very much looking forward to see what we can achieve in 2013—CUTR's 25th Anniversary.

Have a terrific holiday season—Jason

WELCOME NEW CUTR EMPLOYEES

Please welcome Lisa Suprenand to CUTR. Lisa is the new Outreach Specialist for the WalkWise program and will be working to present pedestrian safety to adults in Pinellas County. For the past three years Lisa has been working on her Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management at USF. She plans to graduate December 15, 2012. Concurrently Lisa has worked part-time as a Graduate Assistant for the Department of Government and International Affairs and in local government positions in Safety Harbor.

Previously, Lisa lived in Colorado and was the Operations Director for a large nonprofit senior living community, worked as a service coordinator, and events planner in senior communities, and as the Associate Fitness Director at the YMCA of Boulder Valley. Lisa enjoys volunteering in her community and serves on the Safety Harbor Library Foundation Board and the Safety Harbor Partners in Progress Board. She is an avid runner and cyclist, and loves to read. Lisa's husband is working on a PhD in Marine Sciences at USF (St. Pete campus) and they have two handsome young boys, ages 4 and 1. Welcome to CUTR Lisa!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 12, 2012 College of Engineering Holiday Luncheon, 11:30am-1:30pm, COE Hall of Flags
The College will provide beverages, salads and main dishes. Please bring your favorite sides, veggies and sweets—it will be delicious. Bring your dish to the Hall of Flags by 11am and don't be late. So we can all be together for this holiday season and celebrate!

December 18, 2012 CUTR Staff Meeting, 9:00am, CUT102

December Birthdays
Pam LaPaugh 12/1
John Oconitrillo 12/1
Martin Catala 12/5
Layesha Walton 12/7
Emmily Tiampati 12/11
Jason Jackman 12/14
Lyn Smith 12/19
Carlton Allen 12/20
Arunima Bagui 12/20
Krishna Beersingh 12/23

December Anniversaries
Bill Morris 16 yrs
Steve Polzin 24 yrs
Yoli Moore 14 yrs
Michael Audino 9 yrs
Stephanie Lewis 5 yrs
Kelly Douglass 3 yrs
David Fink 1 yr
Zhenyu Wang 1 yr

AEGIS Timesheets
For the pay period 11/23-12/6, the AEGIS submission date is Tuesday, 12/4 @ 10am

For the pay period 12/7-12/20, the AEGIS submission date is Wednesday, 12/12 @ 10am

For the payperiod 12/21-1/3/13, the AEGIS submission date is Friday, 12/21 @ 10am

**Due to USF Holiday closings, please be sure to complete and submit your Aegis timesheets prior to holiday and vacation leave in order to assist CUTR's Admin staff in meeting Aegis and USF Payroll deadlines**
December 18, 2012  Manager's Meeting, 10:30am, CUT207
December 19, 2012  CUTR Holiday Luncheon, 12pm, CUTR102. RSVP to Grace Hunt
December 24, 2012  USF Floating Holiday
December 25, 2012  Christmas Day (USF Holiday)
December 26, 2012  USF Floating Holiday
December 27, 2012  USF Floating Holiday
December 28, 2012  USF Floating Holiday
December 31, 2012  USF Floating Holiday
January 1, 2013  New Year’s Day (USF Holiday)

**BE A SANTA FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES PASCO**

For the 13th year, CUTR is working with Healthy Families Pasco to play Santa to a group of deserving children and hardworking families. This voluntary program helps moms/dads in need, learn and improve upon skills in parenting, homemaking, health, etc. The families are from East Pasco County, many of them migrant workers. The gifts CUTR provides are the ONLY gifts these children receive, and their requests are small.

Please bring in your gifts by **Wednesday, December 12, 2012** at the latest (with the child’s name attached).

CUTR has adopted 25 children this year! Many thanks to all who participated: Patricia Ball, Ed Bart, Justin Begley, Gary Brosch, Xuehao Chu, Sisinnio Concas, Melissa De Leon, LaToyia Fipps, Nevine Georggi, Jay Goodwill, Rob Gregg, Grace Hunt, Jennifer Iley, Elhaam Iranmanesh, Ann Joslin, Jeff Kramer, Stephanie Lewis, Pei-Sung Lin, Melissa McCarville, Oana McKinney, Osiel Perez-Angon, Vicky Perk, Steve Polzin, Debbie Schultz, Ken Short, Kristine Williams, and Yu Zhang.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CUTR GRADUATES**

To the following USF Seniors as they graduate this semester on Saturday, December 15, 2012:

**Kyle Taniguchi**, as he receives a Master of Science degree from the College of Engineering. Kyle's major is Civil Engineering, with a concentration in Transportation. Kyle is a Graduate Research Associate who works for the Mobility Policy Research team. Kyle hopes to find a job in transit!

**Melissa McCarville**, as she receives a Master of Science degree from the College of Engineering. Melissa’s major is Engineering Management, with a concentration in Systems Engineering. Melissa will also receive a certificate in Technology Management. Melissa is a Research Support Specialist for the Planning and Corridor Management team at CUTR.
KUDOS
The Center for Urban Transportation Research was nominated for Philanthropic Corporation of the Year for their support and contributions to Healthy Families Pasco/Pasco Kids First, Inc. CUTR representatives, Melissa DeLeon and Pamela Lapaugh attended the 2nd Annual National Philanthropy Day Award Luncheon presented by Community Foundation of Tampa Bay on November 13, 2012.

Jennifer Iley assisted with the AICP credit application progress and partnered with the Small Business Development Center at USF for their Basic Economic Development course Nov 13-16 to provide AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) credits. http://www.sbdctampabay.com/economic-development-course/.

Jason Bittner provided remarks on Transportation in Today's Economy to kick off the 36th USF Basic Economic Development Course.

Aldo Fabregas successfully defended his thesis on Friday, November 16, 2012.

USF HR NEWS: 2013 RETIREMENT LIMITS INCREASED
The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has announced an increase in the maximum contribution limit for defined contribution and defined benefit retirement plans and other retirement-related items for tax year 2013.

If you would like more information on how these changes affect you and your retirement contributions or would like to learn more about retirement options, please join us for a Lunch & Learn session with Jill Vanderkam, Senior Financial Advisor with Valic, on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. in SVC 5012.

Please register via GEMS Self-Service>Learning and Development>Request Training Enrollment>Search by Course Number>BBL111.

Below are the key changes effective Jan. 1, 2013.

Defined Contribution Plans

- The elective deferral (contribution) limit for employees, who participate in 403(b) and most 457 plans, increases to $17,500 from $17,000.
- The catch-up contribution limit for those age 50 and older remains unchanged at $5,500. The catch-up contribution may be made beginning Jan. 1, 2013, by participants who will reach age 50 at any time during the year.
- The overall limit for defined contribution plan deferrals from all sources (employer and employee combined) increases to $51,000 per participant from $50,000.
- The amount of employee compensation limit that can be considered in calculating contributions to defined contribution plans increases to $255,000 from $250,000.

Saving for retirement and deferring income tax contribute to overall financial security. We hope you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the options available to you. If you are interested in learning more about other retirement or financial planning topics, please let us know. We look forward to offering future Lunch & Learn programs.

For questions or inquiries, please follow the USF HR link for further assistance: www.usf.edu/hr
CUTR BUILDING INFORMATION

- For complete voicemail instructions. Directions are at the top of that page. There is also a one page summary sheet that is helpful.
- For your information and safety, the location of the fire extinguishers and evacuation routes are in S:\CUTR\FireExtinguishers-EvacRoutes.pdf
- Sign-up to receive University Emergency notifications, MoBull instructions
- Phone changes (add/remove/office moves, etc.) contact LaToya or Ken.
- If there are any building problems (cleanliness/bugs/leaks/any other issues) contact LaToya Fipps. If LaToya is not available, contact Ken, Pam or Grace.
- The CUTR Employee Suggestion form has been updated and ready for use. The suggestion form is available via the CUTR Shared Drive at: S:\CUTR\FORMS\Miscellaneous Forms. You can print out the completed form and place it in the suggestion box in the first floor workroom or email the completed form directly to Jason Bittner. Your input is valued and can remain anonymous if you choose!

NEW AWARDS/CONTRACTS

| Project: Improving Cost Effectiveness of Financial Incentives in Managing TDM |
| Sponsor: FDOT |
| PI/Co-PI: Lee/Hinebaugh |
| Award: $78,163.85 |

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED/UNDERWAY

| Project: Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) Center and Training program |
| Sponsor: FDOT |
| PI/Co-PI(s): Goodwill/Staes/Reep |
| Value: $130,000 |

ITE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH SEMINARS
Seminars will resume during the Spring 2013 semester.

For a complete and up-to-date schedule of the Transportation Research Seminar please visit the TTE 6930 website.

NEED TO SUBMIT TO CUTR CONNECTIONS
If you have information that you would like to share and include in the monthly issue of the CUTR Connections—CUTR Employee Newsletter, please send an email with the information to Yolanda Moore

Next Issue: Monday, January 14, 2013