Jim McNatt Institute Newsletter

UNT

JIM MCNATT
INSTITUTE FOR
LOGISTICS RESEARCH

Research BREAKS Sessions

All UNT researchers are invited to participate in a new research education series every first and third Thursday of the month. Each session will be led by a topic expert in the field in order to elevate best practices, while answering some of the most frequently asked questions by UNT researchers related to the topic. These hour-long discussions are a comfortable conversation where no question is too basic, too simple, or too complicated. Our team of research experts will bring the conversation topics to the researchers.

There will be no sessions during the Summer months. Stay tuned for updates as to when these will resume in the Fall.
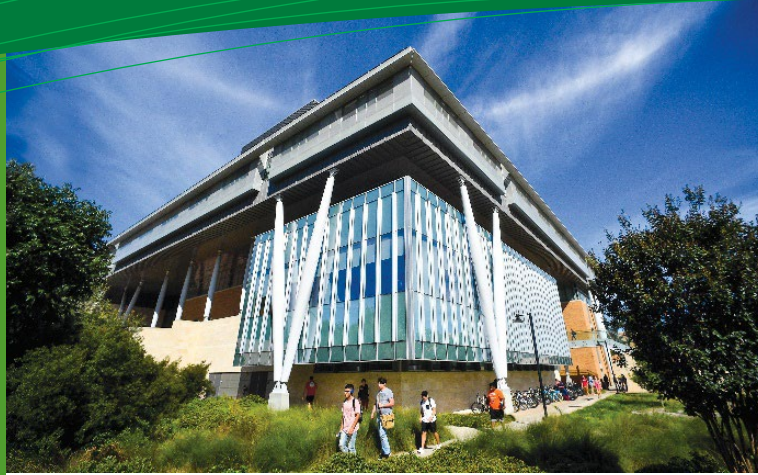
Proposals and Opportunities

Proposals in Development

Proposal Title/Topic: University Transportation Center
Funding Agency: US Department of Transportation
Proposal Due Date: Thursday, August 25

Funding Opportunities
If interested in applying, please email Kathy Dreyer

Proposal Title/Topic: Energyshed: Exploring Place-Based Generation
Funding Agency: Department of Energy
Proposal Due Date: August 1, 2022

Proposal Title/Topic: Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace
Funding Agency: NSF
Proposal Due Date: Open

Proposal Title/Topic: Vehicle Technology Office
Funding Agency: Department of Energy
Proposal Due Date: Forecasted opportunity to be released

Max Buehler Foundation Gift

The Buehler Foundation awarded $100,000 to the Institute and the Center for Integrated Intelligent Mobility Systems (CIIMS) in response to a 2021 proposal submitted by several Institute faculty members. The funding will support an experiential lab where students can obtain hands-on experience on designing components for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) develop, test, and evaluate components as well as to operate UAVs in a controlled setting.

Recent Grants

Kamesh Namuduri, Professor, Electrical Engineering, currently has seven research grants from various federal and state funding agencies totaling $2.7 Million. These projects are related to unmanned air transportation and linked to ongoing research at the Center for Integrated and Intelligent Mobility Systems (CIIMS). Sponsors include National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), US Air Force (USAF), and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Three of the grants are for Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase 2 projects with Unmanend Experts and Galaxy Unmanned Systems. One project involves Hermes Autonomous Mobility Systems, a new start-up company that plans to license a patent (Air Space Hazard Alerting System) filed by Dr. Namuduri in 2021.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIPs) Concept Paper

A collaboration between University of Texas-Dallas, University of Texas-Arlington, Southern Methodist University and the University of North Texas resulted in the submission of a concept paper focusing on developing innovative technologies with the potential to transform logistics in the North Texas-Southern Oklahoma region. The concept paper was accepted by NSF, and now the four universities will collaborate on the development of a planning proposal to obtain initial funding. Due to the focus on logistics, UNT and the Institute were selected by the collaborating universities as the lead organization.

Advanced Regional Mobility Corridor Collaboration Announced

UNT and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on advanced air mobility projects. The collaborative research will enable both parties to prepare for future economic opportunities in Southeast Oklahoma and Northeastern Texas.

UNT Logistics Program in Top Ten

The prestigious Gartner rankings has the UNT Logistics program ranked at #6 among 2022 North American Supply Chain Undergraduate University Programs. The ranking of undergraduate programs is based on industry value, program scope and program size.

Click on this link for additional information.

Research Profile

Gregg Zody

Background:
Gregg Zody is General Director, Consumer Products, for BNSF Railway. In this role, he is responsible for leading the Intermodal Solutions team- which works directly with beneficial cargo owners (BCO's) to address their intermodal rail transportation needs. Prior to his current role, Gregg served as General Director, Industrial Products, and held various leadership positions in Consumer Products including director, UPS, director Temperature Controlled Intermodal, director Dry Motor Carrier Sales, and director, National Accounts Sales.

Before joining BNSF in Dec. 2003, Gregg served as regional sales director, South Central Division for Pacer Global Logistics. Prior to Pacer, Gregg worked as a sales executive for Logistics.com and spent 13 years with J.B. Hunt Transport. During his tenure with J.B. Hunt he served as general manager, National Accounts, and was the first intermodal operations manager when their partnership with the Santa Fe Railway began in 1989.

Education
- Bachelor of Science, Business Logistics, Pennsylvania State University
- Master of Business Administration, Xavier University
- Executive Masters, Intermodal Transportation, University of Denver

Personal
Gregg is an avid hunter, drummer and likes to play golf. He and his wife, Samantha, reside in Roanoke, TX and have two children, Mackenzie (Senior, Abilene Christian) and Blake (Sophomore- Grapevine Faith Christian School).

BNSF
BNSF Railway is one of North America's leading freight transportation companies operating on 32,000 route miles of track in 28 states and two Canadian provinces. BNSF is one of the top transporters of consumer goods, grain, industrial goods and low-sulfur coal that help feed, clothe, supply, and power American homes and businesses every day. BNSF and its employees have developed one of the most technologically advanced, and efficient railroads in the industry. And we are working continuously to improve the value of the safety, service, energy, and environmental benefits we provide to our customers and the communities we serve. You can learn more about BNSF at www.bnsf.com.

Research Interests
- Increasing the transparency of intermodal freight shipments to intermodal customers, notably increase accuracy of estimated time of arrivals
- Operationalizing / harnessing large sums from fragmented data sources
- Quantifying what data points are most impactful to the customer operation (objectively, going beyond anecdotes)
- Top machine learning candidates (AI) based on the above

All of this would be centered around creating a "smarter supply chain", positioning rail to better deliver a truck like product to BCO's (beneficial cargo owners).