**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**FedEx Institute of Technology and Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute**

**partner to host the 2016 IFTI Annual State of Freight Conference & Biologistics Symposium**

Two key research Institutes at the University of Memphis – the FedEx Institute of Technology and the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute (IFTI) are co-hosting the annual State of Freight Conference and the first annual Biologistics Symposium this Friday, December 2nd. During the morning sessions, the conference serves to connect transportation industry professionals to outstanding speakers, cutting edge research reports and an opportunity to network with one another. During the afternoon sessions, the first Biologistics Symposium -Advancing Supply Chains, Logistics, and Transportation of Bio-Products: State of the Art meets State of the Practice – will follow the State of Freight conference and will feature Biologistics research fellows and expert panelists addressing the expanding field of Biologistics and key research topics proposed and addressed during the inaugural year of funding and support of this research cluster.

The Biologistics Symposium is the first of its kind in Memphis and will feature sessions focused on innovations in packaging for Biologistics applications; new horizons for Biologistics; and, security challenges in Biologistics. The cluster produced research addressing a broad scope of emerging Biologistics topics such as Biologistics analytics, disaster management of freight, Biologistics security, healthcare/pharmaceutical logistics and Biologistics materials handling.

The partnership between the FedEx Institute and IFTI emerged as the result of a strategic push to develop national-level research competencies in the emerging area of Biologistics. The conference and symposium will be held this Friday, December 2nd, at the FedEx Institute of Technology, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Admission to the day-long events is free, registration required, and will included lunch as well as parking. To register, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IFTI2016>