

SETWC IMPACT STATEMENT 2023



Our Mission

The Southeast Transportation Workforce Center (SETWC) conducts transportation workforce research and strategically creates public and private partnerships to address transportation workforce pipeline challenges. SETWC leads a wide range of transportation workforce projects inclusive of many modes, occupations, and points along the career continuum. Additionally, SETWC has nationally-recognized expertise in DEI related to the transportation workforce as well as the complexities of the transportation operations workforce and impact of transformative technologies.



Alex Hobson

My internship with SETWC and the STEM Hub has been a great experience! Through my internship, I have had the opportunity to work on a diverse range of transportation and STEM workforce research, gaining experience with tools like GIS. Attending transportation conferences and events has helped to make valuable connections and expand my understanding of the industry and its future. I have also found it incredibly rewarding to work with K-12 students, promoting STEM career paths through engaging, hands-on STEM activities.



Eleanor Scott

Being able to work with SETWC has helped me reach farther than I could have ever imagined. Since being given the opportunity to dive into the world of road, rail, and logistics, I have learned so much and have loved being able to conduct research on Memphis area transit, judge transportation competitions, and gain knowledge not taught in my classes. Transportation engineering is one of the only ways that the world can properly function, and I am incredibly grateful that I can be a part of it. While transportation is not what I initially chose in college, it is now one of my favorite parts because of SETWC.



Anthony Dontoh

My childhood fascination with infrastructure design and construction finds fulfillment through my work contributing to transportation research with SETWC. Industry partners, such as CN funding my graduate studies as a research assistant, make this incredible opportunity possible. I am living my dream!

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2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Research

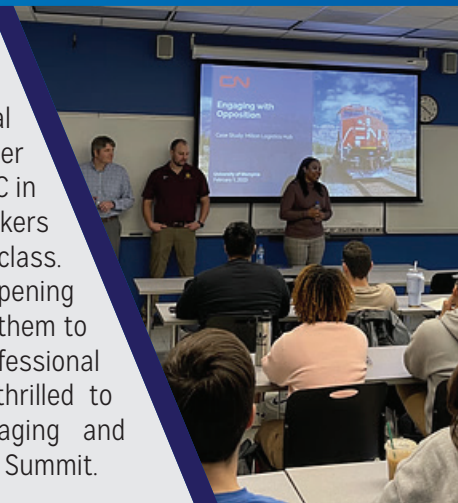
SETWC faculty and student researchers collaborated on a wide range of industry-engaged research this year including fleet electrification, transportation operations, transportation equity studies, knowledge management and organizational capability assessment studies. The team also continued its strong track record of nationally recognized transportation workforce research with specific focus on gender equity and understanding how students develop career identity and are attracted to specific career pathways. SETWC integrates rail workforce considerations into all applicable projects.



SETWC had over \$840K in research expenditures this year, including projects awarded by the Federal Rail Administration, National Cooperative Highway Research Program, and National Science Foundation.

Education

SETWC strives to bring innovative, industry-engaged educational opportunities to students at the UofM and the broader transportation community. In 2023, CN partnered with SETWC in numerous educational initiatives, including providing speakers in courses such as the Civil Engineering Senior Capstone class. These experiences are especially impactful for opening students' minds to new career pathways and inspiring them to consider the rail industry. SETWC also hosts professional development for industry professionals, and was thrilled to have Kael Peterson represent CN in an engaging and informative session at the 2023 Memphis Logistics Summit.



300+ college students and transportation professionals engaged in SETWC educational programs in 2023!

Outreach

SETWC has a strong commitment to and nationally recognized expertise in K-12 outreach. SETWC's K-12 efforts are organized via its West TN STEM Hub. Through the Hub, SETWC inspires students to consider STEM careers through its STEM Ambassador program, STEM Lending Library, and a host of STEM competitions and teacher professional development. This year, CN's support of the annual Canstruction Jr. competition raised over 5,000 pounds of food for people in need in the mid-South! SETWC also conducts multiple summer outreach programs each year including the Girls Experiencing Engineering program (now in its 20th year!) and a Transportation Engineering Camp.



Over 21,000 students and 200 teachers were impacted by SETWC outreach activities, with investments of \$20 per student and \$2000 per teacher served.