



## 2008 Outstanding Student of the Year



Laurel VandePutte receives a US DOT Award. Left to right: Paul R. Brubaker, Administrator of RITA; Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta; and Randy Machemehl, 2009 President of the Council of University Transportation Centers.



Laurel VandePutte and Dr. Dutta make a presentation at the Technology Transfer Event at the University of Detroit Mercy.



Laurel receives the MIOH UTC Student of the Year Award from Dr. Leo E. Hanifin (left). Joining them is Rick Haller, President of Walbridge.

The Michigan Ohio University Transportation Center (MIOH UTC) Outstanding Student of the Year Award is presented each year to one student who has made a significant contribution to a MIOH UTC funded project, performed well academically, demonstrated professionalism and leadership as well as participated in university and community service activities.

Evidence of “significant contribution” is based upon faculty nomination and evaluation of submitted written reports. Academic performance is based upon courses attempted and grades attained. Professionalism, leadership and service is evidenced in the form of presentations at professional society meetings and symposia, and leadership in student professional activities including K-12 outreach.

### Laurel VandePutte

While pursuing a Master’s degree Laurel VandePutte worked as a research assistant on the “Evaluation of the SCATS Control System” project led by Dr. Utpal Dutta at the University of Detroit Mercy. Laurel was responsible for coordinating and leading a team of fifteen student traffic data collectors. Laurel and her team performed a comparative analysis of SCATS versus a pre-timed system to evaluate improvement in traffic and fuel economy as a result of implementing a SCATS system. Additionally, Laurel presented project findings to professionals, including US DOT representatives.

After earning a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering in 2007 from the University of Detroit Mercy, Laurel continued at UDM and received her Master of Engineering in 2008. Upon graduation Laurel accepted employment with the Michigan based construction firm of Walbridge as a project coordinator. While on Co-op, Laurel worked for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District in Chicago, IL and for Charles Pankow Builders in Honolulu, HI. Laurel is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the US Green Building Council’s Detroit Regional Chapter, and recently became a LEED Accredited Professional.

Laurel was selected for the Student of the Year honor based on her contribution to the SCATS project, her academic performance, her leadership and community service. The Michigan Ohio University Transportation Center is pleased to select Laurel VandePutte as its Outstanding Student of the Year for 2008.

#### Michigan Ohio University Transportation Center

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