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.

Eric Tenazas

Eric Tenazas is a graduate student in civil engineering at the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) pursuing a Master of Engineering degree. Eric has been involved in three transportation projects funded by the Michigan Ohio University Transportation Center. As a graduate Research Assistant, Eric collected and analyzed key data for these projects. Eric’s efforts have resulted in the completion of tasks instrumental to the objectives of the research.

One of the MIOH UTC funded projects Eric contributed to was a collaborative project with two team members from Wayne State University that studied the implementation of transit-oriented development at two selected station sites along a proposed light-rail transit system on Woodward Avenue; one station in the city of Detroit and one in a northern suburb. Eric was the project representative to both cities where these stations would be located. He enthusiastically embraced the opportunity for involvement in a project that has potential to foster some economic revitalization in Detroit, Michigan.

As a result of his work on the Transit-Oriented Development study, Eric was invited to present the findings of this study during the Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan’s 2010 Annual Meeting. This project, as well as others that Eric worked on, received support from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Wayne State University and the University of Detroit Mercy.

In fulfilling the cooperative education requirement for his undergraduate degree, Eric has been employed as a co-op intern for Tyme Engineering based in Livonia, Michigan and for Charles Pankow Builders in Los Angeles, California.

In recognition of his significant contributions to MIOH UTC projects and his exemplary academic performance, the Michigan Ohio University Transportation Center is pleased to select Eric John Tenazas as its 2010 Outstanding Student of the Year.