

Project Title: Effective Utilization of Innovation Techniques within Mississippi

Principal Investigator:

PI: Steve Puryear, CA VS- Extension Center, Mississippi State University;
601-407-2745; Spuryear@cavse.msstate.edu

Co-PI: Clayton T. Walden, PhD, CA VS-Extension Center Director,
Mississippi State University 601-407-2713; Walden@cavs.msstate.edu

Subcontractor Principal Investigators:

- Charles (Bubba) Weir, Vice President, Innovate Mississippi, Inc.; 601-960-3610; bweir@innovate.ms
- James Williams, Vice President - Community and Economic Service, Itawamba Community College; 662-407-1532; Jcwilliams@iccms.edu
- Chad R. Miller, PhD, Associate Director - Center for Logistics, Trade and Transportation, University of Southern Mississippi; 601-266-6666; Chad.r.miller@usm.edu

TRB Keywords: Workforce Development: innovation strategies, intermodal effectiveness, economic competitiveness, workforce capacity, infrastructure investment

NCITEC Funds: \$125,000

Matching Funds: \$125,000

Project Summary:

This proposal focuses on enhancing the professional workforce within Mississippi's intermodal transportation industry. This will be accomplished through a series of "*Intermodal Transportation Innovation Summits*" that will bring together transportation professionals representing organizations throughout the extended supply chain (e.g., manufacturers, truck, rail, water, and ports). These Summits will be held across the state - centering on the North, Central, and Southern regions. Summit participants will be introduced to the concepts - termed Innovation Engineering, which have generated strong results in the manufacturing sector. These innovation sessions will generate a set of actionable projects that the program will facilitate through completion. The ultimate goal is to enhance the region's economic competitiveness through greater cooperation across transportation modes. The program will impact 75 transportation professionals from 30 different organizations. The program targets over \$125,000 in tangible economic impact annually, which will fully return the federal award. Also, the program results in a case study publication and a conference presentation, so that lessons learned are broadly disseminated. This program will be conducted through a broad partnership involving Mississippi State University (CAVS Extension), University of Southern Mississippi (Center for Logistics, Trade, and Transportation), Itawamba Community College (Belden Workforce Center), and Innovate Mississippi.