



PRESS RELEASE

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Federal Department of Transportation Designates Cal State San Bernardino as Regional Center for Innovation

PALM DESERT, Calif. - The U.S. Department of Transportation announced this week that Cal State San Bernardino's Leonard Transportation Center (LTC) was among the 18 universities throughout the United States that were selected to lead newly established "Beyond Traffic Innovation Centers."

CSUSB was designated to lead the effort for Southern California; UC Berkeley was designated as the Center for Northern California. Other universities designated include the University of Arizona, the University of Washington, Ohio State University, Michigan State University, Rutgers University, Clemson University, the University of Texas, the University of Virginia and the University of Denver.

These regional centers have been recognized by the DOT as "forward-thinking and influential institutions that are capable of driving solutions to the nation's transportation challenges." CSUSB will be expected to convene both private and public decision-makers in Southern California's transportation sector, facilitate the development of consistent and far-reaching regional strategies and priorities and coordinate related research, curriculum, outreach and other activities. The designation is the result of the university's work last year with the DOT that culminated in a visit by the Secretary of Transportation to the CSUSB campus last October to describe the need for the program and assess CSUSB's approach to regional governance.

The timing of the designation coincides with a decision by Sharon Welty-Brown, dean of CSUSB's Palm Desert Campus, to extend the reach of the program throughout the Coachella Valley by opening an LTC affiliate office at the Palm Desert Campus.

CSUSB's Leonard Transportation Center is led by Kimberly Collins and Thomas McWeeney, both faculty members in CSUSB's department of public administration. Collins serves as the LTC executive director and will direct the newly-designated center. McWeeney will continue to assist Collins at the new regional innovation center and will serve as the center's associate director while working out of CSUSB's Palm Desert Campus. The work of the new DOT

innovation center will extend not only to Riverside and San Bernardino counties, but to Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange and Imperial counties.

Briefings are scheduled for Coachella Valley business leaders next week.

Located in beautiful Palm Desert, the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus offers bachelor's and master's degrees, a doctorate in educational leadership, and teacher credentials and certificates. With more than 1,400 students, it is the Coachella Valley's four-year public university and plays a vital role in educating and training the region's growing population.

For more information about the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, contact Mike Singer in the campus's Office of Public Affairs at msinger@csusb.edu or (760) 341-2883, ext. 78107 or visit the campus website at www.pdc.csusb.edu.