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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Institute for Transportation

## From the director:

# NEW Roads Scholar program coming this fall, looking for your input

I've written about the Iowa LTAP Roads Scholar program several times in the last year, and we have been working on an update for some time.

Our new, revamped Roads Scholar program will start on September 1, 2014.

### Existing Roads Scholar program

The current Roads Scholar program started more than 10 years ago and has recognized the commitment of many of Iowa's transportation workers to continuing education. The rapid changes that are occurring in all areas of local transportation agency operations support the importance of that commitment.

The existing program has four levels of recognition (Roads Scholar I, Roads Scholar II, Senior Roads Scholar, and Master Roads Scholar) that require varying levels of credit hours. Four core courses are required to reach the Senior and Master Roads Scholar levels. More information on the program can be found online, [www.iowaltap.iastate.edu/workshops/road-scholars/](http://www.iowaltap.iastate.edu/workshops/road-scholars/).

Almost all the workshops primarily sponsored by Iowa LTAP were counted toward Roads Scholar credit, and anyone who attended one of these courses in the last decade was automatically included in the program and tracked by Iowa LTAP.

It was determined a number of years ago, for various reasons, that an update in the Iowa LTAP Roads Scholar program setup and approach was needed. Initially, for example, the tracking of all the Roads Scholar credits for each attendee was done "by hand." After many years, there were thousands of people in the program (some of whom may have attended only one LTAP workshop). Fortunately, the introduction of online registration several years ago allowed this tracking to be mostly automated.

In addition, some of the core courses needed for the Senior and Master Roads Scholar levels had become difficult to offer, physically and economically, on any type of regular basis. It was concluded that adjustments to the program were needed.

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Would you like to participate in the new Iowa Roads Scholars program?

### NEW PARTICIPANTS:

[www.intrans.edu/mors/roadscholar/newRS/](http://www.intrans.edu/mors/roadscholar/newRS/)

### CONTINUING PARTICIPANTS:

[www.intrans.edu/mors/roadscholar](http://www.intrans.edu/mors/roadscholar)



### QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations in *Technology News*

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
APWA	American Public Works Association
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
IHRB	Iowa Highway Research Board
InTrans	Institute for Transportation (at ISU)
Iowa DOT	Iowa Department of Transportation
ISU	Iowa State University
LTAP	Local Technical Assistance Program
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
NACE	National Association of County Engineers
TRB	Transportation Research Board



U.S. Department of Transportation  
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Iowa Department  
of Transportation

### About LTAP

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## The new Roads Scholar program

We are hoping to focus the program but also increase its flexibility. The proposed new Roads Scholars program we are currently developing includes the following characteristics:

- Applicable credit hours from almost all LTAP sponsored workshops
- Applicability of credits hours clearly indicated when a workshop is advertised
- *Required registration for program tracking* (go to [www.iowaltap.iastate.edu/workshops/road-scholars/](http://www.iowaltap.iastate.edu/workshops/road-scholars/) to register yourself or your staff)
- Four potential core courses and alternatives:
  - » Math Skills Training or Math Fundamentals (scheduled workshop or a to-be-developed online test option with passing grade)
  - » Flagger or Work Zone Safety Training (scheduled workshop, on-call/on-site, or copy of completion card from Iowa DOT Work Zone Safety workshops)
  - » Streets and Roads Workshop and Conference
  - » Supervisory Techniques and Skills (scheduled workshop or the online Public Employees Leadership Institute course, see below)
- Incorporation of the online Public Employees Leadership Institute courses:
  - » Supervisory Techniques and Skills
  - » Team Development (MRS)
  - » Effective Communication Skills (MRS)
  - » Leadership Skills
  - » Community Service/Customer Orientation Skills
  - » Legal Understanding
  - » Fundamentals of Government (MRS)
  - » Finance
  - » Resource Management
  - » Public Works Operations and Maintenance
  - » Basic Management (MRS)
  - » Emergency Management
  - » Project Management
  - » Winter Maintenance Management
- Identification of workshops/events for which repeatable Roads Scholar credit is allowed or a time interval for repeatability (e.g., once every four or five years)
- Confirmation of continued interest of registered individuals every four years
- Case-by-case guidance of individuals registered for the new program for proper transfer of credit hours from one program to another
- Four Roads Scholar recognition levels with new requirements:
  - » Roads Scholar I (40 credit hours)
  - » Senior Roads Scholar II (80 credit hours with the four core courses, see above)
  - » Master Roads Scholar (120 credit hours with the four Public Employees Leadership Institute courses noted with "(MRS)" above)
  - » Elite Roads Scholar (175 credit hours and the completion of all the Public Employees Leadership Institute courses listed above)

### Let us know what you think

We are looking for input on these proposed characteristics. We are still in the development stages of this *new* Roads Scholars program and encourage your input this summer. You can contact me by phone or email: 515-294-8817, [kknapp@iastate.edu](mailto:kknapp@iastate.edu).

### Sign up to participate

Please *make sure to sign up for the new program* at the link noted above and *help us recognize your commitment to continuing education.* ■

Keith