

Soil and Aggregate Certification Course Offered at Center for Research and Education in Advanced Transportation Engineering Systems at Rowan University

The Center for Research and Education in Advanced Transportation Engineering Systems (CREATEs) at Rowan University recently hosted its first *Soil and Aggregate Technician Certification* program at the CREATEs facilities' lab at the South Jersey Technology Park of Rowan University. The goal of the program is to train technicians on how to conduct laboratory and field testing of soils and aggregates necessary for process control and acceptance by clients. The course is supervised by the program's advisory board consisting of nine (9) industry and retired state experts who have decades of experience in construction materials and soils testing. The course is free for all engineers and technicians working for federal, state, county and city agencies.

The training was hosted by CREATEs from January 29-31, 2018; a total of 13 engineers and technicians from public agencies, and private industry were in attendance. Over the course of three days, participants attended lectures held by industry and academic experts, and participated in hands-on laboratory demonstrations. Upon conclusion of the program, all attendees were tested on their knowledge of the coursework and were required to demonstrate their ability to execute tests explained during the hand-on demonstrations. Coursework, based on American Association for State Highway Officials (AASHTO) standards, was deliberately aligned with CREATEs' mission *"to conduct cutting edge, applied and readily implementable research in transportation engineering. Ensure a diverse working environment that educates and trains the next generation of professionals, and enhances the skill sets of the current workforce to meet the engineering demands of the 21st century."* The participants received three (3) professional development hour credits for attending the program and a certificate of completion for successfully passing the practical and the written exams.

CREATEs could not have successfully executed this program without the participation of our staff and student fellows. In addition, we are grateful for the generous participation of three guest instructors with significant industry experience. As one of the participants stated, "The instructors seemed to be very knowledgeable and to be actively involved in this type of work on a day-to-day basis". The instructors' career experience proved invaluable to the process of certification.

CREATEs is pleased to offer classes and workshops that benefit public sector employees as well as private industry professionals. CREATEs hopes to offer the soil and aggregate technician certification course on a regular basis and will continue to work towards expanding the curriculum to include aspects of certification that are geared toward field construction operations. For more information about this or other programs and workshops offered by CREATEs, please contact Ms. Kristine Allouchery at allouchery@rowan.edu.

