

**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**  
**Camp Connect 2013, FHWA Report**  
*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

***Camp Connect Overview***

On Tuesday, July 9, Transportation Engineering and CATSS were showcased in the Camp Connect program here at UCF. Welcomed by Dr. Essam Radwan, campers participated in activities revolving around the Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering disciplines. Camp Connect is a summer engineering exploration program for students from underrepresented communities that is facilitated by the CECS Office of Diversity. The week-long experience takes 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> graders into the realm of the engineer by exposing them to the many different disciplines found within CECS. Camp Connect also holds a similar, more in-depth experience for returning alumni from the previous summer.



The goal of the camp is to encourage kids to become more interested and realize aims of becoming involved in the engineering field. Students participated in presentations, activities, lab tours and were given insight into what the life of a student and a professional is like in the engineering world. The program provided a method of exploration and preparation advice for the start of a college career by networking with students and faculty here at UCF in addition to presenting their experiences to their peers.

## Transportation Engineering Spotlight

UCF Transportation Systems Engineering was represented at Camp Connect as part of the program covering the Department of Construction, Civil and Environmental Engineering. Students were first presented with some of the basics of transportation engineering and why transportation engineers are an important asset to the community. After a brief introduction, the students were split into groups and participated in a game called *The Reservation Road Planner Game*. This game took students through the trials of the transportation



planning process, with the goal of completing their individual project the quickest. Through the coordination of Michelle Noch, the Federal Highway Administration generously donated the board games to be available for our students. Clearly a crowd favorite, the activity provided competition and challenges to campers. It is with interactive experiences such as this one that students are entertained

and educated concurrently, taking the lessons learned with a better understanding of how the transportation planning process works. Students chose a project to begin with and took it through the process through as far as they could in 45 minutes of gameplay. The five stages included development, project inventory inclusion, funding, preconstruction and construction. To demonstrate the give and take of politics, players were subjected to fees, bankruptcy and the interaction of consulting firms along the way. The game got the students involved with other players and rallied to take their projects to completion. Alex Navarro, with the assistance of Sandesh Chalise and Antony Harb, was proud to participate in the program by preparing and delivering the presentation for the students and running the gameplay for each of the groups that participated. We are pleased to have hosted these students and give them an opportunity to take a look into the engineering.

