

New Faces at the KUTC



Toni Dixon and Hemin Mohammed

Kansas LTAP is a program of the University of Kansas Transportation Center (KUTC). The staff you know as Kansas LTAP are employed at the KUTC, based in Lawrence at the KU School of Engineering. KUTC has a couple of new staff members we would like to introduce: Toni Dixon and Hemin Mohammed.

In March, Toni Dixon joined the KUTC and LTAP team as the new Communications and Outreach Coordinator. (Some of you met her at the Spring meetings of the Kansas County Highway Association and the Kansas Chapter of the American Public Works Association.) She is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Journalism. Toni has owned her own public relations company, received several awards for her writing and publications, and served as Director of Communications at the KU School of Business for 12 years. Toni is also a freelance writer with occasional contributions to *Lawrence Magazine*, *Kansas!* magazine, *Health* and others.

Toni grew up in Tulsa and came to KU to study Journalism. After graduating from KU, she lived in Hawaii, Santa Fe and Austin until she was drawn back to Lawrence several years ago. She is a potter and a horse lover, with a Quarter Horse she admits she spoils. She brings strong communications skills and knowledge of KU to the position, and we are glad she is here.

In August, Hemin Mohammed joined the KUTC team as the Road Safety Resources Coordinator, a position previously held by Mehrdad Givechi. Hemin will divide his time by work directly with county and city public works agencies in Kansas as a part of Kansas LTAP and also assisting KUTC staff and researchers in the Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering Department at KU in collecting and analyzing traffic data. Hemin's position is funded in part by LTAP and in part by the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering. Hemin will also work with Toni to develop fact sheets suitable for publication in KUTC newsletters or online. He will also represent the KUTC with key transportation organizations that are stakeholders in the technology transfer products and services of the KUTC.

Since completing his Bachelors in civil engineering in 2000, Hemin has over 13 years of experience in the field with multiple awards. He worked as a site engineer, construction engineer, and project manager, implementing 25 projects. He earned his Master's degree in civil engineering-transportation from KU in May 2015 and in August of the same year, he started his Ph.D. at KU, focusing on improving highway safety to make the roadway and roadside safer for the driving public. Hemin has two and a half years of teaching experience. He has a broad experience of working with pertinent transportation manuals and guidebooks such as *The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*, *The Highway Safety Manual*, *The Roadside Design Guide*, and *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*.

Hemin has six publications and has won numerous awards. Hemin resides in Lawrence with his wife and kids. He enjoys reading and traveling across the country and around the world.

This summer KUTC also advertised a half-time Local Field Liaison (“circuit rider”-type) position for LTAP, but receive no applications. The position was aimed at Professional Engineers with ample experience working with local governments on road safety issues. The lack of applications may be due to revised rules at KPERS for waiting periods after retirement from KPERS-eligible positions. LTAP Director Lisa Harris is looking into those new rules to see how LTAP may proceed with advertising the position to attract the type of applicants needed.

#