Graduate Opportunities in Safe Transportation and Resilient Systems

GAANN- GOSTARS Fellowship Project

Adviser: Kaitlin Mallouk, Ph.D.

Title: Professional Identity Formation within Transportation Doctoral Programs

Description: As we strive towards the goal of recruiting and retaining a diverse population of transportation engineering professionals, it is essential to understand how CEE doctoral students develop their professional identity. This study seeks to determine how the GAANN activities including coursework, co-curricular activities, and doctoral program components relate to students' beliefs of knowledge and skillsets that will be necessary for a broad array of positions within the transportation industry. The research question this project will address is "*What impacts does the GAANN program have on the development of transportation engineering doctoral students' professional identity?*" The study will be conducted applying qualitative research methods through the analysis of student reflections.

Impact on GAANN: This project provides the opportunity to better understand the development of doctoral students' professional identity within the transportation industry. It will also provide feedback on contributing elements that are most relevant to this development. As such, it will provide necessary information to improve future training of doctoral students within the transportation industry.

Impact on GOSTAR: This project will allow the student to better understand professional identity formation. Throughout the project, the student will develop their qualitative research methods and learn about best practices for program development and assessment.

Tentative Plan

Semester	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Task	Literature Review; IRB submission; Develop and deploy monthly reflection instrument; Develop codebook and analyze reflections			Develop coding method for identifying biases, inclusivity, and ethics. Continue analysis of reflection data on both professional identity and DEI relevant issues.			Apply previously developed methods to longitudinal data for all GAANN Fellows.		
Outcome	Establish and execute protocol for assessing professional identity in GAANN Fellows			Establish and execute protocol for assessing diversity, equity, and inclusion issues faced by GAANN Fellows			Multi-year results for the professional identity formation of GAANN Fellows		
Deliverable	Refereed conference proceeding			Refereed conference proceeding and journal			Refereed conference proceeding and journal		
Graduation									**Summer 2025**