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Family Transportation Night at Ocean Springs Upper Elementary (Mississippi) ~ 6-8 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 25

Building boats, packaging bananas, taking depth soundings, and designing a safe intersection are on the program for the first Family Transportation Activity Night planned for Ocean Springs Upper Elementary near Gulfport, Mississippi. The event will take place from 6-8 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 25.

There will be more than two dozen hands on short activities that relate to transportation and engineering that parents and children can explore on their own. Students will compare the aerodynamic characteristics of various vehicles, try out the use of a traffic counter and speed monitoring device, make their own original traffic signs, compare packaging shapes and sizes, match up cargo with products, consider what ship captains need at sea, and much more! Who would have thought that transportation could be so interesting?!

Students and their parents are invited to investigate many aspects of transportation, learning from university students and professors that are coming from eight universities across the Midwest.

The Family Transportation Activity Night will

- Introduce students & parents to the role of transportation in our daily lives;
- Provide transportation career role models for younger students.
- Introduce students & their parents to the variety of careers in the transportation sector;

More than two dozen students from ten universities in eight states throughout the Midwest will be presenting to the elementary students and their parents. These university students are in Mississippi to attend the Logistics, Trade & Transportation Symposium taking place at the University of Southern Mississippi Feb. 26-27 in Gulfport.

"It's really great for the college students because they get experience presenting to the public. It's also great for the elementary students who come," Dr. Tulio Sulbaran said. "They get a hands-on learning experience with their parents." Sulbaran is the Director of the Center for Logistics, Trade and Transportation at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and symposium chair.

"We want to get the students excited about learning," Assistant Principal Rodgers added. "I find this topic fascinating!"

"Parents have a big influence on their children's future career choices," explained event coordinator, Joan Chadde from Michigan Technological University. "These events help inform parents, too!"

To find out more about the Logistics, Trade & Transportation Symposium, visit the symposium webpage: <http://www.usm.edu/logistics-trade-transportation/logistics-trade-and-transportation-symposium-2014-theme-southeastern>

To learn more about the Family Transportation Night, contact Ocean Springs Upper Elementary Assistant Principal, Mary Rodgers at mroddgers@ossdms.org or call (228) 875-4367. The symposium and family night are funded by the University of Wisconsin Madison Center for Freight Infrastructure Research & Education (CFIRE) which coordinates hubs at ten midwestern universities (<http://www.wistrans.org/cfire/about/hubs/>)

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