

For Immediate Release
News Release

Date: January 7, 2016
Contact: Lisa Berardi Marflak
(202) 334-3134 (office)
(703) 283-2333 (cell)
lmарflak@nas.edu

DR. CAROL ABEL LEWIS RECEIVES 2016 SHARON D. BANKS AWARD

The 2016 recipient of the Sharon D. Banks Award is Carol Abel Lewis, Professor, Department of Transportation Studies, and Director of the Center for Transportation Training and Research at Texas Southern University. Lewis is recognized for her unique blend of transportation accomplishments, for her successes in mentoring and nurturing young people, and for her tireless promotion of responsible growth and the protection of neighborhoods.

The Sharon D. Banks Award is a biennial award established in the memory of Sharon D. Banks, who chaired the TRB Executive Committee in 1998. She died in 1999. The award recognizes innovative and successful leadership in people-oriented initiatives in transportation, sustained over an extended period, exemplifying Banks' ideals of humanity and service.

Lewis has earned the respect and the admiration of her colleagues and of the communities she has served with her people-oriented approach, her signature since the 1980s, when she proactively engaged community groups and individuals in Houston METRO's planning processes. She is known for treating people in all contexts with dignity, respect, openness, and fairness.

Lewis has provided innovative leadership in many transportation projects and services involving individuals with diverse backgrounds. She has applied the same people-oriented skills and approach to her responsibilities at Texas Southern University, not only benefiting her students but the communities and agencies they later serve as professionals.

Lewis has been active in many professional organizations, such as the Council of Minority Transportation Officials, the Women's Transportation Seminar, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and TRB. Her community service includes appointments to advisory boards and commissions by three Houston mayors. During her tenure on the Houston Planning Commission, Lewis worked with a diverse group of civic leaders to promote responsible growth and protect neighborhoods.

Lewis' professional career and community service activities embody the values and ideals represented by the Sharon D. Banks Award. She has made a difference in the lives of her students, fellow researchers and professors, younger professionals, community groups, and transit riders throughout the Houston area.

Approximately 13,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 95th Annual Meeting, in Washington, D.C., January 10-14, 2016. The meeting, held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, includes more than 5,000 presentations in more than 800 sessions and workshops covering all aspects of transportation.

The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. TRB facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners; stimulates research and offers research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation. A major focal point of TRB's activities, the Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest.

Organized in 1920, TRB is part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which provides independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation and conducts other activities to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions. The Academies also encourage education and research, recognize outstanding contributions to knowledge, and increase public understanding in matters of science, engineering, and medicine.

###