

Women in Transportation Fellowship

Carlee Benhart Kukula

2019-2021 Traffic21 Women in Transportation Fellow



BIO

Carlee is a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College, where she is working toward her Master of Science in Public Policy and Management. She is the Traffic21 2019 Women in Transportation Fellow. Carlee also works at RobotWits, LLC as a Policy and Communications Partner.

Before CMU, Carlee graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Regional Planning. Carlee's passion for equity in southwestern Pennsylvania drives her in her work on projects dealing with housing, planning, transportation, and education, with an emphasis on accessibility and communications.



TRAFFIC21 WOMEN IN TRANSPORTATION FELLOWSHIP

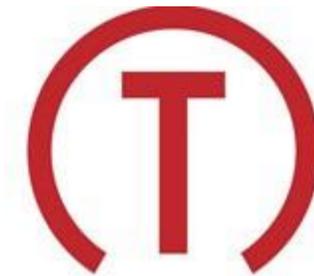
This fellowship is awarded each year to an incoming student who is entering either the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Heinz College MSPPM (Public Policy and Management) or MISIM (Information Systems Management) degree programs. Students who have demonstrated an interest and commitment to Intelligent Transportation Systems are eligible to apply for the fellowship. The fellow's work supports the University Transportation Center's activities.



SMART MOBILITY CONNECTIONS

As the nature of transportation continues to evolve, Carnegie Mellon University has students and faculty conducting transportation related research in data analytics, robotics, public policy, engineering, architecture and design, and more. Since not all of these efforts are co-located in the same building, or even the same department, there was a need to help building a "community space" to bring together people interested in transportation on CMU's campus. This was the impetus for Mobility21's launching of the Smart Mobility Connections (SMC) seminar series. One of the University Transportation Center (UTC) faculty is featured at each hour long session; half of the time is reserved for questions and answers as well as networking.

The community outreach of the Smart Mobility Connections series has only grown since CMU has transitioned to a hybrid learning format—where only forty people could attend in the physical room SMCs were located before, it's not unusual now to have over a hundred attendees at each biweekly talk. Additionally, the seminars can now feature speakers from Mobility21's academic partners allowing the CMU community to benefit from a wider range of innovative and interesting transportation research.



TRANSPORTATION CLUB

The Carnegie Mellon University Transportation Club aims to expose students to transportation-related classes; promote transportation research opportunities; to be a platform for networking and collaboration amongst students, faculty and industry leaders; and to raise awareness of employment opportunities in the transportation industry.



INTERDISCIPLINARY OPPORTUNITIES AND EXCITING INTERNSHIPS

Carlee started as a communications and policy intern for RobotWits in June of 2020 but found the work so exciting that she stayed on through the fall semester. "Equity in western Pennsylvania is extremely important to me," said Carlee. "I grew up in a rural county and knew that issues of rural access and equity were close to my heart. Before this summer, I never saw myself necessarily working to help support education, but I was so excited to see how RobotWits stepped up to create 'The Robot Doctor' program to address gaps in STEM education during the pandemic that I immediately knew I was working with the right people." Carlee is helping to partner with schools and other organizations which serve students who are underrepresented in STEM. Carlee presented at the Pennsylvania TRIO conference and is scheduled to present at TEEAP, and to Intermediate Units.