Dr. Bob L. Smith Memorial
Transportation Engineering Lecture Series

Deb Miller

Kansas has a Proud Transportation Legacy;
Recognize it, Appreciate it and Live up to it

September 1, 2021
4:00 p.m.
KSU Student Union
Cottonwood Room
Refreshments following
Dr. Bob L. Smith
January 26, 1926 - July 2, 2020

Dr. Bob L. Smith was professor emeritus of civil engineering. He earned his BSCE and MSCE degrees from Kansas State College for Agriculture (KSAC) and a Ph.D. from Purdue University in 1964. Dr. Smith started his teaching career at KSAC as an undergraduate student in 1946. He received his MSCE degree in 1953 and got promoted to associate professor. After receiving his Ph.D., he was promoted to full professor. He retired in 1992 and was named Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Smith served as the director for the Kansas Transportation Engineering Conference and Traffic Assistance Service for Kansas (TASK). A dedicated and meticulous faculty member, Dr. Smith taught undergraduate and graduate-level courses in highway design and traffic engineering at K-State. He also was a visiting professor at Texas A&M University and Dartmouth College.

Dr. Smith was a prolific researcher and made pioneering contributions to research in highway geometric design and aesthetics. He published 40 articles, most notably “Handbook of Traffic Control Practices for Low Volume Roads for County Engineers” published by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and “Practical Highway Aesthetics” published by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

Dr. Smith served on various committees of the Transportation Research Board, ASCE, and Institute of Transportation Engineers, and was regarded as the "face" of Kansas in the national transportation arena. He also served as the executive secretary of the Kansas Water Resources Board. In 1990, he won the ASCE Edmund Friedman Professional Recognition Award.

Dr. Smith dedicated his life in the pursuits close to his heart and mind; education, educating youth in strategies to realize their full potential and becoming financially savvy, improving the quality of our educators.

Deb Miller
Director of KU Public Management Center

Deb Miller took over as Director of the KU Public Management Center in May of 2019. The Public Management Center (PMC) is the professional development arm for the School of Public Affairs and Administration. The PMC offers training and consultation services throughout Kansas for public sector organizations. Ms. Miller is also a member of the Kansas Turnpike Authority.

Previously, Ms. Miller served as a Member of the Surface Transportation Board (STB). The STB is the successor agency to the Interstate Commerce Commission. The STB is an economic regulatory agency that Congress charged with resolving railroad rate and service disputes and reviewing proposed railroad mergers. Ms. Miller served on the board from April 2014 to December 2018.

Ms. Miller also served as a Senior Consultant with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., a firm specializing in transportation planning and policy, primarily for public-sector clients. From 2003 to 2011 Ms. Miller was the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), a term of office marked by her distinguished service for three successive Governors of Kansas. She has the distinction of being the longest-serving Secretary of Transportation in Kansas history.

Ms. Miller also worked for HNTB, a national architecture, engineering, and planning firm, and as the Director of the KDOT's Division of Planning and Development. Before beginning her work in transportation, Ms. Miller was a Policy Assistant to Kansas Governor John Carlin.

Ms. Miller continues to be active with the Transportation Research Board (TRB), which is a program unit of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. She was a member of the TRB’s Executive Committee for five years including a year serving as Chair. She also has been active with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), where she chaired numerous task forces, workgroups, and served for nine years as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Planning. She also served on the Eno Foundations’ Board of Advisors.

Ms. Miller graduated magna cum laude from K-State with a B.S. in Sociology.