The second annual Center for Advanced Transportation Mobility (CATM) Symposium was held at Warm Hearth Village in Blacksburg, Virginia on Nov. 5, 2018. The symposium was a chance for students, faculty and researchers from the three consortium member institutions (North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (lead), Virginia Technical Institute, and Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University) to share the various activities occurring within the University Transportation Center (UTC) over the previous year.

CATM is a UTC funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation in 2016 under the FAST Act. The consortium’s research efforts concern improving mobility for people and goods with a focus on transportation issues faced by vulnerable populations, which include people with disabilities and/or socioeconomic challenges, the elderly, youth, bicyclists and pedestrians.

The keynote speaker for the event was Mohammed Yousuf, program manager of U.S. DOT’s Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative (ATTRI). Yousuf is an inventor, engineer, and innovator leading the drive toward Universal Access and Mobility. Through his leadership of ATTRI and the Universal Automated Community Transport (UACT) program, Yousuf works to remove barriers a traveler might encounter on any part of a trip, from the planning stage to arriving at the final destination. His work explores ways to leverage vehicle autonomy, robotics, and enhanced indoor and outdoor navigation tools to accomplish this goal.

In promoting a new future reality for universal mobility, Yousuf, who knows the challenges faced by vulnerable road users firsthand, foresees a system incorporating augmented, virtual and mixed reality tools that allow people of all abilities to meet their transportation needs with ease and independence. He is also involved in research involving transportation related technologies, including wireless communications, mapping, positioning and navigation, and robotics and intelligence for surface transportation.
Transportation Institute

Cynthia Glass, N.C. A&T graduate student, explains her research poster on severe weather transportation to Carletta Dudley, education and

Andrew Aldin, VTTI senior research associate and leader of VTTI’s Eco-Transportation and Alternative Energies Group, addresses the crowd.

Graduate student, Theanna Drennonn, in discussion with Shelly Qu, N.C. A&T professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Kareem Hogan, a Ph.D. candidate in electrical engineering at N.C. A&T, explains his poster and research.

Dahai Lui, aviation research coordinator for CATM, shares news about the latest research at Embry-Riddle Aeronautic University.

Virginia Lingham, program manager for the Office of Strategic Innovation, Virginia DOT, updates attendees.