



# Annual Report

**Leonard  
Transportation  
Center**  
California State University,  
San Bernardino

## 1. Leadership Transition

After ten years of dedicated service, Dr. Kimberly Collins stepped down as Executive Director. Under her leadership, the Leonard Transportation Center evolved into a respected, well-funded institution and a trusted convener of transportation dialogue in the Inland Empire. Her decade of service established a strong foundation of research excellence, community partnership, and policy engagement.

The Center now enters a new chapter under the leadership of Dr. Yunfei Hou, who assumes the role of Executive Director. With expertise in transportation cyber-physical systems, artificial intelligence, and data-driven transportation engineering, Dr. Hou brings a forward-looking vision focused on innovation, workforce development, and interdisciplinary collaboration. His leadership signals continued momentum toward advancing equitable, sustainable, and technology-driven transportation solutions for the region.

As reflected throughout this report, 2025 was both a year of accomplishment and transition; honoring a decade of transformative leadership while positioning the Leonard Transportation Center for its next era of impact.

## 2. A Note from the Executive Director Emeritus

The Leonard Transportation Center (LTC) is proud to present our 2025 Annual Report, showcasing a year marked by impactful research, educational initiatives, and meaningful community engagement. Throughout the year, the Center advanced its mission to promote sustainable, equitable, and innovative transportation solutions through academic research, workforce development, policy dialogue, and regional partnerships.

In 2025, the Center strengthened its role as a regional convener and thought leader. Signature initiatives included the launch of the inaugural Transportation Leadership Policy Forum, which brought together federal, state, regional, and local leaders to address housing affordability and transportation accessibility, two of the Inland Empire’s most pressing interconnected challenges.



The Center also expanded its research footprint through faculty and student participation in major academic conferences and through publications addressing transportation safety, artificial intelligence, sustainability, and workforce development.

A major milestone this year was the launch of PROPEL AI, a five-year, \$1 million National Science Foundation–funded initiative led by Dr. Yunfei Hou. This transformative project strengthens artificial intelligence education, expands inclusive research pathways, and builds critical workforce capacity in the Inland Empire.

***Dr. Kimberly Collins***

***Executive Director, Leonard Transportation Center, CSUSB***

***August 2025***

### **3. A Note from the Executive Director**

It is a great honor to begin serving as Executive Director of the Leonard Transportation Center at California State University, San Bernardino. I step into this role with deep appreciation for the decade of leadership provided by Dr. Kimberly Collins, whose vision and dedication helped establish LTC as a trusted regional convener, a respected research center, and an important voice for transportation policy and innovation in the Inland Empire.

As we look ahead, LTC’s next chapter will build on this strong foundation while expanding the Center’s role as a hub for research, education, workforce development, and community partnership. Transportation is changing rapidly. New technologies, artificial intelligence, data science, sustainability goals, and evolving community needs are reshaping how people and goods move across our region. At the same time, the Inland Empire continues to face urgent challenges related to mobility, safety, equity, air quality, logistics, and access to opportunity.

I am grateful to the Leonard family, our advisory board, CSUSB leadership, faculty colleagues, students, staff, and regional partners for their continued support. Together, we will honor the Leonard family’s legacy by advancing a Center that is sustainable, student-driven, research-anchored, and community-connected. I look forward to working with all of you as LTC enters this exciting new era of impact.

***Yunfei Hou, Ph.D.***

***Executive Director, Leonard Transportation Center, CSUSB***

***December 2025***



#### 4. Overview of 2025 Activities

In 2025, the Leonard Transportation Center advanced its strategic priorities in research, education, and community engagement through conferences, initiatives, and partnerships. Key research activities included faculty and student participation in major academic forums such as the California State University Transportation Conference, the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR), and the National S-STEM Scholars Meeting, where faculty and students shared findings on transportation safety, emerging technologies, and STEM pathways. The launch of PROPEL AI, a five-year, \$1 million National Science Foundation–funded initiative led by Dr. Yunfei Hou, marked a significant milestone in expanding artificial intelligence education, workforce development, and inclusive research opportunities across the Inland Empire. Community outreach and policy engagement were strengthened through the inaugural Transportation Leadership Policy Forum, bringing together federal, state, regional, and local leaders to address housing affordability and transportation accessibility. As well as through participation in regional and industry events focused on clean energy, zero-emission freight, hydrogen innovation, high-speed rail, trade, and infrastructure finance. The Center also expanded its regional and national presence through professional associations, workshops, and site visits, while continuing to grow its digital footprint via social media, and website engagement. Together, these activities reflect the Center’s commitment to advancing evidence-based transportation solutions, workforce development, and collaborative leadership to support a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient Inland Empire.

#### 5. 2025 Strategic Initiative

##### 5.1. Research and Education

##### 5.1.1. *California State University Transportation Conference (CSUTC): Urban-Rural Dynamics and DUI Fatalities in the Inland Empire*

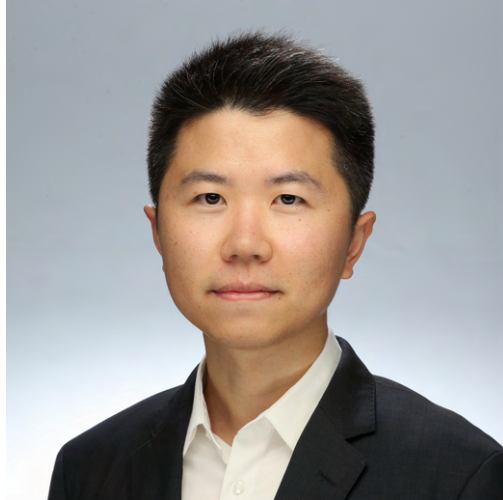
At the CSU Transportation Conference, Dr. Yunfei Hou and Dr. Xiangyu Li presented impactful



research examining DUI fatalities in the Inland Empire, contributing valuable insights to regional transportation safety efforts. The 2025 CSUTC, hosted by Karen Philbrick, convened transportation leaders to explore emerging issues shaping the future of the field. One session provided an in-depth look at how tariffs, automation, and labor dynamics are transforming port

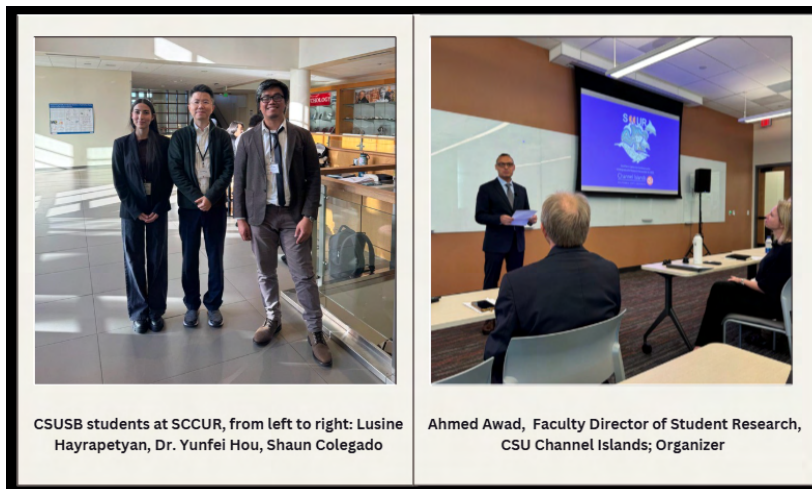
governance, drayage trucking, and longshore operations, underscoring the importance of collaboration and research in addressing these complex challenges.

5.1.2. *Propel AI Initiative Funded by a \$1 Million Grant*



Cal State San Bernardino, in partnership with the University of California, Riverside, launched PROPEL AI, a five-year, \$1 million initiative funded by the National Science Foundation to advance artificial intelligence education and workforce development in the Inland Empire. Led by Yunfei Hou, Director of CSUSB's William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center and professor of computer science, the project will introduce new AI academic programs, establish a community-focused AI Help Desk, and expand research and hands-on learning opportunities for students. PROPEL AI aims to build inclusive pathways into AI careers, strengthen the regional workforce, and address critical gaps in AI talent across the Inland Empire.

5.1.3. *Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR)*



CSUSB students at SCCUR, from left to right: Lusine Hayrapetyan, Dr. Yunfei Hou, Shaun Colegado

Ahmed Awad, Faculty Director of Student Research, CSU Channel Islands; Organizer

On Saturday, November 22, our student researchers' Lusine Hayrapetyan and Shaun Colegado presented their projects at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR), a regional conference dedicated to advancing undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity. Their participation reflects a strong commitment to academic

excellence and hands-on learning, and their achievements are a source of pride. Dr. Ahmed Awad, Faculty Director of Student Research at CSU Channel Islands, organized an outstanding conference. We also appreciate Dr. Scott Annin, President of SCCUR, and Dr. Susan Andrzejewski, President of CSU Channel Islands, for their leadership and continued support of undergraduate research across the region.

SCCUR is a nonprofit, composed of Southern California faculty, administrators, and community members who share a common goal of strengthening higher education through experiential research opportunities for college and university students.

## 5.2. Community Outreach and Development

### 5.2.1. *Transportation Leadership Policy Forum*

On March 14, the Leonard Transportation Center hosted the inaugural Transportation Leadership Policy Forum, this event was designed to bring together leaders and experts across federal, state, regional, and local levels to address the Inland Empire’s most urgent and complex challenges, housing affordability and transportation accessibility.

The Inland Empire is experiencing rapid growth, but with it comes significant strain on infrastructure, housing, and transportation systems. This forum served as a timely and much-needed platform for decision-makers to engage in meaningful dialogue about how collaborative leadership and policy innovation can better connect residents to jobs, services, and affordable housing.

The forum featured robust, solutions-focused discussions and showcased a strong lineup of distinguished speakers, including:

- Federal Leadership: U.S. Representative Norma Torres
- State Leadership: California State Senator Susan Rubio
- Regional Leadership: Kome Ajise (SCAG), Atif Elkadi (Ontario International Airport), Jeff Montejano (BIA Southern California), and Dr. Vanessa Y. Thomas (UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies)
- Local Leadership: Mayor Mario Saucedo, Kristine D. Scott, William “Bill” Ruh, Ed Reece, Mike Futrell, and Scott Ochoa

Through this collaborative exchange, participants underscored the critical importance of integrated policy solutions to improve mobility and expand housing opportunities. The connections formed and ideas shared at the forum will continue to guide efforts aimed at building a more equitable, sustainable, and accessible future for the Inland Empire.



The 2025 Forum was sponsored by:

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsors



### 5.2.2. Leonard Transportation Center Participates in SoCalGas [H2] Innovation Experience Tour



On Thursday, June 19, the Leonard Transportation Center had the exciting opportunity to participate in the [H2] Innovation Experience (H2-IE) Tour, graciously coordinated by Janel Ruiz and Sarita Figueroa. Located in Downey, California, the [H2] Innovation Experience is North America's first fully integrated hydrogen-powered home and microgrid. Developed by SoCalGas and built to LEED Platinum standards, the 2,000-square-foot modular home demonstrates how renewable hydrogen can be produced, stored, and utilized on-site to power a modern household.

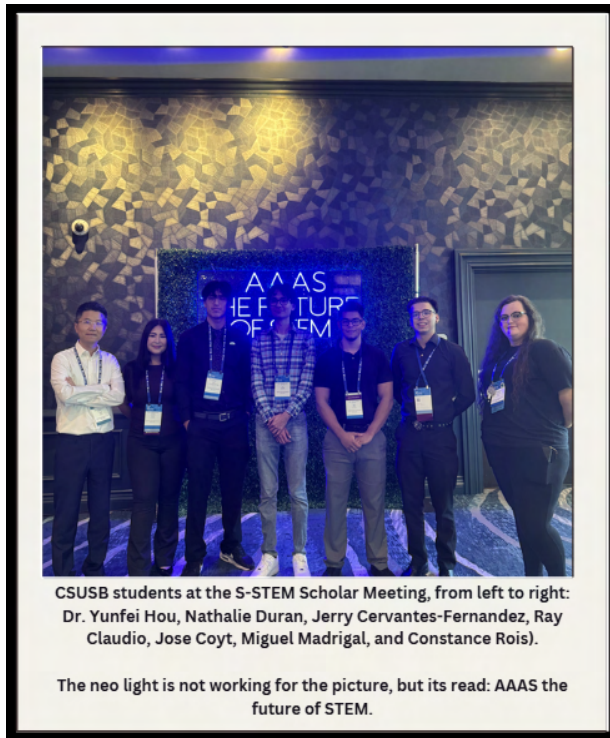
Key features of the [H2] Innovation Experience include:

- Hydrogen storage and conversion to electricity through a fuel cell, ensuring clean and resilient power both day and night
- Use of a hydrogen-natural gas blend (20% hydrogen / 80% natural gas) for household appliances such as the stove, water heater, and BBQ
- A closed-loop energy ecosystem that emits only water vapor and can operate independently during power outages.

Recognized by Fast Company and the U.S. Green Building Council, the H2-IE supports SoCalGas's 2045 net-zero goals and serves as a scalable prototype for future hydrogen-powered communities. It is also aligned with larger infrastructure initiatives such as hydrogen blending and the Angeles Link pipeline.

The Leonard Transportation Center is proud to engage with forward-thinking projects like this one, as we continue to explore and support solutions that drive clean energy, environmental equity, and regional resilience.

5.2.3. 2025 National S- Stem Scholars Meeting San Diego



On Thursday, October 2, Six CSUSB ExCELS scholars, Ray Claudio, Nathalie Duran, Jose Coyt, Jerry Cervantes-Fernandez, Miguel Madrigal, and Constance Rios participated in the 2025 S-STEM Scholars Meeting in San Diego. joining more than 1,200 S-STEM students from institutions nationwide. Organized by Travis T. York, Ph.D., of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the three-day conference featured keynote presentations, student research showcases, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen pathways in STEM fields. With support from AAAS and the National Science Foundation (NSF), ExCELS scholars gained valuable insights, professional connections, and renewed inspiration as they continue pursuing their academic and career goals in STEM, proudly representing CSUSB and the Inland Empire.

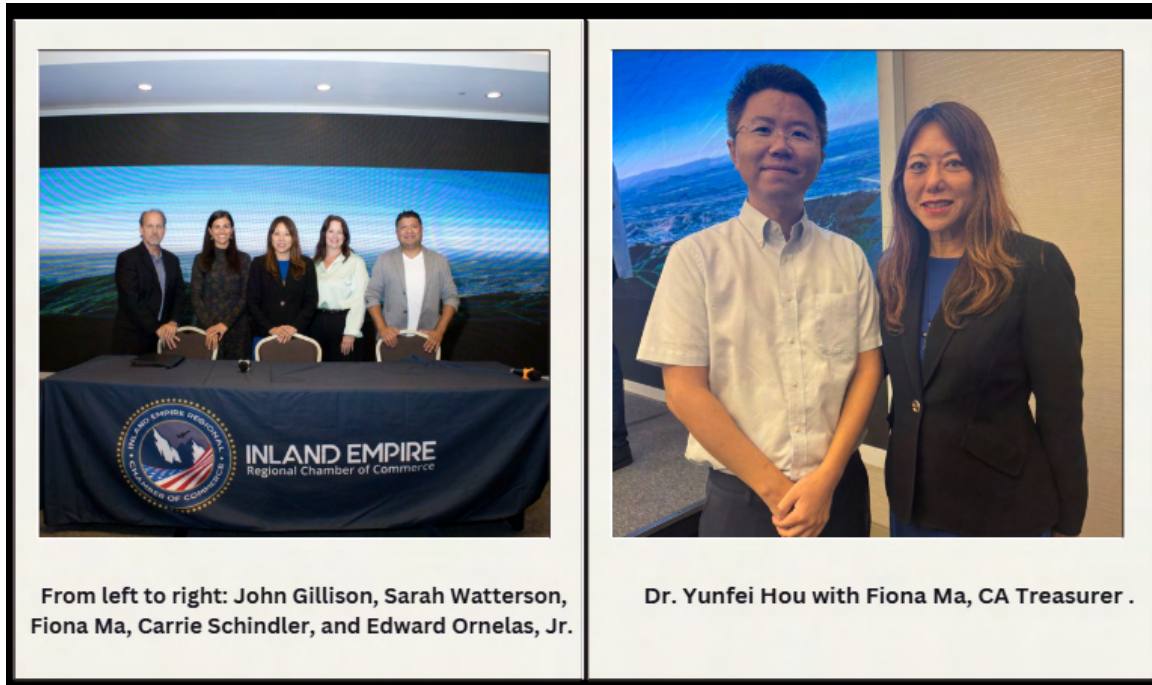
5.2.4. World EV Day Open House at Greenlane Colton



World EV Day was on September 9. Dr. Yunfei Hou, attended an open house at Greenlane Infrastructure’s flagship commercial electric vehicle (EV) charging facility in Colton. Hosted by Greenlane Infrastructure in partnership with the Inland Empire Regional Chamber of Commerce, the event provided a firsthand look at the advanced technologies supporting zero-emission freight transportation. Dr. Hou joined Greenlane leaders, including Andrea Pratt, Vice President of Government & Utility Relations, along with regional business and sustainability stakeholders for guided facility tours, networking opportunities, and discussions on the future of clean transportation. Greenlane’s Colton site represents an important step in building a

nationwide charging infrastructure for zero-emission trucking and highlights the Inland Empire’s leadership in sustainable transportation and clean technology innovation.

5.2.5. *Brightline West: Full Speed Ahead*



LTC participated in a forum on Brightline West, hosted by the Inland Empire Regional Chamber of Commerce, highlighting one of the most transformational infrastructure projects in California’s history. With a high-speed rail station planned for the Inland Empire, Brightline West represents more than improved travel between Southern California and Las Vegas, it is expected to unlock billions in economic activity, create tens of thousands of jobs, and position the region as a hub for innovation and mobility.

The forum featured insights from regional and state leaders shaping the future of transportation and economic development, including Brightline West President Sarah Watterson; California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA; San Bernardino County Transportation Authority Executive Director Carrie Schindler; San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Jesse Armendarez; Commerce West Bank Chairman, President, and CEO Ivo Tjan; Rancho Cucamonga City Manager John Gillison; and Inland Empire Regional Chamber of Commerce President Edward Ornelas, Jr.

Brightline West is expected to open in 2029, following the Olympic Games, marking a milestone that will redefine connectivity, workforce mobility, and long-term growth in the Inland Empire.

5.2.6. *International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association (ICTPA)*



LTC’s Director Dr. Yunfei Hou and Professor Yongping Zhang attended the International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association (ICTPA), Southern California Chapter luncheon. A primary topic of discussion was express lanes (toll roads). While sometimes controversial, toll roads continue to be one of the most practical methods for funding, managing, and expanding critical roadway infrastructure.

Participants also explored strategies for more effectively detecting HOV lane violations, a challenge more widespread than commonly recognized, with rates reportedly reaching up to 70% in some

areas. This topic represents a promising avenue for future research and innovation in traffic management.

5.2.7. *Foreign Trade Zone FTZ-50 Workshop*



**Panelists (left to right):**  
**Michael Burrows, San Bernardino International Airport (SBD);**  
**Salvador Percastre Medizabal, Consul of Mexico;**  
**Mechelle Ngjn, Port of Long Beach;**  
**Joanna Jia, Mentor Media Supply Chain Solutions.**

At the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ-50) Workshop on Thursday, December 11, 2025, held at San Bernardino International Airport (SBD), we were inspired by Mike’s insights on the airport’s significant role in driving job creation and bolstering the Inland Empire economy. Looking ahead, we are excited to visit the UAS Center at SBD, now a leading hub for unmanned aviation innovation and real-world

testing. We look forward to learning more about the groundbreaking initiatives led by Kimberly Benson.

## 6. Online Presence

### 6.1 Social Media

The LTC has continued to grow its web presence through social media platforms over the past year. Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn have played a pivotal role in engaging with our stakeholders and community. We have steadily increased our followers throughout the year. As of December 2025, we have 253 followers on Instagram, 98 on Facebook, and 297 on LinkedIn. These platforms continue to serve as informational and educational resources for the community, as we post regular updates on the Center's activities and event invitations.

Platform	Instagram	Facebook	LinkedIn
Followers	253	98	297

#### 6.1.1. YouTube

The Regional Mobility Dialogues are edited and uploaded on YouTube. A full version is provided along with a highlight video. These videos are accessible to the general public via links on the Center's website. Presented below are the analytics:

Content	Views	Watch time (hours)	Subscribers	Impressions	Impressions click-through rate
<b>Total</b>	245	18.1	31	3,433	2.7%

#### 6.1.2. Website

The LTC website has been built with the community in mind. We hope that community members from CSUSB and stakeholders from across the IE, the state, and beyond will use it as a resource to learn more about our ongoing activities and advances in transportation research. The website has undergone a number of improvements and revisions over the past year to increase user friendliness and content navigation. The analytics for 2025 are provided below.

Page	Page views	Unique page views	Views per user	Event count	Key events
LTC	7,525	3,478	3.31	15,026	0

## 7. Activities and Outcomes

### 7.1. 2025 Advisory Council Meeting



The Advisory Council meetings take place four times a year, providing an ongoing platform for reflecting on past accomplishments, identifying areas for improvement, and fostering meaningful networking and dialogue among members. We are thankful for the members as they provide insights, resources, and incredible support to the operations of the LTC.

### 7.2. Awards

Dr. Yunfei Hou's leadership and research contributions, including work connected to the Leonard Transportation Center, were recognized through two CSUSB awards in 2025:

- **2025 Faculty Achievement Innovative Research (FAIR) Award**, CSUSB, March 2025.
- **2024–25 Outstanding Service Award**, Graduate Studies, CSUSB, October 2025.

### 7.3. Publications

Conference Papers:

1. Bhatt, V., Yu, J., Hou, Y., Khan, B., Dajani, K., and Jin, J., (2025). [From Prompts to Performance: Leveraging LLMs for Enhanced Educational AI Interactions](#). IEEE CAI 2025.
2. Bhatt, V., Yu, J., Hou, Y. and Jin, J., (2025). [ChatGPT as a Programming tutor: Student Perceptions, Effectiveness, and Challenges](#). IEEE EDUCON 2025.

Journal Articles:

1. Collins, K., Der Wartanian, R., Hou, Y., Ayyagari, S. K., & Khatri, B. P. (2025). [Using Big Data to Analyze Long-Haul vs Regional-Short-Haul Trips for Medium-and Heavy-Duty Vehicles](#). Data in Brief.

2. McIntyre, M., Cui, G., Hou, Y. (2025). [Virtual Avoidance: Examining STEM Students' Lower Interest in Online Courses](#). The Internet and Higher Education.

Booke Chapters:

1. Chen, Y., Macias, H., Granco, G., Hou, Y., Gomez, F.A. (2025). [AI for Social Good Education Through a Culturally Responsive Pedagogy](#). Artificial Intelligence for Design and Process Science. Springer.

7.4. LTC Committee Representation

Title	Representative
Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative	Kimberly Collins
ETruc Workforce Development Advisory Committee	Kimberly Collins
Association of Borderland Scholars, Board of Directors	Kimberly Collins
Good Neighbor Environmental Board	Kimberly Collins
Redlands Friends of Prospect Park	Kimberly Collins
IEEE International Conference on Computer Communications and Networks	Yunfei Hou
ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education	Yunfei Hou
Computer Science Conference for CSU Undergraduates	Yunfei Hou
ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining	Yunfei Hou
NSF Review Panel: Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering	Yunfei Hou
NSF Review Panel: Directorate for STEM Education	Yunfei Hou
Colorado River Basin Symposium on Sustainable Energy, Environment, and Urban Development	Yunfei Hou
California Alliance for Data Science Education	Yunfei Hou

7.5. Activity Highlights

Month	Activity	Participants
January		Staff, students, faculty, council members
February		All staff, students, faculty, council members
March	Advisory Council Meeting	All staff, students, council members, public and private sector stakeholders, community members
	Transportation Leadership Policy Form	All staff, students, council members, public and private sector stakeholders, community members
April		All staff, students, council members, public and private sector stakeholders, community members
May		All staff, students, faculty, council members
June	Advisory Council Meeting	All staff, students, council members, public and private sector stakeholders, community members
	Participates in SoCalGas [H2] Innovation Experience Tour	All staff, students, faculty, council members
July		All staff, students, faculty, council members

August	2025 California State University Transportation Conference (CSUTC)	All staff, students, council members, public and private sector stakeholders, community members
September	World EV Day Open House at Greenlane Colton	All staff, students, faculty, council members
	Advisory Council Meeting	All staff, students, council members, public and private sector stakeholders, community members
October	2025 National S- Stem Scholars Meeting San Diego	All staff, students, council members, public and private sector stakeholders, community members
November	Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR)	All staff, students, faculty, council members
December	International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association (ICTPA)	All staff, students, faculty, council members
	Foreign Trade Zone FTZ-50 Workshop	All staff, students, faculty, council members




**8. Personnel**

8.1. 2025 Advisory Council Member

Every three months the LTC’s advisory council comes together to discuss the research agenda, possible projects, and funding and gain their feedback and advice. Below are the members of the 2025 Advisory Council.

Member	Position	Affiliation
Bassem Muallem	Council Chair	

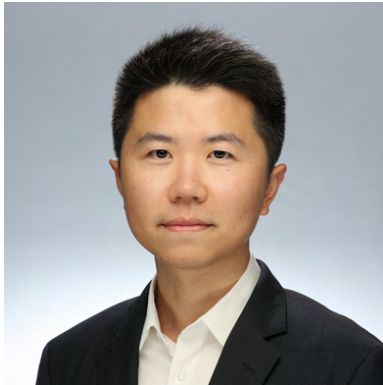
Carrie Gilbreth	Senior Partner	
Christopher Gray	Director of Transportation	
Doran J. Barnes/ Josh Landis	Executive Director/ Planning Manger	
Erin Rogers	CEO	
Kome Ajise / Sarah J. Jepson	Executive Director/ Planning Director	
Liza Wilson	Director	
Miguel Georgie	Cajon HS	
Mike Burrows	Executive Director	
Otis Greer	Director of Legislative and Public Affairs	
Paul Granillo	President and CEO	
Ray Desselle	Deputy District Director of Planning	
William “Bill” R. Leonard	Leonard Family representative. Capitol Commission volunteer. State Legislator 1978-2002; Board of Equalization 2003-2010, Secretary of State and Consumer Services 2010	

<p>Kimberly Collins, Ph.D.</p>	<p>Executive Director and Professor of Public Administration</p>	
<p>Leslie Trainor</p>	<p>Research Fellow</p>	
<p>Ki Eun Kang, Ph.D.</p>	<p>Research Fellow</p>	
<p>Nerea Marteache, Ph.D.</p>	<p>Research Fellow</p>	
<p>Tomás Gómez-Arias, Ph.D.</p>	<p>Dean, Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration</p>	
<p>Yunfei Hou, Ph.D.</p>	<p>Associate Director and Assistant Professor Computer Science &amp; Engineering</p>	

## 8.2. LTC Staff

**Kimberly Collins, PhD**

Dr. Collins is the Executive Director of the William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center and a Professor in the Public Administration Department. Her current research focuses on social equity, sustainability, networks, and democracy in search of developing 21st-century institutions to respond to the future. She currently is a Professor of Public Administration, serves on the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (a U.S. EPA Presidential Advisory Commission) in 2018, and is the North American Regional Editor for the Journal of Borderlands Studies.

**Yunfei Hou, PhD**

Dr. Hou is the Associate Director of the Leonard Transportation Center and Assistant Professor School of Computer Science and Engineering. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Buffalo, SUNY, in 2016. His current research interests include applications in transportation cyber-physical systems and data and information analysis for transportation engineering. Recent projects span intersection management with connected vehicle technologies, electric taxi-sharing, and taxi fleet dispatch.

**Ki Eun Kang, PhD**

Dr. Kang is an assistant professor in the Department of Public Administration in the Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration at California State University, San Bernardino and a faculty research fellow at Leonard Transportation Center. Her research interests include community and local economic development, resilience, environmental and urban policy, behavioral public policy, and conflict resolution. Currently, her research delves into the resilience policies and programs of the 101 largest cities in the U.S.



Leslie L. Trainor, M.B.A., is an advanced doctoral student in Organizational Behavior at Claremont Graduate University and a Research Associate at Lead Labs. Leslie researches women's unique barriers to leadership and the structural systems that harbor those barriers. As part of her dissertations, Leslie has developed a unified definition of organizational structure and taxonomy of its systems, and is testing an organizational equity audit to identify and mitigate structural impediments for women who aspire to become leaders. Leslie is a lecturer at CSUSB's JHBC. She currently works as an independent research, writing, and analytical consultant, supporting nonprofits and government agencies in achieving their missions.

**Leslie L. Trainor, M.B.A.**



Dr. Nerea Marteache Solans, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice & Director of the Center for Criminal Justice Research joined CSUSB in 2013 and quickly began forming community partnerships to help understand and address local issues related to crime in transportation systems. Marteache partnered with Metrolink, a commuter train system servicing southern California, to study growing public safety concerns on rail lines. In 2016, Marteache and Metrolink collaborated to study how the design, maintenance, and level of place management at Metrolink train stations are associated with the amount and type of crime incidents in the surrounding area, with a special focus on the San

Bernardino and Riverside rail lines.

**Nerea Marteache, Ph.D.**



Itzel Olguin is the Administrative Support Coordinator of the William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center (LTC) at California State University, San Bernardino. Itzel completed her Bachelor of Arts in International Business from CSUSB in the Fall of 2017. As of May 2023, Itzel has transitioned into her current role at Leonard Transportation Center (LTC) marking a significant milestone in her career journey. Filled with enthusiasm and anticipation, she looks forward to embarking on new challenges and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

**Itzel A. Olguin, M.P.A.**

## LTC Student Assistants

**Ahmed Sahlem Burgos Nagi**

Ahmed Sahlem Burgos Nagi, an American of Colombian descent, spent 15 formative years in Colombia before returning to his homeland the US. During this time, he gained insights into various social classes and developed a deep appreciation for humanity. Ahmed is proficient in English; he looks forward to exploring diverse cultures and broadening his horizons. Pursuing a major in Philosophy with minors in Management & Social Change, Ahmed aspires to positively impact the world through his startup, WeilAI, an AI research company.

**Lusine Hayrapetyan**

I am an Undergraduate Student Researcher at the William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center (LTC), majoring in Computer Science. At the LTC, my research focuses on artificial intelligence, particularly retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) systems that aim to improve reliable information access in high-stakes domains. My work involves contributing to both system development and evaluation, with an emphasis on creating tools that are transparent, trustworthy, and accessible. This experience allows me to strengthen my technical skills while also exploring how technology can be designed to better support human decision-making.

**Iman Reihanian**

Iman Reihanian is a Machine Learning Scientist and graduate student in Computer Science at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). He holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence from the University of California, Irvine, and is currently pursuing his master's degree while preparing for doctoral studies in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

At CSUSB, Iman serves as a research assistant under Professor Yunfei Hou at the William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center, where his work focuses on generative AI, anomaly detection, graph-based modeling, and algorithmic complexity.



Shaun Colegado is an Undergraduate Researcher at the William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center (LTC) at California State University, San Bernardino. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, with an expected graduation in December 2026. As an avid enthusiast for mass transit and rail systems, Shaun's work at the LTC allows him to bridge his passion for transportation with his growing expertise in artificial intelligence.

## Shaun Colegado

### 9. 2026 Plans

In 2026 and beyond, LTC will focus on strengthening a research ecosystem that connects faculty expertise, student talent, regional partners, and community priorities. A key goal is to build a sustainable pipeline for transportation research so that each project not only produces meaningful findings, but also creates knowledge, data, and learning opportunities that future students and researchers can build upon. By improving project continuity and knowledge sharing, LTC will deepen its long-term impact and better support the evolving transportation needs of the Inland Empire.

LTC will also expand hands-on learning opportunities for students by connecting classroom learning with real-world transportation challenges. Through capstone projects, research assistantships, faculty-led initiatives, and programs such as PROPEL AI, students will have opportunities to contribute to applied research while developing skills in transportation, data science, artificial intelligence, and public service. This student-centered approach will help prepare the next generation of transportation leaders while supporting the region's growing workforce needs.

Looking ahead, LTC will continue to broaden its public engagement and regional visibility. The Center will strengthen advisory board activities, support student research showcases, encourage conference participation, and expand digital storytelling that highlights research outcomes and student experiences. New opportunities, including PROPEL AI and GLADS-PATH projects, will bring together students, faculty, agencies, industry partners, civic leaders, and community members to share ideas, showcase innovation, and address the transportation challenges that matter most to the Inland Empire.