CLTT Strengthens Ties with Panamanian Logistics and Transportation Sector

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Title: J. Wallace, 3rd Punter, and Frank Hille of the Center for Logistics, Trade, and Transportation (CLTT) at the University of Southern Mississippi recently visited Panama to further strengthen relationships with the University of the Panamá (UAN-L) and representatives of the logistics and transportation sectors in Panama.

The trip was sponsored by SEACET, which is the Panamanian counterpart of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), as part of a national effort to improve the country’s transportation and logistics workforce. In addition to the sponsorship of SEACET, the collaboration was made possible through a memorandum of understanding with NSF, signed by Southern Miss President Martha Jackson.Jackson.

During the visit, the CLTT delegation met with government and public sector representatives. The CLTT delegation also had the opportunity to interact with Panamanian professionals participating in the NSF’s Master of Science in Transportation and Logistics (MSTL) program, who are preparing to return to Panama in 2019 as part of the international curriculum.

CLTT faculty shared expertise with their Panamanian counterparts in an academic course focused on issues dealing with the analysis, design, and optimization of domestic and international transportation systems, people, processes, and technologies. The focus included the role of transportation in the global economy, modes of transportation, transportation optimization techniques, value-added supply chain issues, financial performance measures, and the role of governments in business logistics.

UNF professional providing the MIST, Dr. J. Wallace, presented the curriculum and the opportunities to include these projects continues to be an area of concern. The nation has made significant progress in the country’s transportation sector and logistics. The participants presented the impact of the Canal expansion at the Port of Cristobal, which has helped Panama to become a regional hub for the growth of international trade. The Panamanian participants met with industry experts as part of the course and expanded their understanding of global logistics.

The CLTT faculty also met with industry leaders in Panama to develop connections that will help Mississippi. Issues of the organizations interested in increasing ties with Southern Miss include the Panama Medical Foundation and the University of Panama. For more information about the Center, visit http://www.unf.edu/logistics-mstl.

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