James B. Martin has been named associate director at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University effective July 1, 2012. Martin replaces Robert Foyle who is retiring the end of June.

In his new position, Martin will support the overall administration of ITRE. He will also take over as director of the Highway Systems Group, providing oversight and support in project development, project management, and planning.

Martin has been with ITRE for more than 30 years and currently serves as director of the North Carolina Local Technical Assistance Program (NC LTAP) and as associate director of the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) - positions in which he will continue. He also served as the assistant director at ITRE from 1983 to 1992.

“I am delighted that James has accepted this new assignment,” said ITRE Director Nagui Rouphail. “With his long history of service at ITRE and NC State, and his extensive professional network in the state of North Carolina and beyond, I am confident he will provide excellent leadership to our Institute. James has been more than able to manage his various responsibilities at LTAP, CTE and TRB. I am sure he will bring the same level of energy, commitment and focus to his new role as associate director of ITRE. Given his longstanding professional relationship with Bob Foyle over the past 30 years, I don’t anticipate we will miss a beat in this transition. “

Martin is a registered professional engineer in North Carolina. A regular participant in the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, he is a member of two TRB committees. He also currently serves as the president of the National LTAP Association and is president-elect of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Public Works Association. He is a graduate of North Carolina State University, receiving a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in civil engineering with a concentration in transportation.

ITRE Announces Retirement of Associate Director Robert S. Foyle

When Robert S. Foyle came to work at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University (NCSU) in 1980, there were six employees and his first job was to develop a pavement management system for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). After 32 years, he has seen ITRE grow to over 40 full-time staff, five program groups, and two centers.

Foyle, who will retire at the end of June 2012, has grown right along with ITRE and has served as associate director since 2001 – providing support of the overall administration of ITRE as well as serving as director of the Highway Systems Group. He has been involved in Highway Capacity Manual training, highway simulation, traffic operations software packages, transportation engineering, and the Professional Engineering and Fundamentals of Engineering Review Courses.

Over the years, Bob taught numerous classes on traffic engineering and operations and has developed training materials on a variety of transportation topics. Foyle is particularly proud of the Professional Engineering Review course at ITRE, which came about in 1985 when NCDOT required that employees in certain engineering positions had to be licensed professional engineers. Eventually the training was opened to interested participants outside NCDOT and thousands of students have completed this training which is still in place today.

“It will be difficult for us at ITRE not to have Bob around,” ITRE Director Nagui Rouphail said of Foyle’s retirement. “He has provided such a steady, calming and professional leadership not only to our staff, affiliated faculty and students, but for the thousands of professionals who came through ITRE’s doors to be trained by him.”

Among his many accomplishments and awards, Foyle received an outstanding paper award from NCSITE and SDITE, served as a member of TRB’s AHB40 Highway Capacity and Quality of Service Committee, is a charter member of the Transportation Founders Fund at NCSU, and is a life member of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. In 2011, he was the recipient of a University Awards for Excellence at the Office of Research & Innovation unit-level at NCSU.

Rouphail describes Foyle as a model of personal integrity, fairness, and care for others. “Since I came on board back in 2001, I have yet to see him decline to participate in a community service event! While I will personally miss his advice and guidance on the many issues that face us, he can now look forward to spending more time with his lovely family and countless friends across the state and the country,” he said.

After retirement, his eventual plans are to engage in permaculture farming with his wife, Rebecca, on their 270-acre Page family farm in Caswell County. Using this sustainable, organic method to grow winter vegetables, berries, and apples, Foyle wants to focus on growing Roxbury Russet apples, believed to be the oldest known variety of apple in the United States.
Dr. Ron Hughes, director of the Institute for Transportation Research and Education’s Visualization, Analysis, Modeling, and Simulation (VAMS) Group since 2005, will retire at the end of June 2012.

In addition to leading the VAMS Group, Hughes also served as the principal investigator for the Commercial Motor Vehicle research area as well as principal investigator for research that involves the application of microscopic simulation and visualization to pedestrians and roundabouts.

With a focus on making highways safer, Hughes brought the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program to ITRE in 2006 and added the Federal Highway Administration Size and Weight program in 2007. The program currently includes the State Highway Patrol at large and freight planning. Hughes has also served as the liaison between ITRE and Volvo Technology America and Volvo Trucks North America on collaborative research on advanced vehicle concepts, safety, and security.

“It is incredible how time quickly passes,” said ITRE Director Nagui Rouphail. “Ron and I came to North Carolina at about the same time back in the early nineties. We had the same aspirations in seeing to it that transportation research takes its proper and eminent place as a state priority.”

Hughes has worked as a research psychologist for the past 38 years. His career has spanned defense, aerospace, and transportation domains. Prior to coming to ITRE, Hughes worked as a research psychologist at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC) in Chapel Hill, NC.

Hughes has been the recipient of a number of awards including a Transportation Research Board (TRB) Outstanding Paper award, as well as two awards from the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety: the Meritorious Service Award and the Gold Circle Award. Through the TRB Visualization in Transportation Committee (ABJ95), he has coordinated local and national level transportation visualization research opportunities. He has also served as chair of the Visualization Research Needs subcommittee.

“I was delighted to be able to recruit Ron to come to ITRE from UNC in 2005,” said Rouphail. “He has been a great addition to our staff and has provided invaluable strategic thinking and guidance to the many state agencies that have been fortunate to work with him over the years. I hope we can continue to collaborate with him in some capacity in the future after Ron finally gets a chance to enjoy the slower pace of life and all the perks it offers!”

After a much deserved cruise to Alaska in August with wife Jane Ann, Hughes plans to continue consulting for the Motor Carrier Enforcement component of the NC State Highway Patrol and plans to pursue other consulting opportunities in data visualization, especially as applied to freight operations.

Kyle Snyder hired as the NGAT Center director at ITRE

The Institute for Transportation Research and Education is pleased to announce the hiring of Kyle T. Snyder as the first permanent director for the NextGen Air Transportation (NGAT) Center in Planning, effective May 1, 2012. Snyder brings tremendous experience to this position and is joining ITRE at an ideal time to help the NGAT Center achieve permanent center standing with sustained long-term funding.

Snyder was recently the Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) program manager at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), in charge of developing both a UAS research program and curriculum for their students. One of his core responsibilities as the new NGAT director will be to duplicate those activities here at NCSU while also reaching out beyond UAS activities to encompass other strategic initiatives within the NGAT Center umbrella.

Prior to his position at MTSU, Snyder was the director of knowledge resources at AUVSI, the premier international association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems. He has also been employed at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Applied Systems Intelligence in Roswell, GA, Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems, Marietta, GA, and the NASA Academy in Aeronautics - NASA Dryden Flight Research, Edwards, CA.

Snyder’s position is initially being supported through a grant from the NCDOT Division of Aviation (DOA). ITRE is very appreciative of this support and commitment to the work Snyder will be advancing, both for the DOA, the NC State University community, and for the North Carolina aviation industries at large.

Starting June 4, Snyder will be on-site at ITRE and can be reached at 919-515-8623 or by email at ktsnyder@ncsu.edu. Learn more about the NGAT Center at http://itre.ncsu.edu/ngat.

The Institute for Transportation Research and Education, administered by North Carolina State University, is a non-profit organization that conducts research, education, and technical assistance projects on a wide variety of surface transportation issues with the goals of solving problems and creating new products, better services and smarter workers. ITRE is located on NCSU’s Centennial Campus.