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SmartCommute@rtp presents Kick Gas Awards to RTP employees for outstanding commuting and transportation programs

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC, June 27, 2008 – The 2008 Kick Gas Celebration took place on Thursday, June 26 at The Research Triangle Park Headquarters. Outstanding commuters and work-places with exceptional transportation programs were recognized with Kick Gas Awards at the event. The event was held jointly by the GoTriangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM) partners: SmartCommute@rtp, NCSU's Transportation Office, UNC – Chapel Hill's Commuter Alternatives Program, the Town of Chapel Hill's Go Chapel Hill Program and [Triangle Transit](http://TriangleTransit).

SmartCommute@rtp, the transportation management association for [The Research Triangle Park](http://TheResearchTrianglePark), recognized several individuals for their outstanding TDM efforts in RTP.

2008 RTP SmartCommuter of the Year Award: Pablo Torres, RTI International

Pablo Torres, an employee of RTI International, received the *2008 RTP SmartCommuter of the Year* award. He began biking to work in May of 2007 and since then has organized two month-long bike Challenges for RTI employees. For both events, over 25 cyclists participated, biking 4,472 miles and saving at least 188 gallons of gas. Pablo organizes RTI bike commuter informational meetings every few months and has established an RTI Cyclists intranet page. Pablo is now the central contact for bike commuting for RTI employees.

2008 SmartCommute@rtp Champion Winners:

Three *2008 SmartCommute@rtp Champion* winners were announced at the event.

Darryl Bloch, IBM

Darryl is the vice chair of the SmartCommute@rtp committee. As IBM's Employee Transportation Coordinator, Darryl directed IBM's participation with the annual SmartCommute Challenge campaign. IBM's Green



Team – a volunteer employee environmental team of over 150 members - helped considerably with the campaign and was instrumental in getting IBMers across the sprawling campus to take the pledge. IBM had a record number of pledges this year with a 16% increase over the last campaign in 2006. As a gold level event sponsor, IBM actively promotes commute alternatives through such means as carpooling, vanpooling, telecommuting, biking, and providing a number of on-site services (banking, cafeterias, sundry shops, etc).

Renée Marshall, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Renée is an active member of the SmartCommute@rtp committee. She coordinated EPA's involvement with the SmartCommute Challenge campaign and held three on-site pledge events on campus. EPA was a silver level sponsor of the campaign. Renée is the unofficial coordinator of vanpools for the EPA campus and is the driver of a van that comes to RTP from Fuquay-Varina. Renée helped to promote and implement a pilot program for Triangle Transit's use of mini-vans. This effort resulted in the formation of 5 mini-vanpools, plus 3 larger passenger vanpools that have been in service by EPA employees since May 2007.

Teresa Biggers, Credit Suisse

Teresa helped Credit Suisse become a member of the SmartCommute@rtp committee in December 2007. She quickly immersed herself into alternative commuting issues. Credit Suisse became a participating employer for the SmartCommute Challenge for the first time this year and held an on-site pledge event. Credit Suisse was a silver level event sponsor. Teresa publicized service changes to a regional bus route that improved ridership by employees. In her ongoing efforts to improve transit service for Credit Suisse employees, Teresa distributed an internal survey to find out the needs of her employees. She also participated in the annual Durham Commute Trip Reduction survey to help establish a baseline for commute patterns even though the company is located in the Wake County portion of RTP. Additionally, Teresa keeps a brochure display stocked with materials about alternative commuting and handles the approval of discount coupon requests for new transit riders.

SmartCommute@rtp and The Research Triangle Park congratulate all of this year's Kick Gas Award winners. The efforts of these exemplary individuals and



their organizations demonstrate the range of creativity and commitment to developing innovative commuting programs in RTP.

About SmartCommute@rtp

SmartCommute@rtp is the transportation management association (TMA) of The Research Triangle Park. Its purpose is to coordinate the transportation demand management (TDM) efforts of RTP employers to address common transportation concerns, reduce traffic congestion, and improve air quality. SmartCommute currently has 25 member employers, which account for over 80% of RTP employees. SmartCommute@rtp is staffed by the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina, owner and developer of The Research Triangle Park. For more information, visit www.SmartCommute.org.

About The Research Triangle Park

The Research Triangle Park is the leading and largest high technology research and science park in North America, covering 7,000 total acres. Founded in 1959, The Research Triangle Park is developed and managed by the non-profit Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina. The Foundation is responsible for building and maintaining the physical aspects of the Park; attracting and retaining Park companies; and enhancing the competitive position of the Park and the Triangle region. To learn more about The Research Triangle Park, visit www.rtp.org.

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