

MARCH 17, 2023

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR GENEVIEVE GIULIANO

We at Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) are delighted to be given this opportunity to recognize Gen Giuliano’s outstanding contributions to international research and education on urban freight, as well as her strong and long-standing work within our own Future urban Transport program.

In 2013 Gen became the Director of VREF’s highly successful Center of Excellence entitled MetroFreight, an international consortium led by the METRANS Transportation Center and housed at the University of Southern California. Besides the METRANS Center, this consortium consisted of core research partners in New York, Paris and Seoul, as well as partners within industry and governments in all the cities.

The overriding vision of the MetroFreight center was to become a global leader in urban freight research, education and outreach, establish urban freight as a recognized field of international study, build a global network of scholars, and contribute more broadly to knowledge building by widely disseminating data, information, results and education materials.

Under Gen’s strong professional leadership and guidance over many years, these goals have been resoundingly achieved. MetroFreight soon became a leading global network of senior and junior scholars, public and private practitioners and other experts within the area of urban freight. The Center has contributed with international state-of-the art research on urban freight, produced and distributed extensive educational materials, and developed sustainable and collaborative approaches that can be used to address urban freight challenges within planning and policy. The I-NUF conference series, already existing and further emphasized through MetroFreight, is a key international event in the field of urban freight.

In particular, Gen’s longstanding commitment to building new research capacity by supporting “next generation scholars” within urban freight has not only contributed to engaging and educating large numbers of students in this area, but also arguably raised the visibility and attractiveness of urban freight as a field of study. MetroFreight’s educational program has included an interdisciplinary graduate course on urban freight, a curriculum guide, industry-focused short courses, and professional training for industrial leaders and policy makers both in the US and internationally.

With its nine consecutive years of operation (2013-2021), MetroFreight became not only one of VREF's most long-standing initiatives, but also one of the most successful international Centers of Excellence in the history of our program.

Gen has also consistently and willingly made strong contributions to many other scholarly initiatives and activities within our program in areas other than urban freight, such as international conferences, seminars and scientific evaluations.

On a more personal note, we would like to mention that we have always really looked forward to interacting with Gen, and getting to know her more, at workshops and conferences in places as diverse as Dar es Salaam, Long Beach and Fortaleza. Gen has always been a very positive presence at these meetings - always ready to discuss, chat more generally, and explore local restaurants at day's end.

We congratulate and thank Gen immensely for her multifaceted and sustained contributions – and we know that we will stay in touch!

Henrik Nolmark, VREF Director

Jane Summerton, prof em, VREF Scientific Advisor