

John D. Leonard II, Ph.D.

Executive Associate Dean and Professor at VCU College of Engineering

Richmond, VA, US

Engineering expert overseeing business and administrative operations for the School of Engineering

Biography

As an administrator and academic leader, Dean Leonard brings a rigorous, data-oriented approach to resource allocation, decision-making, and operations. As Associate Dean, he focuses his technical expertise, computational interests, and leadership skills to create better linkages between institutional data and institutional strategy. Dean Leonard designed and implemented a campus-wide data warehouse combining student, employee, faculty, financial, space, and other institutional data into a single, common framework, and developed prototypical tools and reports demonstrating how this new warehouse can be integrated into strategic planning, measurement and tracking processes. As one example, for the past six years his graduate reporting system has supported the enrollment and employment of over 2300 graduate student employees each semester by engaging and synchronizing nearly 100 staff members across 23 schools and departments and all 6 Colleges at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

As a researcher and faculty member, Professor Leonard's research focuses on traffic flow theory and computer simulation. Once a field based primarily on manual calculations and site-specific engineering design, transportation engineering has evolved to a multidisciplinary field, combining sensors, communications networks, analytical models, and software to solve system-wide problems. Professor Leonard's research has led to an improved understanding of freeway congestion, better tools and procedures for reducing local congestion, and deployment of improved strategies for relieving system congestion related to incidents. Professor Leonard's professional experience, including serving as Interim Executive Director of the State Road and Tollway Authority, brings a broad, public policy-oriented perspective of technology and transportation to the classroom. Professor Leonard has served the profession at national, state and regional levels, including leadership roles in the American Society of Engineering Education, on Transportation Research Board-National Research Council committees, as President of ITS Georgia, and as a member of regional and city task forces and transportation committees. As a faculty mentor, Professor Leonard's doctoral students are successful and well-placed and include a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts and a Professor at the Korea National University of Transportation.

Industry Expertise

Research, Education/Learning, Transportation/Trucking/Railroad, Program Development, Public Policy, Civil Engineering, Highways / Railroads, Computer Software

Areas of Expertise

Modeling and simulation of traffic and transportation systems, Traffic flow theory and traffic engineering, Intelligent transportation systems, Institutional Research, Studies of higher education institutions

Affiliations

Education

University of California, Irvine
Ph.D. Engineering

University of California, Irvine
M.S. Engineering (Transportation)

University of California, Irvine
Engineering (Civil & Environmental) B.S.

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