

# Kansas State University Transportation Center Student of the Year (2011)

## Wilson Smith



### **Biography**

Wilson Smith is originally from Independence, Missouri where his parents still live. He earned his BSCE from Kansas State University in December 2009 and began working on his master's degree immediately afterward in the geotechnical engineering field. His research involves investigating how feasible calcium lignosulfonate (lignin) is as a soil stabilizer for unpaved roads. The research addressing early age strengths of lignin-sand mixes has just been completed. Wilson's research, which is currently underway, will provide an assessment of the feasibility of lignin use. This will be accomplished by allowing specimens to dry in a controlled temperature and humidity environment. Wilson's research has been featured in the Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka, KS. Wilson has also been an advisor and participant in the ASCE Regional Conference Geotechnical Competition at Kansas State.

**Thesis Title:** "The Effect of Air Drying on the Strength Gain of Sand Stabilized by Plant Derived Material"