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Gantt Speaks at First Contingency Planning Symposium in Nashville

Murray State University's Program of Distinction in Telecommunications Systems Management (TSM) was represented at the 2010 Contingency Planning Symposium of the Southeast this past Thursday November 4th, by Director of the Center for TSM, Dr. James Gantt and Communications Researcher, Randall Winchester. The event was hosted by the Middle Tennessee Chapter of ACP and Nashville Technology Council and held at the Nashville Convention Center in Nashville, TN. The symposium was a one-day event that included some of the most respected and esteemed professionals in fields of Business Continuity, Disaster Recovery (IT), and Emergency Management.

Gantt was asked to be a speaker for one of the Emergency Management breakout sessions featured during the day. His topic was 'Emergency Communications and Management during Natural Disasters'. He spoke about the importance of communication in order to coordinate the restoration of infrastructures. Winchester accompanied Gantt and both men discussed the hard work the Center for TSM has been involved with since the ice storm hit in February 2008. Gantt showed images of the different models of the Mobile Information Telecom Operation Center (MITOC), a device designed for emergency communications in case of a disaster. The MITOC is being used in locations such as Lexington and Frankfort, KY by public safety officials, in hospitals across west Kentucky, law enforcement in south eastern Kentucky and a mining safety organization in West Virginia.

President of the Nashville Technology Council, J Tod Fetherling was excited about the first meeting, "Our first Contingency Planning Symposium of the Southeast was a hit, the unique collaboration with the Nashville ACP Chapter helped bring in education, businesses, and government to understand the risks and mitigation of those risks through the intersection of technology and people."