

## News & Announcements

### *Don't miss out -*

The ARC now uses RSS to inform you of changes to the ARC web site (such as publication of this newsletter).

See <http://www.almisdb.org/Level2/rssinfo.cfm> for more information about this feed and about RSS in general.

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# ADAM Project Enters Pilot Phase

*by Jackie Keener, Employment Security Commission of North Carolina*

The ALMIS Distributed Access Method, or **ADAM**, Project, designed to provide cross-state access to ALMIS data via the Internet, entered the pilot testing phase in October 2005. The pilot states - Alaska, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Washington and North Carolina - are installing and testing the ADAM version 1.0 release over the next several months. As testing progresses, plans for making the system available to other states will be formulated and provided to LMI Directors via communications from the Workforce Information Council State Representatives.

ADAM provides tools that states can incorporate into LMI delivery applications that allow access to and display of ALMIS data from other participating states.

The ADAM system is composed of several components that function together:

- **ALMIS Database** - Version 2.3 (current queries target ALMIS 2.3 core tables; however, the ADAM system is extensible to other ALMIS versions),
- **ADAM Local Repository** - Metadata (data describing data) about a state's database.
- **ADAM National Repository** - Master Server Directory (location information about participating states' ADAM servers) and Master XML Queries.
- **ADAM Server** - Gateway to a state's Local Repository and ALMIS database.
- **ADAM Client** - Class library that allows a custom web application to communicate to a state's ADAM Server.
- **ADAM Admin** - Component that allows states to set the administrative functions for the ADAM system in their state.
- **ADAM Loader** - Component designed to load and update a state's ADAM Local Repository. It may also be used to load ALMIS data.
- **ADAM Web Display Tool** (including ADAM Content Administrator) - An optional, customizable web application designed to deliver data from ALMIS database tables.

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## ADAM Project...continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

The aforementioned components work together to provide the following features:

- Multi-state ALMIS Data Accessibility
  - ▲ Access to participating states' ALMIS core table data via 23 standard ADAM queries
  - ▲ Control of the ADAM query execution capability by state
  - ▲ State control of the appropriate level of access to data for each user (non-confidential vs. confidential)
- Distributed computing model – no one single point of failure
- Robust Extensibility – States can develop custom ADAM queries for both:
  - ▲ Non-Core ALMIS tables
  - ▲ Non-ALMIS tables
- Flexible Web Functionality – States can use three options to access the ADAM tools and provide information to customers:
  - ▲ Adapt existing state applications
  - ▲ Create new state applications
  - ▲ Use the ADAM Web Display Tool

### Recommended Hardware and Software Requirements for ADAM

The ADAM system requires two servers: a database server and a

web server. While it is not a mandatory requirement that these be dedicated servers, each state will have to determine the most appropriate resource allocation to balance cost, burden, and performance in order to meet customer needs.

Database server software specifications:

- A standard installation of the ALMIS 2.3 database
- SQL Server 2000 or Oracle 9i
- Latest SQL Server or Oracle service packs installed
- Local ALMIS Database can be accessed from a remote ADAM Server
- Database must be configured to support data between 2 GB and 10 GB. For very large states, the upper limit may be higher than 10 GB
- ADAM database account

Database server hardware minimum specifications:

- Pentium 4 processor
- 640 MB memory (strongly suggest 1GB)
- 100 GB hard drive
- Windows 2003 operating system
- Read/Write CD Rom

ADAM components that reside on the database server:

- A standard installation of the

ALMIS 2.3 database

- ADAM Local Repository
- Web server software specifications:
- Must be outside the firewall (port 80)
  - It is highly recommended that this be a dedicated server, but this is not a mandatory requirement
  - Microsoft.Net framework 1.1 or higher
  - Internet Explorer IIS 6 or higher

Web server hardware minimum specifications:

- Pentium 4 processor
- 512 MB RAM
- 500 MB of disk space available for caching
- Microsoft.Net framework 1.1 or higher
- Internet Explorer IIS 6 or higher

ADAM components that reside on the web server:

- ADAM Server
- ADAM Client
- ADAM Admin
- Optional ADAM Web Display Tool or state custom web application

Note: The ADAM National repository resides on a server in North Carolina. The ADAM Loader can reside on a workstation which most likely will be the state's ALMIS Administrator's workstation.

## ARC Services in 2006

*by Vicki Boylston, South Carolina Employment Security Commission*

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has continued support for the ALMIS Resource Center in the new year. ETA grant funds for ARC products and services have been authorized through June 30, 2006. The funds will support

ongoing functions of the ARC Workgroup, which plans and oversees all ARC activities. Additionally, the funds will support the National Crosswalk Service Center and the ALMIS Employer Database.

The ARC provides a wide range of products and services. These include maintenance and enhancement of the ALMIS Database, as well as planning and coordination of education and

*(Continued on page 3)*

## DBA in the Spotlight

### John Pearce

Oregon Employment  
Department  
Eugene, Oregon  
john.f.pearce@state.or.us



No photo available



moved to Oregon from California 10 years ago.

#### What are your interests outside of work?

Stargazing. When I lived in Los Angeles, I had to drive hours out to the desert to get away from the city lights. Here in Eugene I only have to drive over the hill towards Spencer Butte. (In the summer, of course.)

#### What is your favorite work-related web site? Why?

I suppose like most DBAs, I depend on the Crosswalk center more than anything else. I think Steve does a terrific job of keeping it up-to-date. I also like the Wikipedia. Even with the recent black-eye they got over the Seigenthaler affair, I still find it a useful and generally accurate source of information.

#### What training have you taken recently and would you recommend it to other DBAs?

I've gotten quite a bit from the two ALMIS Seminars, both in terms of the sessions and just the opportunity to meet and chat with other DBAs. I hope we can continue to have these events.

#### What is the strangest job you ever held?

I once worked for Trader Joe's Market in Sherman Oaks, California. A lot of movie stars shopped there. It was interesting to see what they bought.

#### What is the most rewarding aspect of your current job?

Keeping the data and the technology up-to-date.

#### What is the most challenging aspect of your current job?

Keeping the data and the technology up-to-date.

#### What is the most interesting or awe-inspiring place you've been?

There really isn't one place I could choose. Florence, Italy was inspiring, Mexico City was fascinating and Kalispell, Montana was breath taking.

#### Read any good books lately (personal or work-related) that you would recommend others read?

[Living to Tell the Tale](#), the first volume of Gabriel Garcia-Marquez's autobiography and [The Misbehavior of Markets](#) by Benoit Mandelbrot. Work related, I enjoyed [Database in Depth](#) by Chris Date, although it is a bit theoretical.

#### How long have you been involved in the world of LMI?

I've been with the Oregon Employment Department for 10 years, most of that time has been spent working with LMI.

#### How long have you been an ALMIS DBA?

About 9-1/2 years. I actually started working with the OLMID before the first release of ALMIS came out.

#### What is your educational background?

I have a BA and an MA in Political Science.

#### Are you originally from Oregon?

I was born in Florida, but I've spent most of my life on the West Coast. I

## ARC Services in 2006...continued

(Continued from page 2)

communication resources. The ARC website and electronic newsletter are the primary tools for both web-based training and communication. ARC training is also delivered in classroom settings, as well as through national seminars. The classes and seminars provide excellent opportunities for face-to-face communication and interaction

among ALMIS Database administrators and other workforce information professionals around the country.

The ARC also serves as the administrative entity for the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) and the ALMIS Employer Database. NCSC is the focal point

for dissemination of data files and other technical resources that are extremely valuable to ALMIS Database administrators and other professionals. The ALMIS Employer Database provides access to detailed information about businesses nationwide.

# DBA in the Spotlight

**Nancy Gemignani**  
California Employment  
Development Department  
Sacramento, CA  
lmid.ngemignani@edd.ca.gov



## How long have you been involved in the world of LMI?

I have done two “tours” in LMI for a total of 14 years. From 1978 to 1982 I worked as a local labor market analyst and did CES industry estimates. I also worked on some of the first industry and occupational projections in 1979. I’m still on the second tour that started in 1995 when I was hired to maintain and improve California’s electronic bulletin board system. The BBS grew into our first LMI Web site. In between, I didn’t venture too far from LMI and data, as I was the lead analyst in the California State Census Data Center for 13 years.

## How long have you been an ALMIS DBA?

Not long, officially – only a couple of years – but I’ve been the data contact for a long time since almost everything comes through my team to go on-line.



## What is your educational background?

Promise not to laugh? I have a Bachelor of Arts in Rhetoric from the University of California at Davis. It was a great major for me at the time. It taught me a great many skills that I continue to use every day including public speaking, logical thinking, information research, and writing. My dad says I have a “BA in BS”.

## Are you originally from California?

No, my dad was in the Air Force so we moved around a LOT. I was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming. By the time we settled down in Sacramento, California, when I was a sophomore in high school, I had probably attended 15 different schools and had lived in nine different states.

## What are your interests outside of work?

My church, Disneyland and the British monarchy! I’m the Webmaster for the church Web site and Vacation Bible School director.

My husband, Steven, and I are annual pass holders for Disneyland. We were there three times in 2005 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It’s about an eight-hour drive from Sacramento to Anaheim or we would have been there much more often!

I’ve been interested in the history of the British monarchy for almost 35 years. I collect British royalty commemoratives.

## What is your favorite work-related web site? Why?

Since I get asked a lot of questions from our staff that really have nothing to do with LMI, my favorites are the US Census Bureau’s

American FactFinder and Google. From American FactFinder’s “Data Sets” link, I have instant access to data that used to take a mainframe computer run and SAS code to extract. And using Google I can quickly find information anywhere.

## Do you have any project management tools or tips you'd like to share with other DBAs?

We probably don’t do as much project management as we should. Most of our projects are small and we just get it done. But our On-line Systems Team has grown from one person to four and our tasks are much more complex, so I look forward to tips from others.

## What is the most interesting or awe-inspiring place you've been?

Buckingham Palace – I took the tour in 1997 and the paintings and beauty of the furnishings was incredible. It also gave me goose bumps to be in the Queen’s home.

## What do you see as future challenges for DBAs?

The challenge will be to keep up-to-date in the technology changes for accessing databases. ALMIS DBAs not only need to know how to get the data into the database but they will need to develop tools so that users can get the data out. If users cannot access the data then their perception of the value of the database decreases. This means the constant fights for funding will get worse. Unfortunately, we are all so busy that we don’t have the time to do what we need to let alone what we should do. Plus as government employees, we do not get the opportunities to attend conferences or workshops to explore the latest and greatest technology.

# ALMIS in Action

## California

By Nancy Gemignani, California Employment Development Department

California's new ALMIS-based Web site, *LaborMarketInfo* (<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>) celebrated its first birthday in September 2005. This site is a combination of California's version of Workforce Informer (WI), which is hosted and maintained by CIBER, Inc. in Vancouver, Washington, and our old static Web site, CALMIS, which we maintain ourselves. The dynamic components are on the WI site and extract data from the ALMIS database. The ALMIS database is version 2.3 on a SQL server. We anticipate that in a year or two California will take over the hosting and maintenance of the Workforce Informer site.

We maintain two versions of our database - a local version, not accessible from the Internet, where we store historical and confidential data and the on-line version, which only contains the current public information. The ALMIS database for California is big - really BIG - for example there are over a million records in "ces" and 1.5 million employers in "empdb". Our "industry" table grows by 10MB each quarter.

To assist in uploading data to the ALMIS database, we have developed a "loader" that converts our data from the files provided by the BLS program staff into ALMIS-format text files. These are then uploaded to the on-line database and our local version. For example, our CES/LAUS staff provides their monthly data in an Excel file for each geographic



area. The loader has automated the process of opening the file and extracting the appropriate data and generates an ALMIS record for the "labforce" or "ces" tables. For us, it was easier to use the loader than to ask the CES staff to submit ALMIS-format files.

When we launched our Workforce Informer site, we had hoped we could eliminate the need to provide our CES, LAUS, and OES data in static Excel files as on our old site. However, our customers raised quite a ruckus when they realized the Excel files would no longer be available. We found that many of our "data hogs" used the formatted Excel files as inputs to their own processes. Because of the large number of records in California's database, it is almost impossible to provide all the data in the Excel files from an on-line query of the ALMIS database without generating a "time out" error. So, the old site is used for "storage" of our data in Excel files and links to these files are on the WI site. This is an important lesson for LMI sites - due to the wide range of LMI skills and knowledge of our customers, there is not one solution that will satisfy all users.

As data providers, we almost need a separate Web site for each customer group. To this goal, California has developed customer-specific portal pages. Links to these pages are on the left-hand menu on the Web site. On the customer pages, we have tried to provide links to the most important information for each group and to use the terms that are familiar to that group. For example the page built for our employment service staff in the field, called "EDD Staff" is very streamlined - just a laundry list of links using the terms they know. But, on the other hand, the "Researchers" page has a lot of articles and information about the data sets and trends. Unfortunately, some pages, like "Researchers", is in danger of becoming too cluttered. As we work with the WI application, we are constantly refining the presentation of information.

In California, the On-line Systems Team consists of a lead IT analyst (ALMIS DBA), a staff IT analyst and two programmers. This team is responsible for maintaining the California ALMIS database; developing and maintaining the content of LaborMarketInfo; designing, developing, and maintaining IT solutions for LMI program staff; and responding to customer inquiries for data and assistance on using the Web site.

For information about the California ALMIS database or Web site, contact Nancy Gemignani at (916) 262-2213 or e-mail at [Imid](mailto:Imid.ngemignani@edd.ca.gov).  
[NGEMIGNANI@edd.ca.gov](mailto:NGEMIGNANI@edd.ca.gov)

Note to readers: In an effort to continue the "Innovative Solutions" sessions of the ALMIS Database Seminar, we are excited to give states an opportunity in the **ARC e-newsletter** to showcase online state labor market information applications that are currently using the ALMIS Database and/or the Employer Database. If you would like to have yours showcased in an upcoming e-newsletter, please email [mskalberg@yahoo.com](mailto:mskalberg@yahoo.com).

## ALMIS in Action...continued

### Oregon

By John Pearce, Oregon Employment Department

Our OLMIS website is [www.qualityinfo.org](http://www.qualityinfo.org). It's custom-developed by us (myself and a team of 10 other people who participate in varying degrees.) It has been around since July 1997 and was probably one of the first web applications to use the ALMIS database.

We use a lot of state-specific tables but we try to get them adopted by the ALMIS Database Consortium if we can.

We are pretty much ALMIS Database Version 2.3. We use an Oracle database to run OLMIS. But we are increasingly using MySQL to run some other in-house applications.

Additionally, Iowa's system: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us> is a clone of the OLMIS software.

Site Index Glossary

**OREGON**  
EMPLOYMENT  
DEPARTMENT  
OLMIS

Quality Information...  
...Informed Choices

ONE WAY ONE WAY

Oregon Labor Market Information System January 7, 2006

Welcome to the Oregon Labor Market Information System!  
Questions or comments? Please [write us!](#)

**Oregon Added Lots of Jobs in 2005**  
Rapid pace of state's employment growth expected to slow as national economy decelerates. - Dec-21-2005  
[Go To Article](#)

**Quick Stats**

**Unemployment Rates**  
Seasonally Adjusted

	Nov 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2004
Oregon	5.8%	5.9%	7.2%
United States	5.0%	5.0%	5.4%

[Local Area Rates](#) [Latest Monthly Press Release](#)

**New Help For Businesses**  
Internet-based [Business Information Center](#) caters to the specific needs of individual companies.

**What's New**

**Unemployment Rate Drops Below Six Percent**  
In-depth analysis of the employment and unemployment data for November 2005.  
Dec-21-2005 [Go To Article](#)

**Metals Manufacturing: 'Old Economy' Still Producing Job Opportunities**  
Industry leaders and educators join forces to meet challenges of

### Ohio

By Larry Less, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Workforce Development/Labor Market Information

The *Ohio Workforce Informer* web application at [www.OhioWorkforceInformer.org](http://www.OhioWorkforceInformer.org) is hosted by Ciber. It runs on a SQL Server platform. It has been converted to release Version 2.3 of the ALMIS Database with an enhanced version of the Workforce Informer product. We do not use state-specific tables; all of it is contained in the ALMIS Database. When we and Ciber customized and broadened the search of employers in Ohio earlier this year (EMPDB lookup), we needed to populate the SUBGEOG table at a more detailed level. However, that was an extension to an existing table rather than an external table.

Monthly demand for information from *Ohio Workforce Informer* has more than doubled since it was officially released to the public in June 2004.

WORKFORCE 411

**Ohio Workforce Informer**

[www.OhioWorkforceInformer.org](http://www.OhioWorkforceInformer.org) Your Source for Ohio's Labor Market Information

Ohio WI Home My LMI Career Center Labor Market Info Data Query

Search:  GO  
Advanced Search

Tour  
Main Pages  
Focus on Business  
Focus on Job Seekers  
Focus on Researchers  
More on Careers  
Site Map  
Help  
Glossary  
Maps  
Get Adobe Reader  
Get Office Viewer

New User? Sign Up.  
User Name:   
Password:   
LOGIN

Welcome to  
**Ohio Workforce Informer!**  
Your Source for Labor Market Information for the State of Ohio

Whether you are an employer, job seeker, student, researcher or economic analyst, this dynamic, interactive site provides the labor and economic information you need to make informed decisions. To learn more about this site, [take the tour](#).

Looking for Ohio's Classic LMI site?  
It's still available! Any time you wish to visit Ohio LMI Classic, click the button found in the left navigation bar.

**Fast Stats**  
**Ohio & United States Unemployment Rates**  
Ohio's unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in November, down from 5.8 percent in October. The

Looking for work?  
Need an employee?  
Click **SCOTI** Ohio

**About Ohio Workforce Informer**

**Ohio Workforce Informer** has five main sections:

[Ohio Workforce Informer Home](#)  
This is the page you are currently viewing and has general information about Ohio Workforce Informer.

[My LMI](#)  
You can create a personal web page to store your favorite articles, publications and data queries. Saved data will be automatically updated when new numbers are available. Next time you log in, you can see your information on one convenient page. Register by using the "New User? Sign Up" link on the left navigation bar.

[Career Center](#)

# Can I have that in Spanish? How about Chinese?

By Steve Rosenow, National Crosswalk Service Center

**D**elivery of labor market information to a Spanish-speaking population is becoming more important to all states as that population grows. States may also have immigrant populations that could benefit from LMI resources translated into their native languages.

If you're responsible for developing or contributing to a solution, where do you start? National Crosswalk Service Center staff have taken an inventory of available resources and developed a list of practices to help states. Look for more information in future newsletters as this basic research is expanded and states share their experience and expertise.

The advent of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), along with growing international trade, has led to an increasing interest in non-English resources. State workforce agencies share this interest as their clientele becomes

more diverse. We've discovered a handful of Spanish-language resources available for use as part of a Labor Market Information Delivery system:

▲ *O\*NET Database*: The Department of Labor and the Mexican government have translated the O\*NET 4.0 database into Spanish. The database can be downloaded from the National O\*NET Center's web site at [http://www.onetcenter.org/db\\_spanish.html](http://www.onetcenter.org/db_spanish.html). That page also contains information about the development of the database.

▲ *Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) manual*: The Bureau of Labor Statistics has made a Spanish version of the SOC manual available. The National Crosswalk Service Center has made a MS Word version of this file available for downloading from <ftp://ftp.xwalkcenter.org/download/spanish/soc99dictSpanish.zip>.

▲ *North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) manual*: The Mexican government has created Adobe PDF files that contain the NAICS manual in Spanish, as well as separate files for sections of the manual. These files are available at <http://www.inegi.gob.mx/est/contenidos/espanol/metodologias/censos/scian/menu.asp?c=5433>.

▲ *Career Videos*: The State of California has made Spanish-language QuickTime versions of many of the Employment and Training Administration's career videos available. The files are available for downloading from the National Crosswalk Service Center (see <ftp://ftp.xwalkcenter.org/DOWNLOAD/video/Spanish/index.txt>). The videos are available for viewing on America's Career InfoNet at [http://www.acinet.org/acinet/CareerVideos\\_SpReal.asp?id=27&nodeid=28](http://www.acinet.org/acinet/CareerVideos_SpReal.asp?id=27&nodeid=28). The videos are also available for downloading from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development at [http://wnjpin1.dol.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/cv\\_sp.pl](http://wnjpin1.dol.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/cv_sp.pl). The New Jersey agency was the lead developer of the career video series for the Department of Labor.

▲ *Translation Services*: We've discovered two online services that provide free on-the-fly translation for web pages (Babel Fish at <http://www.babelfish.altavista.com/> and Free Translation at <http://www.freetranslation.com/free/web.htm>). Use of these services allow agencies to provide much of their information in other languages. Some caveats:

- The quality of the translation will vary with the subject matter. Web sites that include a

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## Can I have that in Spanish...continued

(Continued from page 7)

significant amount of jargon, as LMI pages frequently will, may pose problems for the translation.

- Graphic files are not translated. Sites that use graphics for navigation may lose some functionality when translated. However, the "alt text" furnished for the graphic images is translated, so the pages will be more functional that they first appear. For example, the Texas LMI application at <http://www.tracer2.com/> translates well through the Altavista Babel Fish translation. Although the NCSC home page at <http://www.xwalkcenter.org/> doesn't appear to translate as well, the translation of the Alt Text for the links menu and the text navigation at the bottom of each page compensate somewhat for the use of graphics for navigation.

The search for the resources included in this article provided

some basic lessons that apply to both the development and delivery of non-English information, whether over the Internet or in printed form:

- ▲ It's difficult to find those resources unless you speak the language. For example, there may be a variety of files available on Mexican government web sites, but without links from English sites, we couldn't find them. It's extremely important to have staff that speak the targeted languages, or to have ready access to those who are fluent in them.
- ▲ Many of the issues you will face also apply to developing web sites that are accessible to persons with disabilities. For example, you'll need to find a way to provide information to those to whom the English words or graphics are not useful.
- ▲ There are a variety of agencies and groups who can provide assistance. For example, Iowa has the Commission on Latino Affairs within its Department of Human Rights. Both that commission and

the Internet links provided on its web site may lead to helpful information and services. Just as you're interested in delivering more and better information to your audience, there are groups who are interested in getting your information to their constituency.

The ALMIS Resource Center will continue its research into alternate modes of delivery of Labor Market Information and will provide updates in future newsletters. The center encourages states with available resources of best practices to share them for future use in this space. Send them to [ncsc.almis@iowa.gov](mailto:ncsc.almis@iowa.gov).

### Did you know...

#### Top 5 Largest Databases\* (gigabytes)

Yahoo!	100,386
AT&T	93,876 (HP)
KI IT-Group	49,397
AT&T	26,713 (Sun)
LGR-Cingular Wireless	25,203

Source: Winter Corporation,  
[http://www.wintercorp.com/](http://www.wintercorp.com/VLDB/2005_TopTen_Survey/TopTenWinners_2005.asp)  
VLDB/2005\_TopTen\_Survey/TopTenWinners\_2005.asp

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Resource  
Center

*news*

c/o Employment Security Commission of North Carolina  
700 Wade Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27611

**Editor & Layout:** Marilyn Skalberg  
**Senior Editors:** Vicki Boylston, Sylvia Jones, Barbara Ledvina, Steve Rosenow, John Pearce,  
**Contributors This Edition:** Nancy Gemignani, Jackie Keener, Larry Less, John Pearce, Steve Rosenow  
**Web Page Preparation:** Barbara Ledvina

If you have any questions regarding **ARC news** or would like to contribute information, please contact Marilyn Skalberg (541) 434-0334 or Email [mskalberg@yahoo.com](mailto:mskalberg@yahoo.com).

*The ALMIS Database is a normalized, relational database structure developed for the storage and maintenance of labor market, economic, demographic and occupational information. The ALMIS Resource Center is responsible for the ALMIS Database structure development, update, and maintenance. Members include North Carolina (lead), Connecticut, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and ETA, along with support from the National Crosswalk Service Center and the LMI Institute.*