Senior Lauren A. Stachowicz of Oxford, Conn. was named Student of the Year for 2010 by the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center.

Stachowicz was selected for the award because of her academic achievements, her efforts on a Rhode Island Department of Transportation-funded research project and her skills as a student-leader in URI's Supply Chain Management program.

“I was quite surprised when I found out that I received the award,” said Stachowicz. “I knew that past recipients were mostly graduate or PhD students. I’m honored to be recognized for my work and to be put in a category with all the other well-accomplished people.”

A Centennial Scholar, Stachowicz entered URI as a Marketing major, but switched to Supply Chain Management in her freshman year.

“After attending a presentation about Supply Chain Management, I became intrigued about the program. Within weeks I changed my major,” recalled Stachowicz. “The topic is so fascinating to me and is such an important aspect of businesses that no one even thinks about. I also chose the major because of the growth that it could offer me in the future as well as the numerous job opportunities it provides.”

In October 2010, Stachowicz began an internship at RIDOT, where she was responsible for identifying ways to streamline the post-qualification process within the contract administration department. This involved extracting data from Excel documents and developing business process charts.

The research she performed with Dr. Doug Hales, an associate professor in URI’s Supply Chain Management department, had a similar purpose. However, the research data was collected by interviewing RIDOT personnel in order to develop performance metrics.

“Lauren is very bright and provided some great insights into solutions that had not been previously considered on transportation performance measures,” said Hales. “She worked very well with a graduate student to develop the questionnaires, analyze the data, and summarize the results.”

Stachowicz also demonstrated initiative as the vice president of the Supply Chain Management Club.

“I was responsible for organizing events, which included contacting guest speakers, setting things up and cleaning up afterwards,” stated Stachowicz.

As a member of the Business Student Advisory Council, she represented the Supply Chain Management students.

“If there were any problems the students were having within the major, I would bring them up in the monthly meetings,” said Stachowicz.

Stachowicz received her Student of the Year award at the Transportation Research Board’s National Conference in Washington, D.C.

“It was very nice to meet the other award recipients and learn about their research projects,” said Stachowicz. “I also got to meet many different transportation professionals.”