Operations Research Excellence

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Michael F. Gorman, professor of operations management and decision sciences at the University of Dayton, is a finalist for the top award in the field of applied operations research.

The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) honored Gorman and two co-authors from CSX Transportation Inc. for their study of the company's $5 million system to efficiently distribute empty rail cars to shippers.

The study found that the system has saved CSX over $550 million since 1998, improved customer service and helped the company avoid costly capital investment in new cars. CSX was the first in the U.S. freight rail industry to implement the systems.

"CSX Railway Cashes in on Optimized Equipment Distribution," was one of six finalists for the Franz Edelman Award for Achievement in Operations Research and the Management Sciences. The award recognizes and rewards outstanding examples of management science and operations research practice in the world, with $15,000 in awards.

The field of operations research uses advanced analytical methods to study complex systems and processes of organizations to improve efficiency and productivity and help executives make better decisions.

INFORMS is the largest professional society in the world in the field of operations research. The winner will be announced in April at the organization's annual meeting in Phoenix.

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