



## STUDENT FUNDING AND INITIATIVES COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Student Funding and Initiatives Committee (SFIC) is to encourage, support, and provide opportunities to attract, retain and develop the most talented students into transportation professionals.

### **Long-term Strategic Goals (5+ years)**

The following are long-term goals of the SFIC in support of the mission and the ITE Western District's Strategic Goal related to Student Initiatives.

- *Engage:* Increase student involvement in ITE Western District initiatives as measured through the number of active student members and student chapters participating in initiatives.
- *Support:* Enhance support for student chapters, with an emphasis on less established student chapters.
- *Coordinate:* Enhance coordination between the SFIC, Career Guidance Committee, and other International/District/Section committees and student chapter professional liaisons focused on student initiatives to enhance the student experience.
- *Fund:* Provide a continuous and stable funding source to support expanded student initiatives.

### **Short-term Objectives (1-3 years):**

The following are specific initiatives that will be undertaken or maintained in the relatively near future to move the committee toward its long-term goals.

#### *Goal: Engage*

- Increase opportunities for student involvement in ITE Western District through an increase in student initiatives and events.
- Increase student participation in existing student initiatives as measured through number of active student members and student chapters engaged in the initiatives.

#### *Goal: Support*

- Review existing student chapter bylaws to identify opportunities to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Facilitate support for student chapter advisors/student chapter professional liaisons to new or less established student chapters.

- Provide resources for student chapters to engage with their communities and bring awareness to transportation engineering.
- Work with the Career Guidance committee to increase the prestige of the Outstanding Educator Award through free annual meeting registration and a monetary award to cover the cost of international dues.
- Work with the District Administrator to create a toolbox for student chapter advisors and student chapter professional liaisons to create a more consistent student chapter experience.
- Identify a toolbox or template to assist new or less established student chapters (e.g., Student Chapter 101 handbook).
- Work with the Technical Committee Chair on the data collection fund projects to identify opportunities for student chapters to engage with K-12 outreach in their communities.

*Goal: Coordinate*

- Coordinate with student chapter professional liaisons to ensure a consistent student chapter experience.
- Coordinate within the ITE Western District to support the student member transition to professional members.

*Goal: Fund*

- Maintain the existing Student Endowment Fund level of approximately \$500,000
- Ensure the stability of the fund through periodic evaluation of the fund.

**Actions (6-18 months)**

The following are a list of specific actions corresponding to the objectives listed above that the Career Guidance Committee will undertake over the next 18 months.

- Initiate a twice annual or quarterly student forum for student leaders to gather and discuss student chapter activities.
- Introduce a new initiative (such as the Student Initiatives Grant for New Activities and Learning fund) to provide more opportunities for student chapters to apply for funding.
- Increase the number of travel scholarships awarded annually with the goal of awarding one scholarship per state within the ITE Western District.
- Update student contact lists annually and review communication and advertising practices for events and initiatives.
- Review deadlines and event dates with a lens towards university calendars to encourage student participation and adjust dates as necessary.
- Implement a consistent communication schedule (i.e., once a month updates with student chapters, faculty advisors and student chapter professional liaisons)
- Survey student chapters to understand existing ways student chapters engage with their communities.
- Survey student chapters to understand existing ways student chapters engage underserved or underrepresented student populations.
- Survey less established student chapters to understand ways to better support less established student chapters.
- Review ITE International Student/Young Member Transition Task Force Implementation Plan and evaluate actions the SFIC can implement.
- Set up quarterly check-in meetings between the chair of the Career Guidance Committee and the SFIC to identify transition points between committees and establish a smoother student member to young member transition.

- Identify the student chapter professional liaisons for each student chapter and update contact information accordingly.
- Schedule annual roundtable to discuss best practices for student chapter professional liaisons and share information between sections on student events.
- Create a three-year budget to determine the spending needs of the SFIC and the ability to support expanded student initiatives.
- Evaluate current award levels and identify opportunities to increase the level of award or number of student awards.
- Review outreach and messaging about the fund periodically (every 6 months) to ensure consistency with fundraising needs.
- Periodic (every 1 year) evaluation of the fund to determine appropriate fundraising needs, including presence and engagement at annual meeting (every 1 year).
- Periodic (every 1 year) evaluation of investments to ensure conformity with our investment policy.

Created by Kayla Fleskes (December 2021)