



Official Publication ITE Western District
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President's Message

By Giancarlo Gandini, T.E., PTP, ITE Western District President

The Western District held its Mid-Year Board Meeting on January 29th. We welcomed a new roster of Section Representatives who shared some of the creative ways each Section has adapted to the virtual environment. Our current Section Representatives are:

- Alaska - Jared Travis
- San Francisco Bay Area - Smadar Boardman
- Central California - Bryan Igarita
- Central Coast - Kathryn Kleinschmidt
- Hawaii - Jennylyn Tapat
- Northern California - Jana Cervantes
- Oregon - Julie Kentosh
- Riverside-San Bernardino - Balraj More
- San Diego - Karen Jewel
- Southern California - Sowmya Chadrasekhar
- Washington - Claudia Hirschev

In addition to hearing updates from our Executive Committee, District Administrator, Committee Charis, and WesternITE, Advertising, and Website Managers, key items of discussion at the Mid-Year Board Meeting included:

Review of chair appointments made at the Fall 2020 Executive

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Committee Kick-Off Meeting (Career Guidance – Jennylyn Tapat, Student Funding & Initiatives – Ashley Kim, and Technical – Pat Marnell).

Review of previous fiscal year close out, which was in line with expectations. In fact, the student Endowment Fund has regained its target balance of \$500,000 even after dividing funds with Mountain District!

New Student Chapter Charters have been completed for conformance with International requirements and will be approved in the coming weeks.

I would like to thank Adam Allen, LeadershipITE Chair (International), who stopped by to speak about the latest updates to the program and how Western District can benefit from greater involvement.

At the moment, the 2021 ITE Joint International and Western & Mountain Districts Annual Meeting is planned to be in-person for July 18-21, 2021 in Portland, Oregon; however, public health recommendations are being monitored closely and we expect to know more by early April. Our 2023/2024 meeting locations are tentative pending the outcome of this year's meeting. Stay tuned!

As a reminder, ITE Oregon Section began its Joint Sections Webinar Series on Diversity & Inclusion. If you missed the first session, there is still time to register for the remaining series which continues through April. Registration is free to ITE members – please visit the Western District webpage.

Mid-Year Board Meeting Highlights

Kimberly Leung, PE, TE, ITE Western District Secretary-Treasurer

On January 29, 2021, the Western District Board members, committee chairs, section representatives, and guests met virtually for the 2021 Western District Mid-Year Board Meeting.

President **Giancarlo Ganddini** announced the appointments of **Jenny Tapat** as the Career Guidance Committee Chair, **Ashley Kim** as the Student Funding and Initiatives Committee Chair, and **Patrick Marnell** as the Technical Committee Chair and the reappointments of **Dalene J. Whitlock** as District Administrator and **Erica Jensen** as WesternITE editor. He also shared that International is seeking Western District representation and Subcommittee Co-Chairs for the Traffic Engineering Council.

Vice President **Joe De La Garza** detailed the Western District's final accounting for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Due to the conversion to calendar terms for Board members, Joe De La Garza also reported on the District's year-to-date finances (for the period of October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020).

Secretary-Treasurer **Kimberly Leung** shared that an Exchange of Records had been scheduled to transfer complete and up-to-date accounting records.

Past President **Neelam Dorman** reviewed financial allocations from the fall 2020 Executive Committee Kick-off Meeting. The Executive Committee allocated excess income from the 2020 Annual Meeting as follows: 2023 District Annual Meeting sponsorship, Western District student events at the 2021 Annual Meeting, 2021 Annual Business Meeting sponsorship, Annual Meeting website upgrades and support, Annual Meeting website subscription, and the Cal Poly SLO SLS in place of funding from the Endowment Fund. The remaining income was returned to the District's accounts. Neelam Dorman presented the nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award and Individual Achievement Award and announced Doug Smith and Justin Link as the 2021 Secretary-Treasurer candidates.

The two International Directors, **Cathy Leong** and **Mark Spencer**, provided summaries of recent activities. District Administrator **Dalene J. Whitlock** reported that new Bylaws were adopted for the District's sections at the 2020 District Annual Meeting and that new Charters have been prepared for the District's Student Chapters.

Updates were given by: Managing Editor **Erica Jensen**, Advertising Manager **Ryan Zellers**, Website Manager **Cameron Shew**, Southern California's Section Representative (on behalf of the Technical Committee) **Sowmya Chandrasekhar**, Career Guidance Committee Chair **Jenny Tapat**, Student Funding and Initiatives Committee Chair **Ashley Kim**, Public Relations Committee Chair **Paul Stanis**, and District LAC Committee Chair **Cathy Leong**.

2020 LAC Chair Cathy Leong submitted the Honolulu LAC's final report. 2021 LAC Chair Pam O'Brien was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report that the Portland meeting is still to be determined if it will be in-person or virtual. 2022 LAC Co-Chair Dennis Acuna was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a preliminary budget, program, and space plan for the Palm Springs meeting.

Updates were shared by the following Section Representatives: **Jared Travis** from Alaska, **Smadar Boardman** from San Francisco Bay Area, **Bryan Igarra** from Central California, **Jenny Tapat** from Hawaii, **Jana Cervantes** from Northern California, **Balraj More** from Riverside-San Bernardino, **Karen Jewel** from San Diego, and **Sowmya Chandrasekhar** from Southern California. Kathy Kleinschmidt from Central Coast, Julie Kentosh from Oregon, and Claudia Hirschey from Washington were unable to attend the meeting but provided written updates. Key discussion topics included how Sections have adapted to the virtual environment and price differentials for members and non-members to attend events.

International Director Mark Spencer reported on the ITE 2021 Awards Program.

Leadership ITE Program Chair **Adam Allen** provided an overview of the program, including its desired outcomes and objectives and how it differs from other leadership programs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm. The next Board Meeting will held at the 2021 Annual Meeting in Portland, OR on Sunday, July 18, 2021.

Western District Officer Elections

The election of Western District officers will open on June 16, 2021 and close at midnight on July 19. If you are a voting member of ITE and have a valid email address on file with ITE Headquarters as of June 1, you should receive an email message with instructions on how to vote electronically. If you do not receive an email notification on June 16, please check your spam filter or contact the District Administrator, Dalene Whitlock at dwhitlock@w-trans.com.

Members wishing to vote by paper ballot can request them from Dalene via phone (707) 542-9500, email, or by regular mail to: Dalene J. Whitlock; c/o W-Trans; 490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 201; Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Paper ballot requests must be received no later than July 1 and completed ballots returned to the District Administrator no later than July 11.

All members of the District are encouraged to vote. If you need help voting or have questions, please contact the District Administrator.

Future Meetings:

- 2021 – Portland, OR (Virtual, Joint Meeting with International and Mountain District)
- 2022 – Palm Springs, CA
- 2023 – Portland, CA
- 2024 – Sacramento, CA
- 2025 – Long Beach, CA
- 2026 – Seattle, WA
- 2027 – San Diego, CA
- 2028 – TBD (Joint Meeting)
- 2029 – San Francisco Bay Area

Candidate for Western District International Director (ID):

Neelam Dorman, TE



It has been a privilege to serve on the Western District board for the past 4.5 years and I am grateful to continue to serve the District as Past President this year. I am thankful for the trust put in me by the leadership and our members to give me another opportunity to serve the District and ITE as International Director. In serving as a District officer, I've learned a lot about our District and about our dedicated members and how much we all value this organization and how hard we are all willing to work for its success.

I have had the chance to work with ITE Board of Direction and staff in my past ITE roles. In serving on the International Board of Direction, I hope to represent the Western District and learn more about ITE at the International level. I hope to help ITE continue to provide value our members and to grow with the new generations of transportation professionals.

I am a Principal Transportation Planner with the City of Anaheim in Orange County, California. I am grateful to have the support of my agency to continue to serve ITE. I have been honored to serve ITE in many other roles including as UC Irvine Student Chapter President, Southern California Section President, District Career Guidance Chair, and as a District officer.

I hope to have your support and the opportunity to serve the Western District and ITE International as International Director for the next three years.

Candidate for President:

Joe De La Garza, PE



I've been honored to serve on the ITE Western District Board as Secretary-Treasurer and now Vice-President for the past two years and am thankful to have the opportunity to continue to serve the District as President.

The Western District Board has been dedicated and focused to guide the membership through the transition of the new District boundaries over the past few years. Most recently the Board has been focused on helping the members stay engaged as we have all been affected by COVID-19 over the past year. The Board has tackled these challenges and continues to be fiscally responsible while continuing to provide the members a great service through its work with initiatives and operations that promote, foster and guide our Western District members.

I continue to be proud to be a part of that great work and look forward to building on the legacy of the many great Western District Presidents. As President, I will continue to fully embrace our Western District's Strategic Plan and continue to promote the goals of ITE for the members! Thank you for your continued support!

Candidate for Vice-President:

Kimberly Leung, PE, TE



It has been a privilege to serve the Western District as Secretary-Treasurer, and I am thankful for this opportunity to continue serving as Vice President. As a District officer, I have deeply appreciated working alongside our District Board and Committee Chairs, and I look forward to collaborating further with these committed leaders to advance our District's initiatives in the upcoming year.

As Vice President, I will continue to focus on my key goals of student initiatives and the member experience. I have always been passionate about the development and mentorship of our students and young professionals and will continue to advocate for programs to support them. This past year, we have found ways to remain connected virtually, and going forward, I would like to explore how we can make our ITE programs even more accessible for members, particularly those from smaller Sections and the public sector.

I am an Engineer at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, and I am grateful that the SFMTA fully supports my longstanding commitment to ITE. I have been involved with ITE since co-founding UC Berkeley's Cal ITE student chapter in 2008 and have served as Cal ITE President, SF Bay ITE President, the 2019 District Annual Meeting LAC Co-Chair, and the District's Student Funding and Initiatives Committee Chair. I also continue to serve as the Professional Liaison to the Cal ITE student chapter.

I hope to have your continued support and the opportunity to serve the Western District as Vice President.

*Candidate
for Secretary-
Treasurer:*

Justin Link, PE, TE



I am excited to be a candidate for ITE Western District Secretary-Treasurer. As an organization and **community** I value profoundly, the chance to serve at the District level would be deeply fulfilling.

Having participated in several professional organizations over the years, I am often asked why I am so heavily involved in ITE. The simple answer is that no other organization has provided the level of community that ITE has for me and so many others. I owe much of my career and career advancement to ITE, having developed so many professional **relationships** and made so many **lifelong friends** at Chapter, Section, and District meetings.

It is for this reason that I hope to bring our community to more people! Community is not without **ownership**, fostered through **participation** and **transparency**. With the tools gained from our current, virtual world, we can create community and ownership by:

- Providing opportunities for wider participation at future Annual Meetings by supplementing a track (or tracks) of virtual sessions and tours, for more inclusive and economical access to technical information by students and professionals alike.
- Providing support to Sections and Chapters for hosting combined in-person and virtual meetings going forward, providing greater access to geographically large and diverse areas.
- Providing transparency and openness to our members by broadcasting all future Board and Business meetings, enabling you and I to see and hear the decisions made on our behalf.

In spite our current situation, we've managed to maintain our community virtually, often with greater attendance of meetings. By continuing our virtual reach indefinitely, we can provide more economical, inclusive, and diverse opportunities to share ideas, gain technical knowledge, and even socialize. This is an opportunity to bring together students and professionals, members and non-members, in a combined space. It is also an opportunity to attract new members along the way. I hope to make the Western District a community for all!

justin4ite.com

*Candidate
for Secretary-
Treasurer:*

Doug Smith, PE



I am honored to accept the nomination to stand for election as Secretary-Treasurer of WesternITE. I believe my experience and involvement in ITE over the last 30 years provides me with unparalleled knowledge to fulfill this role. I have been an active member of the SoCal ITE section, Western District of ITE and ITE International. I held the position of President of the SoCal ITE Section. I have also been involved in initiatives, acting as chair of the technical committee for the Palm Desert District meeting and as Editor of the WesternITE newsletter for 3 years. I look forward to representing all Sections on the WesternITE board. I understand the commitment and look forward to this new challenge in my ITE career.

The last two years have required the District to meet significant challenges. The reorganization of the District to focus on five western states and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have challenged our ability to serve membership. My goals for the coming four years include:

- **ENGAGEMENT:** Develop plans and programs that will increase engagement and involvement of all sections and chapters within the Western District. I will make a concerted effort to reach out to the Sections and Chapters in Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon and California;
- **INNOVATION:** Improve and increase the virtual meetings and seminars available to our members to provide expanded programs. We will have to become more innovative and consider providing multi-media meetings and conferences that can be attended in person or virtually;
- **TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE:** Provide technical content and technology sharing so that our members are the most capable in the industry. ITE as an organization must continue to try to attract and engage young members;
- **COLLABORATION:** Focus on continued improvement of our Annual Meetings, technical webinars and virtual learning tools. The District meetings with a smaller District will require improved teamwork.

I am most proud of the number of ITE members I have mentored, supported and encouraged to participate more extensively.

I would be honored to receive your vote in the 2021 election.



Registration Opens this Spring!

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International Board of Directors (IBOD) Report

By Cathy Leong, P.E., Western District International Director

The following summarizes the ITE International Board of Directors' (IBOD) meetings during February 2021. The IBOD met virtually for a total of three 2-hour sessions.

Budget and Finance Committee Report: Finances for 2020 ended very positively for ITE due to a Payment Protection Program (PPP) Loan, investment gains, and positive returns across all programs. ITE International will be adding to reserves at the end of the year bringing them closer to their reserves goal. In addition, some funds will be held to offset the anticipated revenue shortfall for 2021. The IBOD once again approved the 2021 budget which was updated to include slight modifications refining several line items.

Membership: **Colleen Agan** provided updates on 2020 dues collections. Individual dues collection was on par with the year before and agency dues collection was better. Overall, ITE had a retention rate of 86% for 2020 with the largest membership drop occurring with students. The 2021 dues cycle has started off well and is comparable to 2020 so far.

Technical Programs: **Jeff Lindley** provided highlights on the Significant Technical Programs Accomplishments since No-

vember 2020. He also reported on the upcoming Technical Conference that will have 10 technical sessions and an opening session with Ryan Russo, Director of the City of Oakland Department of Transportation, as the Keynote Speaker. Registration is open with early bird registration ending on March 1st.

2021 Annual Meeting Overview: The 2021 meeting is still being planned as an in-person event in Portland, but staff is working on a virtual meeting concept as well. The technical program is almost complete with 40 sessions, 90 poster presentations, technical tours, workshops, and plenary sessions.

Coordinating Council Updates: Coordinating Council (CoCo) Chair **Eric Rensel** provided status reports for ITE's Councils and Committees, as well as the results of the Big Data Listening Sessions conducted during 2020. In addition, **David Hurwitz** from the Education Council and **Aaron Zimmerman** from the Planning Council provided presentations on their current Council activities. In 2021, CoCo will be leading listening sessions on Equity with most of the sessions expected to be virtual.

Committee Updates

Career Guidance

By Josh McNeil, PE, TE Committee Chair

The purpose of the Western District ITE Career Guidance Committee is to promote the advancement of the transportation planning and engineering profession by fostering the close association of senior professionals with civil and transportation planning, ITE, and young professionals. One of the ways we hope to achieve this is to by recognizing the people who have continued to help young professionals' growth. Through the Mentor Award, young professionals are able to recognize those individuals that have helped them carve a path in the transportation, engineering, or planning industry.

You can find more information about the Mentor Award as well as the Outstanding Student (Graduate and Undergraduate) Award on our website. Please note that the deadline for these nominations is April 15. Contact [Jenny Tapat](#) if you have any questions.

District Local Arrangements Committee (LAC)

By Cathy Leong, PE Committee Chair

The District LAC Committee also continues to assist the local LACs for the upcoming annual meetings. Due to issues with contract negotiations in Fresno, the Sacramento meeting has been moved to 2023 and the 2024 meeting has been relocated to Visalia. The committee has been assisting the 2021 Portland LAC with coordinating with International, as well as continuing to plan for District-only events in conjunction with the joint meeting. The District LAC Committee has also begun exploring virtual options for the 2021 meeting. Finally, negotiations continue with hotels in Sacramento and Visalia with the assistance of Conference Direct.

Public Relations Committee

By Paul Stanis, Committee Chair

The Public Relations Committee is pleased to share that **Ellie Simpson** has taken on the role as the Western District's social media manager to keep our membership plugged in with all of our district's news and updates. As we are separated more than usual during COVID, our social media presence is more important than ever. Please welcome and support Ellie Simpson in her new role!

Interested in promoting all of the amazing things the Western District showcases? We are always looking for new volunteers

to assist with our social media accounts, awards production, and administrative work. Please contact Paul Stanis (paul.stanis@sfmta.com) if interested!

Upcoming deadlines:

- **Outstanding Student Award** nominations: due **April 15th** to Jennylyn Tapat at JTapat@wilsonokamoto.com
- **Outstanding Transportation Educator Award** nominations: due **April 15th** to Jennylyn Tapat at JTapat@wilsonokamoto.com
- For the **Student Traffic Bowl**, please check the website in the coming weeks for more information.

Student Funding & Initiatives Committee (SFIC)

By Ashley Kim, Committee Chair

The Student Funding and Initiatives Committee (SFIC) aims to promote the advancement of the transportation planning and engineering profession by fostering the close association of professionals and students interested in pursuing careers in the profession. The Committee also oversees and manages the Student Endowment Fund which establishes a self-sustaining funding source for the District's Student Initiatives. The Committee members include **Brandon Wong, Kayla Fleskes, Marissa Milam, and Tyler Wong**.

As of January 2021, through the collective efforts of our District members, the Endowment Fund once again reached its \$500k goal. Thank you to all contributors for your support towards providing opportunities for students.

Annually, over \$12,000 from the Endowment Fund supports the Student Initiatives. These Initiatives include projects and awards, which can be viewed at westernite.org/students-education/student-chapter-awards.

The bimonthly Student Endowment Fund spotlights continue to run on the website. Read our latest Endowment Fund Spotlight featuring an article by David Hurwitz, PE, FITE, advisor of the Oregon State University Student Chapter at westernite.org/endowment-fund/endowment-news

Committee Updates (Continued)

Technical Committee

By Pat Marnell, Committee Chair

The Technical Committee engages members with various technical activities by disseminating information through the District website, newsletter, and e-mails as well as numerous competitive technical programs.

Are you interested in joining the Technical Committee? We are always looking to expand our pool of reviewers for awards and abstracts. If you are interested, please contact Pat Marnell (patrick.marnell@q-free.com). Students are encouraged to participate as well.

Student Data Collection Fund – Student chapters from across the District have an opportunity to submit a trip generation and parking data collection project proposal and, if selected, receive a \$1,000 grant to support the chapter's ITE activities. In response to this year's request for proposals, the Commit-

tee received and reviewed seven proposals and four were selected for the 2021 Program. The selected proposals were from UCLA, CalPoly - SLO, Gonzaga University, and CalPoly - Pomona. All student chapters are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal for the next funding cycle which will be advertised in fall 2021.

Outstanding Paper Award – This award has been established to recognize the best technical paper published by a member of the Western District during the prior calendar year. More details are available at <https://westernite.org/annual-meetings/awards/technical-paper-award/>

Annual Meeting - Best Paper Award – Because the 2021 Western District is a joint meeting with ITE International, a call for paper submission will be sent to members who have an abstract accepted for ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibition. Based upon established criteria, a panel of judges will select the Best Paper. The Committee will also identify Best Papers authored by a student.

MiteY Race Update



This year's MiteY race will be presented in conjunction with the 2021 Joint International and Western & Mountains Districts Annual Meeting as a fundraiser for the Student Endowment Fund. The MiteY Race is modeled after the hit television series "The Amazing Race" with teams followed clues and completing challenging but fun tasks. Since our inaugural race in 2010, teams have raced around San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Phoenix, Rapid City, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, San Diego, Keystone, Monterey, and virtually last year. This year's MiteY Race is themed "Coming Up Roses" and will again feature teams completing challenging but fun tasks. Visit us at <https://westernite.org/endowment-fund/mitey-race-2021/> to find out more!

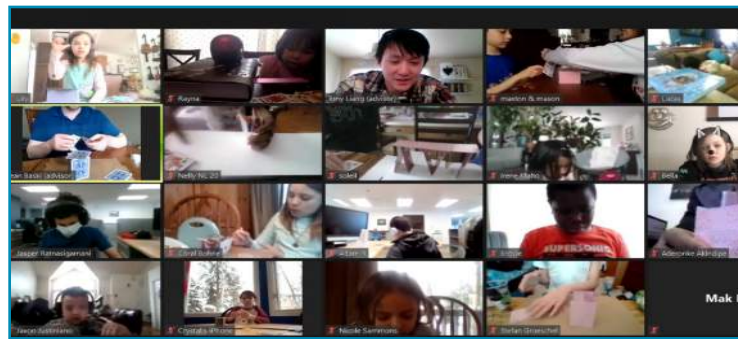
Section and Chapter Updates

Alaska Section

by Pat Whitesell

The Alaska section of ITE has continued rolling through a historically tumultuous year. As with other ITE sections across the country, we have postponed or cancelled in-person meetings and events, including our highly popular Silent Auction scholarship fundraiser at the Alaska Zoo. Despite all of this, the members and attendees who make Alaska ITE what it is have donated to the scholarship cause, and have also continued to attend – and to present at – monthly ITE luncheons, now held virtually.

The online attendance at our monthly luncheons has been outstanding, and to date each online broadcast and presentation has (touch wood!) gone off without a hitch. Topics have ranged from: project reviews such as geographically-dispersed earthquake repairs, roundabout design and culvert replacement; to presentations on the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities’ research program, or electric vehicles and the Highway Trust Fund. As spring approaches, our annual Summer pause period is on the horizon, wherein we have no meetings for June, July and August due to it typically being the busiest season for fieldwork, kids out of school, and construction. Given Alaska’s nation-leading COVID vaccination efforts, the Alaska section is optimistic that come September, we will once again be having our monthly luncheons in person. And while one might expect a lot of hugging, we know our engineers; we anticipate waves and handshakes!



2021 Alaska E-Week: ITE Vice President Tony Liang working with some excited youth!

Hawaii Section

by Jennylyn Tapat

The Year 2021 Hawaii Section Board is comprised of **Kelly Akasaki** (President), **Jasmine Teramae-Kaehuaea** (Vice President), **Keoni Wasano** (Secretary/Treasurer), and **Jenny Tapat** (Past-President). The newly elected board held a strategic planning meeting in early December 2020 to discuss ways to increase membership engagement and outline the Section’s

goals for the upcoming year.

The Hawaii Section continues to hold its section meetings virtually. In January, the section hosted Ed Sniffen Deputy Director of Hawaii Department of Transportation, Highways Division. Ed’s presentation focused on the State Highway Division’s values and goals (safety, accountability, community, innovation, teamwork) as well as their year 2021 – 2022 initiatives. In February, Keoni Wasano, Director of ITS Engineering at Goldwings Supply Service, Inc. Keoni’s presented on the FCC safety band ruling, its impacts on connected vehicle projects, and how it affects the innovative technology landscape.

Our next section meeting will be held on April 21, 2021 with Jon Nouchi, Deputy Director for City & County of Honolulu’s Department of Transportation Services who will present their transit infrastructure updates and impacts during Covid.

San Diego Section

by Jacob Swim

2021 Officers sworn in at the November 12, 2020 San Diego Section

Meeting:

- President: Karen Jewel
- Vice President: Phuong Nguyen
- Treasurer: Raul Armenta
- Secretary: Jacob Swim
- Past President: Mohammad Amin

Awards were presented at the November 12, 2020 San Diego Section Meeting. President Mohammad Amin provided a three-year summary of all activities and finances. Ryan Zellers did an amazing job as Master of Ceremonies along with a great production effort by Hillary Ellis. Mohammad expressed gratitude to the public for allowing him to serve as the San Diego ITE Executive Board for the last four years. The following awards were presented:

- **Matthew Cox** is our Young Transportation Professional of the Year
- **Saul Kane** was awarded the Transportation Professional of the Year
- City of Chula Vista Traffic Study Guidelines won Technical Document of the Year
- Friars Road / SR-163 Interchange Project won Project of the Year



San Diego Student's were active, despite COVID!

- City of Del Mar was named Public Agency of the Year
- The ITE San Diego board members were recognized for their service for 2020
- The ITE Chair positions were provided Certificates of Appreciation for their service for 2020.

San Diego State University Student Chapter was very active with ten meeting between September 2020 and February 2021 with topics including: networking and resume workshops, representatives from a variety of engineering firms, professional speaker presenetrations, career forums, and virutal get-togethers and social events.

Southern California Section

By Dina Saleh

Looking through the last few months of 2020, the ITE Southern California Section hosted a virtual panel in October focusing on “Public Dining & Local Circulation: The COVID-19 Impacts” with presentation from local agencies speaking on their experiences with the changing landscape and challenges they have faced. Then in November, the SoCal Section hosted an all-female led virtual meeting in part of a new series entitled “Equity, Gender, and Race in Transportation.” With this series, the SoCal Section intends to include diverse members of the community by hosting engaging conversations. To round out 2020, the SoCal Section co-hosted a virtual Holiday Mixer Trivia Night with e-gift cards for the winners!

We started off 2021 with a bang by introducing a new mentorship program aptly named MentorSHIP. The Section’s Professional Activities Chairs successfully developed a virtual mentorship program for 2021 which includes year-long pairings aimed to explore various career topics such as networking, career advancement, and work-life balance through one-on-one conversations and organized virtual group events.

Washington Section

By Ryan Peterson

Our section has continued to find ways to engage through virtual means, despite the inability to meet in-person. We are definitely becoming Zoom experts! While we all long for the opportunity to meet in-person again, our online events attract a healthy attendance.

We have continued our monthly lunch meetings and have had some great topics and interesting speakers from which to learn. Our October meeting was a panel discussion about equity in transportation with a diverse panel including Washington State Patrol Chief, John Batiste and Transportation Choices Coalition Executive director Alex Hudson. Our November meeting featured a virtual tour of INRIX’s UK Incident Response Center that was cancelled due to the UK’s sudden November lockdown. Within one week we developed a program on how to conduct on-line meetings with three panel members.

The pandemic also didn’t stop us from organizing our annual conferences. In January, we held our annul Safety Training and Conference and featured topics including video safety analytics, speed limit setting, application of traffic control devices for bikes and peds, and pedestrian lighting. In February we held our annual joint conference with the northwest section of the IMSA. This conference featured speakers on topics like parking demand management, ITS, new trends in transportation, connected vehicles, and cyber security. This conference also featured a series of four breakout sessions where attendees could choose between six different vendor presentations and learn about new products.



ITE SoCal MentorSHIP Program

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