



Official Publication ITE Western District  
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## President’s Message

*By Joe De La Garza, P.E., T.E., ITE Western District President*

Hello ITE Western District Members!

We are almost halfway through the year, and it feels like just yesterday we were kicking off 2022.

We started the year with

new Board members including Section Representatives and committee chairs. It takes a team of volunteers to keep this organization running and I am so thankful for all of the efforts that this team puts in to keep activities running smoothly and initiatives on the right track. The Section Representatives are an important part of the Western District Board and work directly with the Executive Board on important items like our District’s annual budgets and policies. They also help to disseminate information to the Sections from actions taken by the Board.

Speaking of important items, we have our first in-person meeting since 2019! The Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 26-29, 2022, at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel & Palm Springs Convention Center and it looks like a great venue to restart our Annual Meeting traditions. On the behalf of the Western District Board and the 2022 Local Arrangements Committee (LAC), we are excited to bring an Annual Meeting to the you that is

filled with great technical and social programming. The LAC has put together another outstanding conference, with a technical program filled with high-quality topics and speakers and a vendor exhibit filled with the best vendors in our industry. Included in the meeting are also many opportunities for networking with fellow professionals and dedicated programming for students and young professionals along with social and family activities. I would like to personally thank our LAC for their hard work planning this meeting! I would also like to graciously thank the Annual Meeting Sponsors who support ITE so that we can provide a great meeting that continues to be affordable for all members. Looking forward to a great meeting in Palm Springs!

As we slide into the last half of the year, I am hopeful for more in-person interactions and continued collaboration with all our colleagues and transportation professionals.

# Mid-Year Board Meeting Highlights

*Doug Smith, PE, ITE Western District Secretary-Treasurer*

On January 21, 2022, the Western District Board members, committee chairs, section representatives, and guests met virtually for the 2022 Western District Mid-Year Board Meeting.

President Joe De La Garza announced the appointments of Ellie Simpson as the Western ITE Editor, Kayla Fleskes as the Student Funding and Initiatives Committee Chair. He also shared a plan to visit some Western District Sections during the year that have had little in-person meetings from District Officers during the last two years.

Vice President Kimberly Leung detailed the Western District's final accounting for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Secretary-Treasurer Doug Smith shared that an a follow-up Exchange of Records meeting has been scheduled to transfer complete and up-to-date accounting records.

Past President Giancarlo Ganddini reviewed financial allocations from the fall 2021 Executive Committee Kick-off Meeting. The Executive Committee allocated excess income from the 2021 Annual Meeting as follows: Zoom Licenses, District Officer travel, Committee Travel, 2022 SLS Sponsorship, Website Redesign, and Public Agency Membership Initiative (FY20/21). The remaining income was returned to the District's accounts. Giancarlo Ganddini presented the nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award and Individual Achievement Award.

The two International Directors, Neelam Dorman and Mark Spencer, provided summaries of recent International Board of Director meetings.

Updates were given by: Managing Editor Ellie Simpson, Advertising Manager Ryan Zellers, Website Manager Cameron Shew, Technical Committee Chair Pat Marnell, Career Guidance Committee Chair Jenny Tapat, Student Funding and Initiatives Committee Chair Kayla Fleskes, Public Relations Committee Chair Paul Stanis, and District LAC Committee Chair Cathy Leong.

The 2022 LAC Chairs Dennis Acuna and Gianfranco Laurie reported on the LAC updates since the last annual meeting. The 2021 LAC will not be submitting an annual meeting report but did provide a summary. The 2022 LAC reported that Caltrans will be partnering with the District for the annual meeting in Palm Springs, and also detailed early registrations, sponsor information, session info, and preliminary budgets, programs, and sponsorship packages.

Updates were shared by the following Section Representatives: Pat Whitesell from Alaska, Tony Henderson from San Francisco Bay Area, Rebekah Brechmann from Central California, Travis Low from Central Coast, Keoni Wasano from Hawaii, Zach Bosch from Northern California, Maggie Lin from Oregon, Balraj More from Riverside-San Bernardino, Phuong Nguyen from San Diego, Dina Saleh from Southern California, and Jeanne Acutanza from Washington. Key discussion topics included how Sections have adapted to the virtual environment and price differentials for members and non-members to attend events.

Dr. Hurwitz from Oregon State University shared his advice on the roll of a faculty advisor to students in ITE. The next Board Meeting will held at the 2022 Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, CA on Sunday, July 26, 2022.

## Western District Officer Elections

The election of Western District officers will open on May 25 2022, and close at midnight on June 27. If you are a voting member of ITE and have a valid email address on file with ITE Headquarters as of May 1, you should receive an email message with instructions on how to vote electronically. If you do not receive an email notification on May 28, please check your spam filter or contact the District Administrator, Dalene Whitlock at [dwhitlock@w-trans.com](mailto: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 June 1 and completed ballots returned to the District Administrator no later than June 22. Completed ballots may also be returned in person at the Annual Business Meeting on June 28.

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

### *Future Meetings:*

- 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



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Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel & Palm Springs Convention Center

June 26-29, 2022

## Candidate for President:

Kimberly Leung, PE, TE



It has been a privilege to serve the Western District as Vice President, and I am thankful for this opportunity to continue serving as President. I deeply appreciate 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 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 the next generation of transportation professionals. This past year, I have worked closely with our Student Funding and Initiatives Committee Chair and will continue to advocate for programs to support our students and young professionals. Throughout the COVID pandemic, we have found ways to remain connected virtually, and I would like to further explore new ways to 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 currently serve as the Professional Liaison to the Cal ITE student chapter and the newly chartered Stanford ITE student chapter.

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

## Candidate for Vice President:

Doug Smith, PE



Hello my name is Doug Smith and I am honored to be the nominee for Vice President of WesternITE. It was only a few months ago that I was running for Secretary-Treasurer and over the last few months

I have had the opportunity to dive into the operation of the district. It has been a great experience that I look forward to continuing in 2023.

I believe my experience as Secretary-Treasurer of the Western District and involvement in the 2022 Palm Springs LAC is preparing me for my next roles in the Western District of ITE. While I have learned a great deal about the challenges of leading the District, it has also served to reinforce what I believe the vision of WesternITE should continue to be. You can read more about my credentials on LinkedIn but I want to remind you of what my vision and goals were for my tenure on the board.

Over the last few months, I have seen the challenges we face and I have been reminded that ITE remains the premier professional organization providing information and technical content to transportation professionals. As we emerge from this pandemic, we need to continue to find ways to connect with our membership and provide them with the mentoring, technical and professional support required to be leaders in the profession. My goals for the next three years continue to include:

**ENGAGEMENT:** Develop plans and programs that will increase engagement and involvement of all sections and chapters within the Western District;

**INNOVATION:** Improve and increase the virtual meetings and webinars available to our members to provide continuing education programs. We will continue to provide high quality and innovative 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. We must continue to attract and engage our young members;

**COLLABORATION/MENTORING:** Focus on improving our programs and providing young ITE members with mentoring to show them the benefits of ITE.

*Candidate  
for Secretary-  
Treasurer:*

Pat Marnell, PE



Service and Community are important concepts for me. When I think about ITE the first thing that pops into my head are the people that make up ITE; the community. That thought is quickly followed by all of the other things one associates with ITE -- Western District Meetings, the last webinar I attended, and how my alma mater did in the last traffic bowl – but I always come back to the people. The strength of ITE, and the Western District in particular, has always been its dedicated membership, volunteers, and leaders who are willing to put the time and effort into making the community better.

I am running for ITE Western District Secretary Treasurer so that I can be of service to the ITE community that I have come to cherish over that past 17 years. ITE has provided me many opportunities. I want to ensure that the next generation of young professionals has access to those same opportunities.

As an officer I intend to focus on sustainable growth of our membership. To achieve this, I have identified the following three focus areas:

- Provide Excellent Technical Content
- Convert Student Members into Professional Members
- Maintain an Engaging Member Experience.

I have been involved with ITE since 2005 when I joined the OSU Student Chapter. Since that time I have served in numerous ITE roles including Past-President of the Oregon ITE Section, Co-Chair of the 2018 QUAD Conference, and as the current Western District Technical Chair.

I understand that serving on the Western District Executive Committee is no small commitment of time or effort. I am happy to raise my hand for the task.

If elected as Secretary/Treasurer I will serve the Western District with the same dedication I have brought to my other ITE activities for the past 17 years.

Thank you for your support!

*Candidate  
for Secretary-  
Treasurer:*

Jared Travis, PE



We at ITE are a community. We are all problem solvers, and we want the best for our neighborhoods, our streets, and our teams. We are the best engineers we can be.

I have served through the ranks of the Alaska chapter of ITE, from Secretary-Treasurer to President and now Past President. As a founding member of the Northern Arizona University chapter of Engineers Without Borders, I performed the same duties. I have the drive, proven reliability and experience required to serve as your District’s Secretary-Treasurer.

As a District Board member, I will focus on three initiatives:

- Strengthening our relationship with young engineers—both young professionals and students
- Further the integration of rural and remote engineers
- Promotion of BIM and learning opportunities

The pandemic has emphasized some distance between the professional and youth communities. ITE already has strong tools available to bridge this gap, such as the ITE STEM Outreach program and the Equitable SimCity Sandbox Design Competition. I will exercise these tools to ensure we hear younger voices in the ITE dialog.

I work in a big state. The Western District covers a vast area. Some District members are hundreds of miles away from their chapter’s core. By implementation of hybrid and virtual meetings, I will work to bring our more remote members back into the fold.

Lastly, I am a designer. The future of transportation and engineering design lies in BIM technologies. I will promote BIM learning opportunities for ITE engineers and the industry.

It is an honor to be selected as a candidate for Secretary-Treasurer of the ITE Western District, and I appreciate your consideration for the position.

# 2022 Student Leadership Summit

By Amy Huang

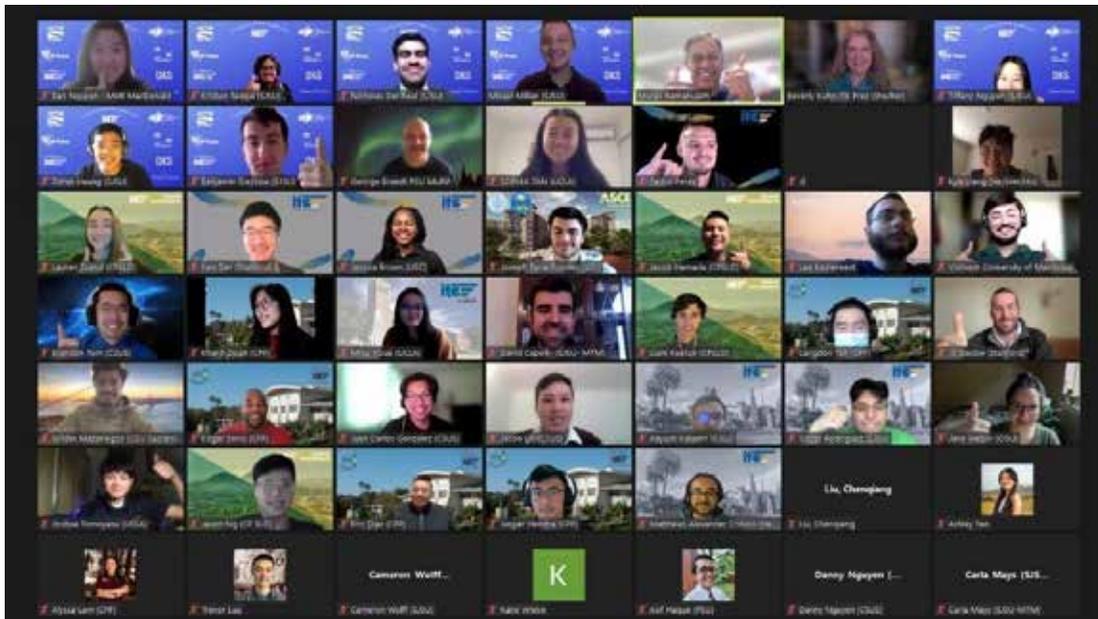
San Jose State University hosted the virtual 2022 Western District Student Leadership Summit (SLS) from January 28th-30th. This event brought students from various chapters, including those from Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, and California, all together. Over the span of 3 days, student members were encouraged to focus on interpersonal development, ways to be more aware of personal wellness, equity in transportation, and exposure to different technical work in the industry.

As a result of the pandemic, the SLS was hosted virtually this year and allowed attendees to sit-in from the comfort of their own home. The first day was the summit's social event, "Where in the World Is Derek in San Jose?", an interactive game meant to give the attendees a 'virtual' tour of San Jose. With groups of 5, teams were tasked to find San Jose State's ITE Vice President through a series of clues and exploration.

to gain more insight on how to best present themselves on a 8.5 x 11" paper. Saturday afternoon culminated in a presentation on various projects that prioritize social equity concerns within the design and planning process. Some of the topics included the impact of data analytics to improve the road networks, importance of public transit systems in lower income communities, and integration of analytics to combat human trafficking by use of transit monitoring.

The last day of SLS was devoted to technical presentations where professionals spoke on topics such as microsimulation, signal operations, the future of rapid transit systems, and transportation planning. Attendees were able to gain insight on the practical applications of emerging technology and how it is being integrated into real life projects.

This was San Jose State's first time hosting a Student Leadership Summit and was successfully organized by the SJSU



*First Day of SLS before the Social Event Began*

Following that, Saturday was the core of our interpersonal development sessions. The first session was a 'A Year in Review', where student chapters had the chance to share the challenges brought to them by COVID-19 and how they adapted. This gave a unique perspective of the creativity different schools used to better engage with their members in an online setting. During the SLS, industry professionals talked about how to advance in your transportation career, which gave students a better understanding of different paths one can take and the resources ITE can provide to help. Saturday afternoon, attendees engaged in speed interviews and resume workshops to practice their communication skills and

ITE officers. There was great feedback from students who attended the SLS saying that the sessions helped them see different aspects of transportation careers, research, and the impact transportation professionals have on their communities. Given the fact that the 2022 SLS was hosted virtually, it gave more opportunities for those who live further away a chance to participate and experience this summit. We hope to see this tradition continue and are thankful to all of the attendees, professionals, and sponsors who were able to make this a memorable event.

# Committee Updates

## *District Local Arrangements Committee (LAC)*

*By Cathy Leong, PE Committee Chair*

The District LAC Committee continues to assist the local LACs for upcoming annual meetings with advance meeting planning. The 2022 Palm Springs Annual Meeting planning continues with the Technical Program almost completed, Exhibit Hall registration well underway, and the early registration period expected to end on March 1st. In addition, the District continues to coordinate with ITE International on the 2023 joint meeting in Portland from Aug 13-16, 2023, and will soon kick-off advance planning for the 2024 meeting in Sacramento from June 23-26, 2024.

## *Public Relations Committee*

*By Paul Stanis, Committee Chair*

The Public Relations Committee is pleased to share that the Western District won ITE's 2021 District Innovation Award and the Best In Class Award for the Transportation Transforms Communities Video Competition. The Western District's Innovation Award submittal highlighted the 2020 Western District Annual Meeting LAC's quick and effective pivot from an in-person meeting to a virtual one. Our video submittal focused on the possibilities, innovation, and excitement of a career in transportation engineering and planning and can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyylxhENGhM>

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](mailto:paul.stanis@sfmta.com)) if interested!

## *Student Funding & Initiatives Committee (SFIC)*

*By Kayla Fleskes, Committee Chair*

The Student Funding and Initiatives Committee (SFIC) is tasked with promoting the advancement of the transportation planning and engineering profession by fostering the close association of professionals with civil and transportation planning and engineering students. The SFIC also oversees and manages the Student Endowment Fund which establishes a self-sustaining funding source for the District's Student Initiatives. This winter, the SFIC updated our strategic plan to help ad-

vance our mission, which can be found here: <https://westernite.org/leadership-resources/committee-strategic-plans/>

This January, San Jose State University hosted a virtual Student Leadership Summit (SLS), an event planned by students, for students. Over the course of three days, student members from across the District were encouraged to develop their leadership skills through virtual worksessions, panel discussions and interactive games. Students also enjoyed technical sessions focused on the practical applications of emerging technology, microsimulation, signal operations, the future of rapid transit systems, and transportation planning.

The SFIC is looking forward to seeing students again in-person in Palm Springs at the Western District Annual Meeting, where students will compete in the Kell Competition and Student Traffic Bowl, in addition to having the opportunity to attend student-specific career guidance sessions and leadership forums.

## *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 are 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](mailto:patrick.marnell@q-free.com)). Students are encouraged to participate as well.

**Student STEM Outreach Projects** – In lieu of the traditional Student Trip Generation Data Collection projects, this year the student chapters are working on creating STEM Outreach tools and activities. The Committee received and reviewed seven proposals and four were selected for the 2022 Program. The selected proposals were from CalPoly – Pomona, Oregon State University, University of Hawaii – Manoa, and University of Southern California. All student chapters are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal for the next funding cycle which will be advertised in fall 2022.

## MiteY Race Update



Join us in Palm Springs on June 25th from 3-5 PM for the next installment of the MiteY Race. This year's MiteY race is presented in conjunction with the 2022 Western District 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, and Monterey, as well as several virtual race courses.

This year's MiteY Race is themed "Spring into Action" and is again being held on the Saturday preceding the Annual Meeting. This year, student and family/friends teams will complete challenging but fun tasks around the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel. To celebrate our first in-person race since 2019, registration is FREE for all student teams this year. Registration today for the upcoming race at <https://www.westernite.org/annualmeeting/mitey-race/>.

## Section and Chapter Updates

### *Hawaii Section*

*by Keoni Wasano*

The newly elected Section Board and the University of Hawaii student chapter held a joint strategic planning meeting in early December 2021 to discuss ways to increase membership engagement, outline the Section's goals for the upcoming year, and further define the vision/direction for our Section meetings in 2022.

The Section continues virtual monthly meetings featuring local leaders. In January, Chris Clark presented the City & County of Honolulu's Right-of-Way Widths for Planned Street Improvements Plan. He described their approach which compared future transportation needs and prioritized modes while be-



*Hawaii Engineers Week Public Outreach Event*

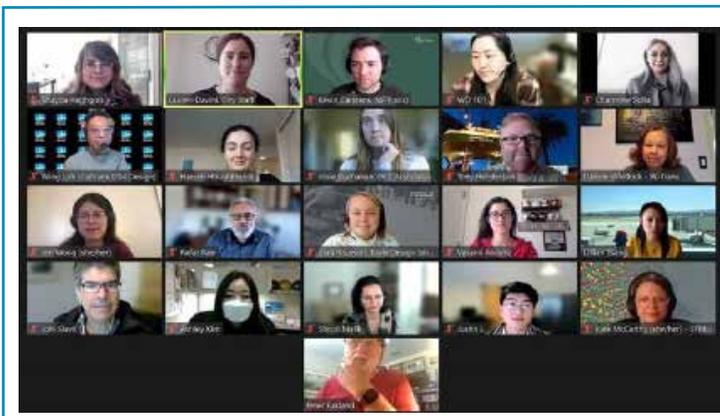
## Section and Chapter Updates cont'd

ing constrained to existing ROW. Our February section meeting featured Lauren Armstrong, Maui MPO, and Pam Eaton, County of Maui, who shared insights from their Kaahumanu Avenue Community Corridor which was a transit-oriented development project.

In February, Section members volunteered to help the student chapter with their resume workshop. Students had the opportunity to receive feedback on their resumes and interview skills from engineering professionals in preparation for the Spring career fair at the University of Hawaii.

In addition, our Section participated in a couple of Engineers Week events. The first was a public outreach event which showcased science, engineering, math, and technology (STEM) organizations. ITE members hosted an informational table with an interactive Complete Streets activity which let participants design their own roadways. Participants could choose from various sized sidewalks, vehicular lanes, transit-only lanes, bicycle-only lanes, on-street parking, and medians. Hawaii Section Administrator, Cathy Leong, also participated in Waipahu High School's speed interview event.

### *San Francisco Bay Area Section* by Lauren Davini



*ITE San Francisco Bay Area*

ITE San Francisco Bay Area has had an eventful beginning of 2022! In January, we heard a presentation from Mike Hawkins at Fehr & Peers about transportation planning around the new Chase Arena in Mission Bay. In February, we had an interactive workshop about public outreach best practices led by San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) staff. In March, we heard from Chris DiPrima at San Francisco Airport about their master plan.

It has been great to be able to touch base with our members each month. We are looking forward to planning a social event in-person and outside as the weather warms up!

### *Southern California Section* By Dina Saleh

The last couple of months of 2021 were full of excitement for ITE So Cal. In an effort to better align with ITE International, ITE So Cal adopted the election cycle to begin at the calendar year. That being said, new officers were sworn in at our annual business meeting in November. The new elected board is as follows:

- Dina Saleh – President
- Marc Violett – Vice President
- Saly Heng – Secretary
- Jason Xu – Treasurer

In December, ITE So Cal hosted an in-person Holiday Mixer in collaboration with OCTEC and ITS CA at Rock 'N' Brews in Buena Park. The event was well attended and well received by the group. Everybody was happy to get together in person and share the holiday spirit!



*SoCal Holiday Mixer Collage*

As 2022 began, ITE So Cal continued their Training Series in January. The series covered pedestrian and bicycle detection.

It included discussion about the new Caltrans requirement of touchless accessible pedestrian systems (APS), apps available for pedestrians and bicyclists, and ADA compliance. The presentation was educational and informational to the attendees as standards and requirements change in a world with COVID-19.

## Washington Section

By Darcy Akers

The Washington Section has continued to deliver virtual meetings through 2021. After kicking off the fall programs with meetings about local projects Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and a regional Virtual Command Center, we changed gears in November and focused on sustainability and the transportation industry's work to address climate change.

2022 has started strong with two conferences. First in January, we hosted a virtual Safety Conference. Technical content included intersection design elements for safety and analytical methods for assessing intersections, as well as a panel of Vision Zero program managers. We also hosted our first in-person meeting in February with our annual joint conference with the local IMSA section. This conference includes both technical presentations and dozens of vendors showing off the latest technology and products. Local guidelines had us still wearing masks so we couldn't see everyone's smiling faces, but it was still great to network and chat with everyone!

We also held elections in December 2021 for the 2022 calendar year and the new officers will sworn in during our January meeting.

- President - Darcy Akers, PE
- Vice President - Ryan Peterson, PE, PTOE
- Secretary/Treasurer - LisaRene Schilperoort, PE
- Immediate Past President - Jeanne Acutanza, PE

## Central Coast Section

By Mark Mueller

The Central Coast Section had a general meeting and new officer swearing in ceremony on December 7th. David Emerson, Fred Luna, and Kirsten Ayars presented on the US 101 widening project near Santa Barbara/Carpenteria. Other than that, we have the upcoming joint meetings with SoCal and Cal Poly. We were scheduled to have a Golf Tournament, but it was postponed due to the Omicron wave of COVID-19.

## Oregon Section

By Carl Olsen

Current officers are Past President Maggie Lin, President Carl Olson, Vice President Molly McCormick, and Secretary-Treasurer Stefan Bussey.

With 2021 coming to an end and 2022 beginning, the Oregon Section continued hosting a variety of virtual events. These included the Annual Bill Kloos Traffic Bowl in November 2021 and Oregon ITE's annual Winter Workshop in March 2022.

The 30th Annual Bill Kloos Traffic Bowl was held remotely over a Zoom meeting. Student teams from the Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, Portland State University, University of Washington, and California Polytechnic

Our annual Winter Workshop hosted virtually on March 3rd, 2022 offered a wide variety of training and professional development opportunities. Topics included:

- Interstate Bridge Replacement + Equity Considering and Efforts
- Near-Miss & Red Light-Running Evaluation at Washington County's SPIS Signals
- Redefining Traffic Engineering to Encourage New Housing Construction in "The Silver State"
- Bridging Two Neighborhoods: Augusta Lane Ped/Bike Bridge
- Diverging Diamond Interchanges – A Decade of Lessons Learned

State University competed against each other and four teams of professionals in an online trivia event. After five rounds of traffic engineering and planning questions, Oregon Institute of Technology defended their title against the other schools and beat out all the professional teams to win their spot on the push-button trophy. Additionally, Peter Koonce was awarded with the Outstanding Professional of the Year Award for 2021 by the Oregon ITE section.



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## Go Green!

The Western District is giving you the opportunity to "go green" by opting out of receiving printed materials. All information from the District including newsletters, e-news, and elections would be sent to you via e-mail. If you would like to receive only electronic correspondence from the District, please contact WesternITE editor Ellie Simpson at [ellen.simpson@hdrinc.com](mailto:ellen.simpson@hdrinc.com)

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