



Official Publication ITE Western District

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President’s Message

By Douglas Smith, ITE Western District President

As we start winding down the year, I have been reflecting on the year in ITE. I would like to first thank our 2024 ITE Western District sponsors, including principal sponsors LLG Engineering, Michael Baker International, Q-Free Americas, Iteris, and

Kimley-Horn. Our fellow sponsors include W-Trans and DKS, and our supporters include Wilson Okamoto Corporation, Ganddini Group, Gibson Transportation Engineering and Mingar & Associates.

Since the District meeting, I have spent some time focusing on the health of the Sections within the Western District. I have met with many of the section leadership of many of the sections and they are working so hard to provide viable events and great content. One thing they consistently talk about is the need for more volunteer support. If you enjoy your involvement in ITE and you want to build a career that makes you proud, I ask you to get involved with your local ITE Section or the Western District! Volunteer to help with a monthly meeting, offer to take on a section chair role or RUN FOR ELECTION as a Section Officer. It is a great way to jump start your career development and you will get more out of it than you ever imagined.

Looking to the end of 2024 and into the new year, there are several activities that all our section and district members should be aware of including:

- The Call for Abstracts for the [2025 Western District Meeting](#) is out and abstracts are due on December 6, 2025. Speaking at the meeting is a great way to participate in our program. It is not too early to start planning for our 2025 ITE Western District Annual Meeting to be held on June 29th through July 2nd in Long Beach, CA. **START YOUR PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR!**
- The District Call for Abstracts should not be confused with the Call for Abstracts that was released for the [2025 Joint ITE International and Florida Puerto Rico District Annual Meeting and Exhibition](#) to be held in Orlando Florida in August of 2025. These are two separate Calls and should be treated as separate submissions.
- The [2025 Student Leadership Summit](#) will be held at UCLA on January 31st through February 2nd. ITE at UCLA is looking for sponsors and professional involvement. This is an amazing student run event that our industry needs to support. Please look for the emails that provide information on the upcoming SLS.

Finally, with only a few weeks left in 2024 I would like to acknowledge all the volunteers that make Western District work so well. You all accomplish so much with the time you spend on ITE and WE have accomplished great things. Please continue to check your e-mails for the e-News and the Westernite website for more information and updates as the year comes to an end. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Section Holiday functions at the end of the year.

As always, if you would like to talk about the ITE Western District, please reach out to me. I’m never too busy to make time to discuss ITE.

Summer Board Meeting Highlights

Joshua McNeill, ITE Western District Secretary-Treasurer

This year's Western District Summer Board Meeting was held on Sunday, June 23rd at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel. Compared to previous years' meetings in Palm Springs and Portland, both the temperatures and the board's discussions were much milder. We were expecting the high temperatures in Palm Springs, but Portland's 100-plus-degree weather was a surprise. This year's Sacramento meeting presented us with manageable heat.

President Doug Smith kicked off the meeting with an overview of recent chair appointments and policy updates. Secretary-Treasurer Joshua McNeill shared that the district's fiscal year '23/24 budget was tracking as expected with healthy reserves. After some discussion of new expenditures for the career guidance initiative, a proposed '24/25 budget was adopted.

ITE International President John Davis provided updates on ITE branding and technical council activities. Updates were also given by Vice President Patrick Marnell, Advertising Manager Ryan Zellers, Website Manager Cameron Shew, Technical Committee Chair Jeanne Acutanza, Career Guidance Committee Chair Henry Hammel, Student Funding and Initiatives Committee Chair Kayla Fleskes-Lane, Public Relations Committee Chair Giancarlo Ganddini, and District LAC Committee Chair Cathy Leong.

Section updates were given by: Central California Section Rep. Katie Lee, Central Coast Section Secretary-Treasurer Mark Bueno, Hawaii Section Rep. Keoni Wasano, Northern California Section Rep. Ryan Chapman, Oregon Section Rep. Molly McCormick, RSBITE Section President Abe Campos, San Diego Section President Jacob Swim, San Francisco Bay Area Section Rep. Kevin Carstens, Southern California Section Rep. Marc Violett, and Washington Section Rep. Ryan Peterson.

The next Winter Board Meeting will be tentatively held in Southern California on January 31st, 2025.

Annual Business Meeting Highlights

Joshua McNeill, ITE Western District Secretary-Treasurer

The 2024 Annual Business Meeting of ITE's Western District was called to order on Tuesday, June 25th at 11:57 PM by President Doug Smith. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for deceased members Chris Kinzel, Adolf May, and Ron Keith.

President Doug Smith introduced the Committee Chairs and Section Representatives before District Awards were presented by the Technical Committee, Student Initiatives Committee, and the Career Guidance Committee. The final call for ballots was followed by the convening of the tellers committee by President Doug Smith. The Tellers Committee was headed by Dalene Whitlock.

Western District President Doug Smith addressed the membership and provided a recap of the past year and a state of the District. Some of the highlights included: a recap of efforts taken by the district to help sections rebound from pandemic-related challenges, the successful student leadership summit held at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and a summary of the Board Meeting that was held on June 23rd. He reported that the District's financial health is stable.

Secretary-Treasurer Joshua McNeill summarized the state of the District's accounts for financial year '23/24 and introduced the proposed budget for financial year '24/25. The final order of business was the announcement of the winners of the 2024 election: President Patrick Marnell, Vice President Joshua McNeill, Secretary-Treasurer Cameron Shew, and International Director Kimberly Leung. The meeting was adjourned after the announcement of the 2024 Board at 1:28 PM.

2024 Annual Meeting Award Winners

Award	2024 Recipient
Section/Chapter Activities Award, Large Section	Oregon Section
Section/Chapter Activities Award, Small Section	Hawaii Section
Section/Chapter Momentum Award	Riverside San Bernadino Section
Student Paper Award	Jane Bianca Weber, <i>Oregon State University</i>
Transportation Achievement Awards Recognition: Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO)	<i>"CV-Sync" Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Smart Region Project</i> , Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Transportation Achievement Awards Recognition: Safety	<i>Menlo Park Vision Zero Action Plan</i> , City of Menlo Park
Transportation Achievement Awards Recognition: Planning	<i>City of San Diego Mobility Evaluation Tool (SDMET)</i> , City of San Diego
Transportation Achievement Awards Recognition: Traffic Engineering	<i>Dedicated Overnight Truck Tractor Parking - Harbor Island</i> , Seattle Department of Transportation
Transportation Achievement Awards Recognition: Complete Streets	<i>Mid-Valencia Center-Running Bikeway Project</i> , San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
Transportation Project of the Year	<i>Mid-Valencia Center-Running Bikeway Project</i> , San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
Student Chapter Award	University of California, Los Angeles
Student Chapter Award Honorable Mention	California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Student Chapter Momentum Award	University of Washington
Outstanding Transportation Educator	Dr. Anurag Pande, <i>California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo</i>
Outstanding Student Award: Undergraduate	Matthew Prak, <i>Oregon State University</i>
Outstanding Student Award: Graduate	Garett Davis, <i>University of Washington</i>
Mentor Award	Patrick Marnell, <i>Q-Free</i>
Young Professional Achievement Award	Kayla Fleskes-Lane, <i>DKS Associates</i>
Individual Achievement Award	Keoni Wasano, <i>Goldwings Supply Service Inc.</i>
Lifetime Achievement Award	Chris Kinzel, <i>TJKM</i>
Annual Meeting Best Paper Award	<i>Yellow Change Intervals for Left Turns: A More Reasonable Kinematic Formula</i> , Walter Okitsu, KOA Corporation
Annual Meeting Best Paper Award: Young Professional	<i>Shrinking Operational Circles: Visualizing Compact Geometry Effects on Roundabouts</i> , Jonathan Howard, Caltrans
Student Chapter Annual Meeting Award	California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Student Regional Travel Scholarships	Lindsey Housinger, <i>University of Southern California</i> Keith Kobayashi, <i>Oregon State University</i>

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT: LAC Chair, Sowmya Chandrasekhar **OR** Technical Chair, Kristin Tso
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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!

2025
WESTERN DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 29-JULY 2

Submit your abstracts *HERE*:
[https://www.westernite.org/
annualmeeting/call-for-papers/](https://www.westernite.org/annualmeeting/call-for-papers/)
Abstracts due: December 6, 2024



Committee Updates

District Local Arrangements Committee (LAC)

By Cathy Leong, Committee Chair

The Western District Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California was a great success thanks to the efforts of the local LAC led by Cameron Shew. In addition to assisting with the recent Annual Meeting, the District LAC has been continuing advance planning for our upcoming meetings. Planning for the upcoming 2025 Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California from June 29 to July 2, 2025 is underway and the Annual Meeting website has already been updated at westernite.org/annualmeeting/. The Call for Papers is open, and information about registration and hotel reservations available at the website. The 2026 Bellevue LAC is also continuing planning for their meeting and the District has signed an MOU with the Mountain District for a joint meeting in 2027. The joint meeting will be held in Reno, Nevada, and we have just signed a contract with the Silver Legacy Resort for the meeting.

Student Funding & Initiatives Committee (SFIC)

By Kayla Fleskes-Lane, Committee Chair

The Student Funding and Initiatives Committee (SFIC) was excited to host over 60 Western District students at this year's joint Western District/International Annual Meeting in Portland. The Annual Meeting started off with the Kell Competition, MiteY Race and a Student Awards Event on Saturday where the [Student Chapter Award](#) was presented to the University of Southern California and the [Student Chapter Momentum Award](#) was presented to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The following days also included more student-focused events like a career guidance panel session, a student and faculty leadership forum, and, of course, the Student Traffic Bowl where Oregon State University represented the District in the International Competition.

This fall, we also launched a new [Connections Grant](#) to support student chapters that host activities involving other organizations or student chapters. All the student activities and awards led by the SFIC are made possible by the [Student Endowment Fund](#), which supports over \$15,000 worth of student initiatives and scholarships every year. Thank you to all the past and current donors who have made these initiatives possible. For more information on the Endowment Fund and to donate, please visit westernite.org/student-endowment-fund.

Career Guidance Committee

By Henry Hammel, Committee Chair

The Career Guidance Committee rolled out multiple new initiatives this year to support the growth and development of young professionals across the District. Sophia Tan and Michelle Agustin Lindsey, with guidance from past chair Jenny Tapat Morrill, successfully launched the EXPLORE ITE Badge Recognition Program. The program asked young professionals (less than 35 years old) across the District to log their activity in ITE. After meeting participation requirements, young professionals received the 2024 inaugural commemorative pin, and three lucky participants received a \$50 gift card prize! See page 5 for more details on the next iteration of the program launching this year.

Katie Lee and Eileen Chai launched a new career guidance webpage, providing information on professional licenses in our industry. Daniel Lai continues to manage the MiteY Mentorship program, which maintains a network of mentors and mentees across the District. If you'd like to get another perspective on your career, email Daniel to get pair up with a mentor. Amy Huang coordinated five awards on behalf of the Career Guidance Committee and organized an interorganizational young professional bike ride through San Francisco.

Sahlia Sarjana, Kezia Suwandhaputra, Katie Lee, Eileen Chai, and Sophia Tan led three career guidance sessions at the annual meeting this year in Sacramento.

EXPLORE ITE Badge Recognition Program

EXPLORE ITE encourages young professionals to develop their technical knowledge and expand their network. Our challengers this year were required to attend a social event, a professional development event, and a section meeting to earn their badge. Everyone had a lot of fun networking at ITE mixers, gaining insights from webinars, and participating in section meetings. The program has been a great way for young professionals to learn more about ITE and become more involved.

In the upcoming year, we're expanding the program by introducing a new Service category. This category will include contributions such as speaking to students about the profession, volunteering as a mentor, serving on a council, board, or committee, and more. The Service category highlights the significant effort our members make to promote and develop the future of transportation.

To earn the 2025 Explore ITE badge, participants must:

1. Attend a Section Meeting
2. Complete two activities from the following three categories: Social Event, Professional Development, and Service

Visit the [Western District Explore ITE page](#) to start your challenge!



Section and Chapter Updates

Hawaii Section

by Keoni Wasano

The Hawaii Section started off the year with a few virtual meetings, a hybrid meeting, and our 4th annual technical solutions event. We were blessed to have industry leaders such as Dr. Billie Louise “Beezy” Bentzen, Randy McCourt, and Peter Koonce present to our members on updates to the PROWAG, MUTCD, and the use of Artificial Intelligence in traffic systems. Our technical solutions event featured Applied Information, Iteris, Carmanah, Ouster, and a panel session with Econolite, Q-Free, and Swarco McCain discussing their perspectives on the future of traffic management.

In February, we participated in the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies Outreach event held during Engineers Week. We spoke to the attendees about different modes of transportation and highlighted the benefits of public transportation. In April, a few of our current and past Section Board Members judged a multimodal alternatives assessment and conceptual design competition as part of the 2024 Pacific Southwest Student Symposium hosted by UH Manoa.

In June, we had a number of Hawaii Section members attend the Western District Annual Meeting in Sacramento. The group participated in the Family Night Family Feud event, moderated sessions, and celebrated a section and individual award.

The University of Hawaii Student Chapter hosted a joint “Kanak Attack” social event with the ASCE Student Chapter at Ala Moana Beach Park in March. This was well attended by both students and professional members to network and build relationships.

The 2024 Section Officers are Jasmine Teramae-Kaehuaea (Past President), Keoni Wasano (President), Michelle Lindsey (Vice-President), and Joel Thomas (Secretary-Treasurer).

San Diego Section

By Michael Greer

The April 25, 2024 general meeting was hosted virtually via ZOOM as a joint section meeting inviting members from ITE Central Coast (CC), Riverside-San Bernardino (RSB), San Diego (SD), and Southern California (SoCal-LA) Sections. Approximately 75 attendees learned from presenter Brian Ray of Sunrise Transportation Strategies, who provided an update on new national roundabout guidance via an overview of NCHRP Research Report 1043 Guide for Roundabouts”. Current ITE Western District Presidential Candidates (Kimberly Leung, PE, TE and Joe de la Garza, PE, TE) as well as Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer (Cameron Shew, PE, TE) gave brief presentations on their candidacies and reasons for running for their respective positions.

The May 2024 general meeting was hosted as a Social and Networking Mini-Golf Event at The Loma Club, Point Loma. This was a catered event with appetizers, sliders, and beverages provided to show appreciation for section sponsors. The 2nd Annual ITE SD Mini-Golf Social awarded 1st and 2nd Place Team Medals as well as raffle prizes available via tickets given to all that registered.

This year’s annual district meeting June 23-26 was hosted in Sacramento, CA at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel. Our San Diego Section had several attendees join the conference and we celebrated by hosting a networking social event at JuJu Kitchen and Cocktails. We also joined the rest of the western district attendees at the Punchbowl Social happy hour and games event where a great time was had by all. Finally, our section shared the dance floor as we learned to line dance with the rest!

ITE SD, in conjunction with WTS SD, coordinated this fun social event with colleagues and families at Mission Beach on August 10, 2024. A taco truck catered delicious food, salsas, and drinks for the group. Trophies were awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams to help spark the competitive spirit. Children’s games were organized to help entertain family members in attendance. This second annual event was attended by ~50 total ITE SD and WTS SD section attendees from public and private sectors.



Sponsors

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Positions Available

Looking for a new position? There are current job postings available on our website!

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