



2026 Student Chapter Momentum Award

Chapter Administration

Over the past couple of years, ITE at UC Irvine has experienced a substantial increase in membership, necessitating a larger, more organized officer structure. For the 2025-26 academic year, we elected to transition from a four-person board to a ten-person board. On our new board, we have a four-person executive board (President, External Vice President, Internal Vice President & Treasurer, Secretary) and a six-person cabinet (Project Managers, Events Chairs, Social Media Chair) to better distribute our set of yearly chapter tasks that have both increased in workload and complexity. As we learn how to effectively run the club, we will continue to evolve the structure of our board to be even more comprehensive and supportive for our upcoming 26-27 officers.

In addition to our board, we developed a committee devoted to planning the 2026 Western District Student Leadership Summit, including a mix of passionate board and general members who gained leadership opportunities to shine outside of normal ITE operations. This committee consisted of seven devoted ITE members – five board members, and two general members.

New Member Recruitment

Ever since COVID, membership for ITE at UCI has been low due to the niche transportation specialization at UCI and the lack of marketing to engineering and planning students. However, in the past two years, we have seen explosive growth due to an increased presence at schoolwide and universitywide events. In the current academic year, we have seen the highest number of active and total members in several years (and potentially longer). We have witnessed a 336% increase of total members since 2022, with a 50% increase over the past year. Our engagement rate has had a 55% relative increase over the past year, bringing us our highest active members yet this current school year. We have also seen an increase in the diversity of student majors: civil engineering, urban studies, computer science/engineering, and mechanical engineering. Retention and the age of new members have also changed for the better this year, with a significantly larger number of members staying throughout the year and the majority of active (non-board) members consisting of lowerclassmen undergraduate students.

2026 Student Leadership Summit

By far the largest and most impactful undertaking of the year for us was the [2026 Western District Student Leadership Summit](#), the largest one of its size yet by attendance. UCI has never hosted SLS by itself (or in recent years, any section or district event), so it was an ambitious endeavor for us that paid off tenfold. With a lead team of three people and four other committee members, we were able to put together an event consisting of transportation-related workshops and presentations held by industry professionals, field trips to local facilities spanning all modes of transportation, a banquet in addition to other catered meals, career and networking opportunities, and much more. Our event used what worked best in previous years and improved upon the formula by adding our own flair – a hotel-to-campus shuttle to overcome Irvine's car-centric environment, a custom design language seen fluently throughout all event materials, the reintroduction of the mixer student presentations & icebreakers, and food that reflects the diversity of Orange County. The total attendance exceeded 370, representing students from 15 universities



The Institute of Transportation Engineers at UC Irvine

Professional Development & Networking Events

Over the past school year, our chapter expanded our professional development and networking initiatives to strengthen connections between our student members, alumni, and industry professionals. We hosted multiple guest lectures, such as SJSU Grad School, Transportation Planning at HDR, and CEQA initiatives at Urban Crossroads.

One of our new initiatives this year was the implementation of a mentorship program, in which returning upperclassmen members were paired up with new ITE members, upper or underclassmen. While this program is still in its early stages, the program has laid the foundation for long-term professional guidance and peer support. So far, the mentorship program encouraged mentorship families to buddy-together at career fairs and field trips, study together during ITE study sessions, as well as reinforcing an overall sense of community within the chapter.

We have also improved our presence at conferences as well, sending one ITE UCI representative in 2024 and four representatives in 2025 to the Western District Annual Meeting after being unable to attend for some years. We also sent one of our e-board members to the 2025 ITS-CA Annual Conference and four e-board members to the 2025 Annual Transportation Research Board Conference in Washington, D.C. In addition to conferences, we restarted sponsorship acquisition, gaining six club sponsors for 24-25, thirty-four sponsors for SLS, Civil & Environmental Engineering Department funding, and Engineering Society Organization funding.

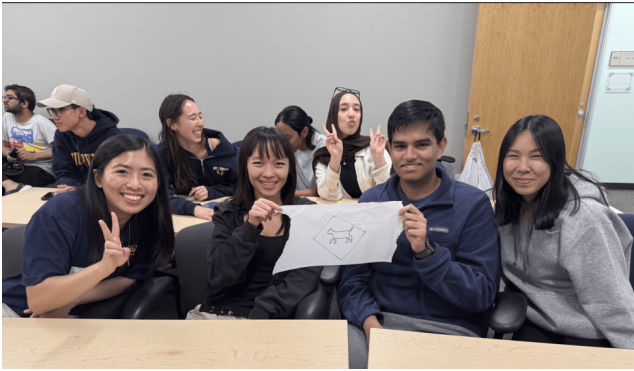
Application of Technical Knowledge

Last year, our yearlong ITE club project focused on exploring applications of LLMs in signal warrant analysis, where our project team of 7-8 students explored introductory traffic concepts and AI prompting techniques. We collaborated with our faculty advisor and ITS graduate students for technical background and prompt ideas, and our further independent research and presentation gained us 2nd place at the 2025 ITE x OCTEC Student Presentation Night. The success of our LLM project has inspired new members to join this year's project exploring EV freight charging, expanding our project team to 18 active members.

In November 2025, we assembled a team of students to compete at the Interdistrict Transportation Competition (ITC) for the first time. For our freshmen and newer members, who made up half of the fourteen team members, this was a perfect chance to get project experience in their first quarter of college, and was the first transportation project in recent history that had roles specifically for planning majors. We were able to send ten members to present at the competition in Davis, and it was a new opportunity to network with students from other WD chapters that were geographically far from UCI. Thanks to this competition, our members were equipped to contribute to other UCI and design projects, and we hope to continue offering this opportunity for both new and returning members.

Additional Trips/Technical Tours & Outreach

- OCTA Field Trip with UCI's ASCE and Urban Studies Student Association, Spring 2025
- SNA Airport Field Trip with USC, CPP, and UCR ITE chapters, Spring 2025
- Iteris Office Tour, Fall 2025
- Field trips associated with SLS, Winter 2026: John Wayne, Anaheim TMC, Santa Ana RTC, 405 Express Lanes, Nextech Systems, Caltrans 12



ITE Weekly Meeting with Transportation Activity



SoCal Section Traffic Bowl at Cal Poly Pomona



Promotion of ITE at our UCI Club Fair



ITE at UCI at WDAM 2025 in Long Beach



Total attendance at the 2026 Student Leadership Summit



SoCal ITE Student Night 2025 – 2nd place presentation



John Wayne Airport (SNA) Field Trip



ITE at UCI Project team at ITC @ UC Davis