

December 2019 WDCSITE Newsletter



Washington, D.C. Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers

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President's Message

Hello WDCSITE,

Hope you are doing well.

As we transition to a new leadership for 2020, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your tremendous enthusiasm and participation throughout 2019. The level of involvement from the membership was amazing and that resulted in WDCSITE having one of its most active years. I also want to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the highlights of 2019.



Scholarships: For a section of our size, it was surprising we did not have a student scholarship until 2019. With Neelima Ghanta's (HNTB) hard work and dedication, WDCSITE started a student scholarship program this year. This scholarship provides up to \$1000 for qualifying candidate(s). As we continue the scholarship program, WDCSITE is working with its leadership to make it self-sustainable while finding ways to reach out to additional student chapters and members in its area.

Awards: WDCSITE also instituted a "Project of the Year" award. In a geographic area like ours, there always is an abundance of active high-profile projects which impact and improve our communities. This award is WDCSITE's way of recognizing such innovative projects and the talented individuals working to make the communities around them a better place.

Public Sector Committee: Under Abi Lerner (VDOT) and Seth Young's (STV) leadership, WDCSITE started a public sector committee. The primary goal of this committee is to understand the needs of public sector employees in our area and find ways to make WDCSITE more accessible and the professional organization of choice among the public sector community. Abi and Seth reached out to several public agency employees in leadership positions from the WDCSITE membership to recruit them to this committee. After several coordination meetings and conference calls, the public sector committee defined guidelines for WDCSITE to carry forward into 2020. The committee is in the process of identifying "Ambassadors" within each agency who will serve as the liaison between WDCSITE and their agency. If you are interested in participating in this committee, please



Volunteers

Are you interested in volunteering with events, meetings, & other activities with WDCSITE? We are looking for motivated enthusiastic individuals to further WDCSITE's goal and make us the professional organization of choice. Please contact [Jon Crisafi](#) or [Adam Greenstein](#) to volunteer.

Topics and Speakers

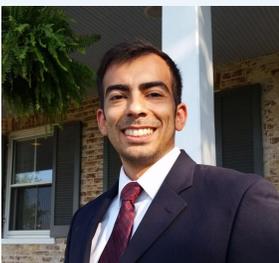
We are always looking for fresh ideas, topics, and presentations. If you are interested presenting at a WDCSITE event, please reach out to [Vivek Hariharan](#).

Presentations from all transportation and related disciplines are welcome.

2019 WDCSITE BOARD



Vivek Hariharan
President



David Duarte
Vice President

reach out to Abi or Seth.

Student Chapter: Students are the future for our industry and that is also true with regards to WDCSITE. Encouraging student participation and involvement has been a long-standing goal for WDCSITE. This year, Adam Greenstein (WSP) was able to coordinate with Howard University to start a student chapter. Adam was also able to recruit Shawn Daniels (RK&K) to serve as the university liaison. In addition, I would also like to thank Qiana Gabriel (Wallace Montgomery) and Anjuli Tapia (Fehr and Peers) for their hard work and contributions to engage the student chapters at Morgan State University and University of Maryland, respectively.

Events and Collaboration: Under Jon Crisafi (Kittelson) and Adam Greenstein's (WSP) able leadership as Washington, DC and Baltimore Area Directors, WDCSITE organized over 20 meetings, social events, professional development activities, and tours. This year WDCSITE organized its first ever meetings at Prince William County and Loudoun County. In addition, WDCSITE also held events at Arlington County, Fairfax County, DDOT, Montgomery County, Maryland SHA, and Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), among others. Recognizing the need for collaboration with other professional organizations, WDCSITE organized joint events with WTS, YPT, ASHE, VASITE, ITS Maryland, and APA, among others. These events spark a healthy exchange of ideas and offer a great opportunity for networking. Based on the reviews I have received, the membership has really enjoyed these events. Special kudos to both the area directors and several others who assisted them in putting together these events and activities.

Social Media: WDCSITE has actively used its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages over the past year and a half. This has been a great outlet for us to spread the word about events, important deadlines, and relevant information to the membership. If you haven't subscribed to WDCSITE's social media platforms, please click on our Facebook or Twitter pages above.

Newsletter: WDCSITE has published quarterly newsletters for a long time. This year the newsletter committee took on the monumental task of publishing a newsletter every month. The newsletter team comprising of Dana Slone (VHB), Phil Koloski (RS&H), Krishna Patnam (AECOM), and Eric Tang (VHB) have put in a lot of effort to bring these newsletters to you. I have to say their efforts have truly paid off as I have heard several good things and appreciative comments about the freshness in the monthly newsletter communications.

As we wind down this year, I wanted to thank you all for supporting me. At every turn, someone had a fresh new idea or an innovative way of engaging the membership - be it the bike tours, agency facility tours, networking socials, baseball / soccer socials, park clean-up, or the usual meeting presentations - which made this year an even more special one. I am proud to have served on the WDCSITE board as the President with such amazingly talented people. As we transition into 2020, I am excited for David Duarte as the next WDCSITE president and I am sure WDCSITE will reach greater heights under his leadership.

Thank you! I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy New Year, and a joyous holiday season.

Regards,
Vivek Hariharan
2019 WDCSITE President

Vice President



Burak Cesme

Secretary / Treasurer



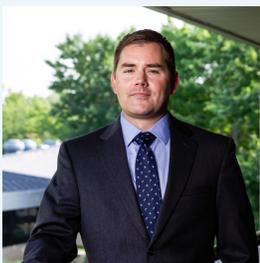
Jon Crisafi

Washington DC
Area Director



Adam Greenstein

Baltimore
Area Director



Seth Young

District
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President

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We would love to hear your thoughts / comments / suggestions on the newsletter.
Please feel free to reach out to our newsletter committee!

Thank You,

[Dana Slone](#), [Krishna Patnam](#), [Eric Tang](#), & [Philip Koloski](#)
Newsletter Committee

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