Greetings!

President’s Message

Hello WDCSITE,

I hope this latest edition of the WDCSITE Newsletter finds you cozy at home! This is a greeting I never imagined writing, but we are in a situation few imagined. Nevertheless, I hope you and yours are safe spending quality time with one another while also remaining productive. Now sit back, relax in those sweats, and enjoy this update from your ITE Section.

Firstly, as noted below, new International ITE leadership was recently elected. It is my understanding that this election marks the first time the International President and Vice President will both be women. Join me in collectively congratulating them as we look forward to their leadership next year.

I’m sure you saw the announcement of the Mid-Colonial District ITE Annual Meeting cancellation. Many of you and many on our Board and Leadership committees were preparing for a feature-packed event. This event, like the many other cancellations that surfaced in our lives recently should be a reminder to appreciate what we have, even things that we are involved in on a regular basis. Thank you to all involved in the preparation for this event. MCDITE Annual Meeting will be back next year with an even more engaging event.

This lull in conference activity lends an opportunity to look forward to WDCSITE’s own flagship event, which is scheduled for late fall. I’m expecting there to be more content, broader perspectives, and more eagerness to this event than in years past. I’m excited to share news of this event with you in the coming months.

Regarding our regularly scheduled events, we will be exploring ways to keep the Section connected. Last month saw a special event that we hope sparked momentum in the relations between WDCSITE and the Howard University ITE Chapter. We have similar momentum all around the Section and we plan on maintaining engagement during this time. With schools closed for the foreseeable future, I urge you to create your own STEM and career experiences. No matter their age, consider engaging your kids with the great work you do so that they may share in your passion for transportation.
Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events currently on the calendar. Stay tuned to the WDCSITE website, Facebook, or Twitter for any new announcements.

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 Casalini, Fliss Mitchell to get involved.

Job Opening

To view the current job postings via WDCSITE, please click on the image above.

ITE International Election Results

This month, ITE announced the results of their 2021 International Election. Candidates for the International Board positions were nominated by the ITE Nominating Committee. Candidate bios and general information about the election were included in the January issue of ITE Journal.

The 2021 International President will be Alyssa A. Reynolds Rodriguez, P.E., PTOE (F), the Director of Information Technology for the City of Henderson, Nevada. Alyssa is currently serving as the 2020 International Vice President, and in the past as occupied leadership roles at the International, District, Section, Chapter, and student chapter level. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Montana State University.

The 2021 International Vice President will be Beverly Thompson Kuhn, Ph.D., P.E., PMP (F), a Division Head and Senior Research Engineer at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute in College Station, Texas. Beverly is a 2018 recipient of the ITE Theodore M. Matson Memorial Award and a Past President of Brazos Valley Section. She has over 30 years of active involvement in ITE on all levels. Beverly received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Texas A&M University and her Ph.D. from Penn State University.

2020 Mid-Colonial District ITE Annual Meeting Canceled

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Mid-Colonial District ITE Annual Meeting has been canceled. Refunds have been issued through PayPal. Please visit the Annual Meeting official website for any additional information, including contact information for any questions.

VDOT TOSAM 2.0 Webinars Announced

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will offer a series of recorded webinars in the next few months to introduce the newly released Traffic Operations and Safety Analysis Manual (TOSAM) Version 2.0. Please stay tuned for the webinar schedule.

A link to TOSAM Version 2.0 can be found in the manuals section of the VDOT website.

Join our mailing list by clicking on the image above

Cheers,
David Duarte
2020 WDCSITE President

Please stay safe and carry a positive outlook. Brighter days are ahead of us and once we surpass this virus, we'll need everyone at their best to continue providing the transportation infrastructure and services that keep our communities going.

Cheers,
David Duarte
2020 WDCSITE President
Crisafi or Elisa Mitchell to volunteer.

Topics and Speakers

We are always looking for fresh ideas, topics, and presentations. If you are interested in presenting at a WDCSITE event, please reach out to David Duarte.

Presentations from all transportation and related disciplines are welcome.

2020 WDCSITE EXECUTIVE BOARD

David Duarte
President

Burak Cesme
Vice President

Adam Greenstein
Secretary / Treasurer

Alyssa and Beverly will begin serving their terms at the start of 2021. Congratulations to these two women for their outstanding accomplishments! Visit the ITE website for the official announcement of the election results. Another announcement of the election results will be made in the April issue of ITE Journal.

Meet-a-Member: Sarah Gary

1. Please introduce yourself and tell us about your role in WDCSITE.
My name is Sarah Gary and I am a 1997 graduate of the University of Kentucky. I grew up on a farm in Kentucky where we grew tobacco, raised black angus cows, and bailed hay in the hot summer months. Soon after graduating and working, I moved to Baltimore with my husband Devin and we've been here for almost 20 years. I hope to increase my role in ITE over the next few years. Right now, I am helping Elisa Mitchell out in the Baltimore area.

2. Please tell us about your family.
My husband Devin and I have been married for almost 20 years and we have twin 14-year-old boys, three cats, and a dog. The teenage years are tough and I'm willing to take advice from anyone with experience, especially how to get my grocery bill back down or how to understand the whole point of Snapchat!

3. Please tell us something about your hobbies and activities outside work.
I've been a runner since I was a Freshman in high school and have completed numerous half marathons and one marathon. I run with a group of women early in the morning and our conversations are incredibly therapeutic and I am so grateful for those friendships. Like all University of Kentucky graduates, I am a huge UK basketball fan. #BBN.

4. Tell us briefly about your work - firm/organization, your role. What does your typical workday look like?
I have worked for JMT's traffic department since I moved to Baltimore in 2000. I was promoted to Vice President a few years ago. I work with an amazing group of people in the traffic department and they make my job enjoyable! I also work on site at MDOT SHA Travel Forecasting with a great group of people and amazing leadership. My work every day is different - I will study a minor intersection one day and the next day I might work on a large interchange project. Variety is the spice of life!

5. What projects have you worked on that have had a big impact on your career or on a community?
Recently I worked on Tradepoint Atlantic in Baltimore County. This major development will be a large employer for the region and will help improve the lives of many. Consequently, there will be a lot of traffic and I helped work on the proposed roadway improvements.

6. What is your favorite WDCSITE, activity/event you have participated in and what activity/event/presentation would you like to see next?
I participated in the Middle River clean up. We got to go out on boats and clean some very interesting trash out of the water. It was a great team building activity and I'd like to see more events like it, especially when it is followed by a great
7. When and how did you get involved with ITE and how has your involvement in ITE, especially WDCSITE, helped your career?
I have been a member of ITE since 1995 when I was in the civil engineering program at the University of Kentucky. I always thought ITE had great programming that was relevant to what I do daily. I work with many of the people on the board and we’ve developed better personal relationships.

8. What topic (besides connected and autonomous vehicles) are you most interested in seeing progress in the next 10-15 years in the transportation industry?
I am very passionate about safety and I think we need to have more discussions about planning and designing for aging populations, especially now that the oldest baby boomers are in their mid-70’s. I think elderly mobility and safety should be a renewed topic.

9. What advice would you give to a young transportation engineer?
Be passionate about what you do, be engaged. Read, read, read. Learn, learn, learn! Listen to the ITE podcast, it is great!

New ITE Members

WDCSITE would like to offer a warm welcome to the following new ITE members in our section!

New Members
Samuel Asare-Adjabeng
Lydia Conrad
Seifu Hailu
Jon Ryder

WDCSITE is happy to have you aboard and looks forward to your future participation.

2020 WDCSITE Sponsors
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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