



## Official Publication of the ITE Michigan Section

### **Letter from the President** By: Steve Stramsak, P.E., P.T.O.E.



Hello and happy summer, ITE Michigan Section!

It has been a busy year so far, and I do not see that slowing down at all over the next few months. The Section has had a busy year so far, including the following activities:

We had an excellent technical session at the MSU Union on April 17, hosted by the MSU student chapter of ITE. This was a great session with presentations on the MDOT ITS program, new technologies with LIDARs and radars, and on the Amish community as vulnerable road users. The session also featured a panel on the importance of mental health awareness, which was well received by the membership, as well as a practice traffic bowl competition with MSU, U of M, and WMU.

The Section also held the Annual Scholarship Golf Outing at the Mystic Creek Golf Course in Milford on May 29. Although the weather was not quite as excellent as in previous years, we still had a solid turnout of around 120 golfers and raised around \$15,000 for scholarships for the Section. Thank you to the Golf Committee (Aimee Giacherio, Tim Haagsma, Chris Leonard, Joe Marson, and Bill Zipp) and all of the golf volunteers that helped make this event a rousing success.

Switching gears to future Section activities, we have upcoming technical sessions at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo on July 16 and in Traverse City on September 26. Registration for both events is currently live on the ITE Michigan website; I hope to see you at either or both events. We also have the Section Annual Meeting on December 4 in Farmington Hills. Please stay tuned for more information on the Section Annual Meeting. The ITE International Annual Meeting is also coming up August 10-13 in Orlando.

ITE is also going through an organizational rebranding as we speak. This is intended to have one consistent branding of ITE across all of the districts, sections, and chapters across the world. As you can imagine, there have been many discussions on this topic over the last year. The Board has been involved in these discussions and will be implementing some changes to the website, logo, and communications over the next few months. These changes should be fairly minor and will not impact on the services we are providing the Section.



## Official Publication of the ITE Michigan Section

### Letter from the President (cont'd)

We had many Section members attend the recent ITE Great Lakes District Meeting in Indianapolis June 8-10. This conference was a joint conference with the WTS Central organization and provided attendees with many great technical sessions and keynote presentations. As always, the ITE Indiana Section were great hosts and provided numerous opportunities for networking. The Section also came home with several awards:

- The Western Michigan University student chapter won the District Chapter Momentum award, given to the most improved student chapter.
- The Michigan State University student chapter won the District Outstanding Student Chapter award.

Congratulations to the WMU and MSU students on their awards!

Also, the Michigan Section won the District Outstanding Section award for 2025! I was honored and privileged to accept the award alongside several of our Section Board members (Vice President Bonnie Wood, Treasurer Julie Kroll, and Director Cole Villalobos). Congratulations to all of you as well, as it is the efforts of the Michigan Section as a whole and our wonderful volunteers that made this award a reality. Thank you for all your efforts!

I also note that the Great Lakes District and the Michigan Section will be hosting the Annual Meeting in Detroit July 18-21, 2026. This is the first time Detroit has hosted the Annual Meeting since 1974! Please consider volunteering to help out with the planning for that event. Please contact Lia Michaels, Carissa McQuiston, or any of the Section Board members and we will get you on the list.



I look forward to seeing you at a future ITE event. Please consider volunteering to help out the Section activities – all of what we do is volunteer-led, and we are always looking for additional help to provide more to our membership.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a great summer and fall, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Steve



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**UPCOMING DATES:**

Summer Technical Session – July 16

ITE International Meeting – August 10-13

ITE Tigers Outing – August 19

Fall Technical Session – September 26

Winter Technical Session – December 4



# 2025 Executive Board & Committee Chairs

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## Official Publication of the ITE Michigan Section

### In Memory of Sarah Premo

By: Steve Stramsak, P.E., P.T.O.E

It is my sad duty to report that ITE Michigan Section member and proud MSU graduate Sarah Premo passed away on February 6, 2025 at the age of 23.

Sarah was a 2019 graduate from Forest Park High School in Crystal Falls, Michigan. She attended Michigan State University and graduated with a bachelor's and a master's degree in Civil Engineering, with the master's degree coming in December 2023. Sarah worked for the MSU Transportation Engineering research team for several years, was a co-op student with MDOT over the summers, and also worked as a calculus teaching assistant at MSU.



Sarah was also very active in ITE both at the MSU student chapter level (where she served as president) and at the Section level, where she was serving on the Young Professionals Committee and leading the Communications Committee. Sarah was also active in the MSU Engineering Honor Society, served as Vice President of Chi Epsilon, and was a member of Women in Engineering while at MSU. She was working at Clark Dietz in Lansing, Michigan upon her passing.

I had the pleasure of knowing Sarah since 2022 in her first appearance on MSU's traffic bowl team at the District Annual Meeting in Duluth, Minnesota. Sarah's intelligence and enthusiasm was obvious from the moment you met her, as was her infectious personality and sense of humor. I was lucky enough to be able to hire her at RS Engineering/Clark Dietz as a part-time student in summer 2023, which led to her full time employment after her graduation. Sarah was an excellent traffic engineer and even better person who brightened up the office. Sarah was one of the people I missed the most upon leaving Clark Dietz last November. The news of her passing was a complete shock to me and to many other people as well. Sarah will be sorely and deeply missed.

As a tribute to Sarah, the ITE Michigan Section Board has decided to rename one of our scholarships as the "Sarah Premo Memorial Scholarship", which will be handed out on a yearly basis to an MSU Civil Engineering student in the MSU ITE student chapter.

-Steve Stramsak, Spalding DeDecker



## Official Publication of the ITE Michigan Section

# Spring Technical Session

By: Austin Detweiler, E.I.T.  
Graduate Engineer, HRC



Transportation professionals from all over the state arrived on the banks of the Red Cedar with a treat in store for them. The 2025 Spring Technical Session at the Michigan State University Student Union on April 17th began with Magdalena Cavka, the MSU ITE President, welcoming everyone to campus, followed by some opening remarks by John Engle, 2024 Michigan ITE President.

Technical presentations began with Andrew Kilpatrick from Fishbeck, who started us off with an overview of a project involving the pros and cons of working on "Design-Build" project. One of those pros was being able to work closely with contractors during the design process to realize some major savings costs for MDOT. Ahmad Jawad from D2 Traffic Technologies then began his presentation on Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and radar technologies and their various applications to the transportation field. LiDAR and radar are becoming more and more common on our transportation infrastructure, leading to more readily available data that can then be utilized to improve safety, efficiency, and reliability.

Michigan State University's graduate students studying transportation also had a chance to share their research with transportation professionals. These students tackled a broad range of subjects ranging from work zone safety all the way to electronic-vehicle charging models. For those that spoke with the students, it was apparent just how knowledgeable these students were on their respective topics. Their posters also looked great!



Lunch was followed by a mental health discussion panel that led some group discussions with the audience. The panelists shared ways in which to maintain their mental health, recharge, and cope with the stresses of the life of a transportation professional. Brian Delgado from MDOT then led a very interesting presentation concerning Amish and Mennonite groups as vulnerable road users. In his presentation, he made some key observations about how these communities often slip through the cracks in a transportation context. One of the notable ways they may not be receiving the attention they need in terms of traffic safety is that there is no designation to record a horse and buggy crash on a UD-10 form (the police crash report form). Brian then explored some solutions to prevent some of these crashes, such as installing wider shoulders on their primary routes.

The Spring Technical Session then concluded with three rounds of a the Traffic Bowl, ITE's jeopardy style transportation trivia competition. Michigan State University and Western Michigan University fielded student teams. A third team, comprised of volunteer transportation professionals from the audience, also joined the fray. When all was said and done, the final score on the final round had the professionals winning by 47,000 points, after some daily double shenanigans transpired.

A special thanks goes out to the Technical Committee and MSU ITE. Without them, this event would not have been possible!



Official Publication of the ITE Michigan Section

# 33rd Annual ITE Educational Fund Golf Outing

By: Aimée Giacherio, P.E.

The ITE Michigan Section held its 33rd Annual Educational Fund Golf Outing on Thursday, May 29th. We had a total of 128 golfers on two of Mystic Creek’s courses. The Michigan Section ITE Golf Committee would like to extend our thanks to all the firms that generously supported this year’s benefit golf tournament. This year’s golf outing was a huge success with an all time high of 42 sponsors! All of our gracious sponsors are listed below. Additional thanks are extended to all of the outing participants. Each year participants dig deep into their pockets to participate in the on-course challenge holes, raffle, and flagging tape sale which contributes to the total profit.

**Congratulations to the team consisting of Chris Leonard, Ron Worthington, Todd Everson, and Jarrett Gerring who captured first place at the event!**

Profits from the golf outing have not been totaled yet but we are expecting our profits from the event to be around \$15,000, which will be a record setting year for us. All the proceeds are deposited into the Michigan Section ITE Educational Fund. This fund is used to provide a reduced student attendance fee at Michigan Section meetings, to provide monetary awards for the annual student research paper competition, to help defray students’ costs for attending national ITE and Transportation Research Board meetings, and to provide scholarships to worthy transportation engineering students at Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Western Michigan University, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University.



Thanks to all who made this event such a huge success!

**Sponsors:**

- Advanced Drainage Systems
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- Clark Dietz Inc.
- Cubic
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- HDR
- HNTB
- HRC
- Integral Blue
- Iteris, Inc.
- ITS Michigan
- Joseph Marson
- LaCroix Traffic Engineering
- MDI Worldwide
- Michael Baker International
- MS2
- National Sign & Signal Co.

**Other Contributors:**

- Kevin McCarthy



# YPC Activities

## ITE Trivia Night

By: Matt Keyes, E.I.T.

Assistant Project Engineer, ROWE

ITE members assembled in three locations across the state to compete in our annual Trivia Event. The locations were in Farmington Hills, Lansing, and Grand Rapids and tested participants across four different topics: Pop Culture, Sports, US History, and conceptual PE Exam questions! In addition, there was a Lightning Round and a final Wager question. The best team of each respective location was awarded, but the highest scoring team across all three locations was awarded with trophies to commend their knowledge. Congratulations to the team (quite literally) named "GR Team #1" for their victory!



## 2025 Red Wings Night

By: Jordan Hankin, P.E.

Project Engineer, Spalding DeDecker

The ITE Michigan Section Young Professional Committee (YPC) had a great time hosting its first annual Detroit Red Wings outing! The event was held on March 27, 2025, for an evening game vs the Ottawa Senators. Before the game, the YPC met up at Bookie's Bar and Grill for pre-game appetizers and networking. Fifteen (15) ITE members, friends, and family attended the event. The Red Wings came back to tie the game from being down 0-3, but ultimately could not secure the victory. The YPC is already looking forward a larger Red Wings event next season! Keep an eye out for information on the YPC's 2025 Tigers outing!





# YPC Activities

## Science Olympiad Volunteering

By: Austin Detweiler, E.I.T. Graduate Engineer, HRC



ITE Michigan Section has a great history of giving back to our communities. When people think of the typical ITE volunteering activity, they may think of things like road clean-ups or volunteering to assist students at your alma mater. However, the YPC, over the last two years, has started a new tradition that seems to be sticking: volunteering to assist with the Michigan Science Olympiad.

ITE YPC volunteered for the regional competition at East Lansing High School on Saturday March 15, 2025 and the state competition at MSU on Saturday April 26, 2025.

For anyone unfamiliar with what the Science Olympiad is, it's a competition for middle school and high school students, where they get to show off their physics, chemistry, biology, and other scientific knowledge via events. For example, one of the two events our ITE volunteers oversaw involved an air trajectory event, where students had to calculate the forces and distances that their catapult would need to launch a ping pong ball. Our ITE volunteers judged the devices to ensure that they met the event specifications/parameters and scored them based on how accurate the students were to the designated targets.

"I've been doing this since 2012," said Cole Villalobos (YPC Committee Chair and Project Engineer at Hubbell, Roth & Clark Inc.), regarding his volunteering experience with Science Olympiad. This was something he was doing on his own time, but decided to open it up to the ITE Michigan YPC. In the last two years, they have volunteered four times. Cole also remarked that "Involving ITE YPC has made the events run a lot smoother due to having people plugged in, have done it before, and stay the whole day to help out."

Magdalena Cavka (MSU Ph.D. student and MSU ITE President) told me about how inspired she was by these young students: "These kids are just inspirational. They're so passionate about what they're doing, that it makes me feel motivated to do my own stuff."

When I asked whether they'd recommend this volunteering opportunity to other ITE members, they both said absolutely. "It's nice to give something back to the community," said Magdalena. If you're interested in volunteering, be on the lookout for emails next spring, or contact [CVillalobosehrcengr.com](mailto:CVillalobosehrcengr.com). Keep in mind that there are regional competitions all across the state, so if the Lansing area is too much of a hike, there are other volunteering opportunities near you.





# Student Chapter Activities

## Joint MSU / UoM Trip to Detroit

By: Austin Detweiler, E.I.T.  
Graduate Engineer, HRC

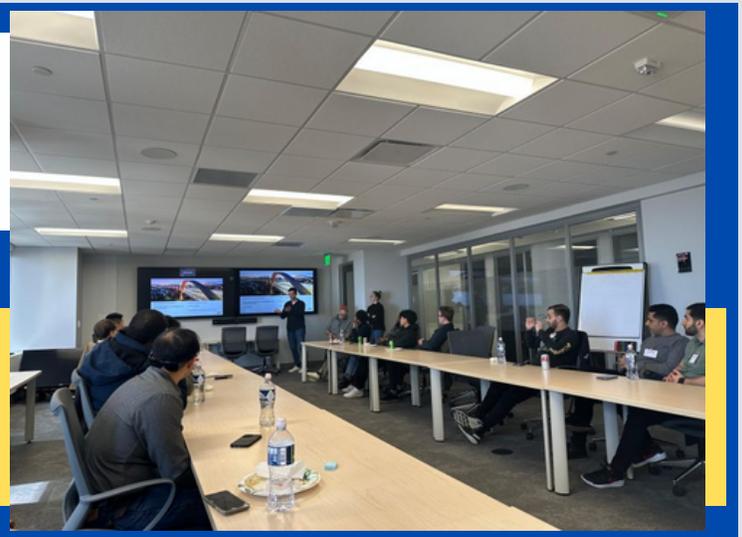


These two schools don't always get along when it comes to athletics, but students at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University have found some common ground when it comes for their passion for transportation engineering. On April 11th, the MSU ITE and UoM ITE / MiTSO (Michigan Transportation Student Organization) attended a joint field trip to the Detroit area to visit some employers.

Students got to get a taste of what private consulting looked like when they visited HNTB. There they got to get an overview of how the company is structured, what student and new graduate opportunities are available to them, and what skills companies are looking for them to have when they graduate. Magdalena Cavka, MSU ITE President, told me that she enjoyed this learning experience and took away a lot from it. "We all have an idea of what transportation engineering is, but we all learned something new."

The group also toured the Detroit Department of Public Safety, where they got to see what transportation looks like from the public sector side of things. The Traffic Management Center was really interesting for the students interested in the operations side of things, and the big wall showing CCTV feed was really cool to see. "A lot of what I do, and a lot of what transportation engineers do and make goes into the operation side of things. Getting a feel for how these tools will be used gives us a very valuable perspective," said Taewhan Ko, President of UMich ITE at the time of the trip.

Both presidents spoke very favorably of the joint event, with both saying that their organizations plan to do more events together in the future. For their next joint event, it seems like both groups are leaning towards a social event where students can get to know their peers at another school. It is really great to see that students' love for transportation engineering can transcend even the most spirited of rivalries and we all look forward to what comes next for our student groups!





Official Publication of the ITE Michigan Section

## Joint ITE Great Lakes District & WTS Central Region Annual Meeting Indianapolis, IN - June 8-10, 2025

By:

Cole G. Villalobos, P.E., PTOE, RSP<sub>2</sub>/IB

Lauren Hull, P.E., RSP<sub>1</sub>

Jordan Hankin, P.E.

### Student Leadership Summit (SLS)

Students from Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Purdue University, Western Michigan University, and the University of Michigan were in attendance for the Student Leadership Summit. Presentations started with Carly Schiene and Haydn Malackowski from Parsons talking about networking. After that, Lauren Hull with OHM Advisors presented on professional transportation certifications. The students were extremely engaged with both of these topics and asked several great questions. Lyndsay Quist, the Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner, was the keynote speaker. Once the morning presentations wrapped up, the students had the opportunity to eat lunch with the ITE Great Lakes District board members. This gave the students the chance to put their networking skills to the test and meet more people within the ITE community. After lunch, the students got to experience bus rapid transit (BRT) in action with the IndyGo Purple Line tour. This tour explained the different available transit lines including the Purple Line, Red Line, and the upcoming Blue Line. One of the design engineers even hopped on the bus to join the tour and showed everyone how the traffic signals optimize in real time.

Thank you to everyone who made this event successful!



### Traffic Bowl

The 2025 edition of the ITE Great Lakes District Traffic Bowl was a rousing success, featuring five (5) competing universities. This year the competition featured Purdue University and four (4) schools from Michigan: University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, and Michigan Technological University. Purdue earned a “bye” to the final game due to successfully completing a preliminary traffic knowledge quiz. The semi-final game featured all four Michigan schools, with ultimately UoM, MSU, and WMU advancing. Ultimately, Purdue won the final round and earned the opportunity to represent ITE GLD at the International Meeting this summer in Orlando! Congratulations to the Purdue team and good luck this summer!





## Official Publication of the ITE Michigan Section

### Joint ITE Great Lakes District & WTS Central Region Annual Meeting (cont'd) Indianapolis, IN - June 8-10, 2025

#### Student Competitions

Student chapters had a chance to compete in two competitions outside of the traffic bowl. These included the Student Poster Competition and the Student Design Competition. The winner of the Student Design Competition was Michigan's very own Western Michigan University ITE Student Chapter. The winners of the Student Poster Competition were Ogunniyi Olanrewaju from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee with the poster titled *Real-Time RSSI-Based Wi-Fi Scanning for Passive Detection of Non-Motorists: A Field Validation Study* as well as Lei Yin from Michigan Technological University with the poster titled *Impact of Lubricating Oil-Treated Crumb Rubber (LOCR) on Asphalt Overlay Performance*.

#### Tours / Events

Night one concluded with a trip to the Punch Bowl social. Build your own fajitas/nachos were provided along with a variety of games and drinks. Games included bowling, ping pong, and pinball to name a few. Of course, it wouldn't be an ITE conference without some karaoke. Night two events included a tour of the Pacers/Fever facility at the Gainbridge Fieldhouse and a happy hour hosted by the young members. The Gainbridge Filedhouse gave everyone a chance to meet and greet Freddy, the Fever's mascot, and take a guided tour of the facility. The tour included getting to walk out onto the court, see various specialty restaurants and bars, and learn about the construction process. The young member social was hosted at Brothers. Most of the ITE Great Lakes members showed up causing the need for additional wait staff.





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Joint ITE Great Lakes District & WTS Central Region Annual Meeting (cont'd) Indianapolis, IN - June 8-10, 2025

Awards

Michigan ITE as well as its members were recipients of several awards at this year's District Meeting. These awards include:

- Outstanding Student Chapter Award: Michigan State University Student Chapter
- Student Chapter Momentum Award: Western Michigan University Student Chapter
- Outstanding Section Award: ITE Michigan Section
- Transportation Achievement Award: TSM&O: An Investment into Next-Generation Traffic Operations, Macomb County Department of Roads, Michigan Section

Congratulations to all award recipients, and we're looking forward to next year!



New Members

Joined in 2025

Private Sector

- Adam Jadun
- Anas Abdulghani
- Andrew Ceifetz
- Blessing Tayisepi
- Brian Rodriguez
- Carson Hebner
- Haneefuddin Mohammed
- Jacob Porter
- Kelvin Msechu
- Lisa Whitehead
- Melissa Fickel
- Salman Ahmad

Public Sector

- Emira Barrette
- Dayton Emerson
- Jami Trudelle
- Michele Ford
- Monica Uribe
- Natasha Sonck

Student Members

- Akshay Suresh Babu
- Justin Przeslawski
- Kaitlyn King
- Leah Sleder
- Md Tanvir Ashraf
- Santosh Tamanampudi
- Seaman Knapp
- Sungho Lim
- Upendo Bitaliho
- Yafate Desta
- Zhonghi Fan

Welcome to the ITE Michigan Section!

Do you want to become a member? Visit [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org) to join!



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# Save the Date!

The 2026 Joint ITE International and Great Lakes District Annual Meeting will be taking place in Michigan's own Motor City, Detroit! Keep your eyes out over the course of the year for more details as the event inches closer. Contact Lia Michaels at [LMichaels@hrcengr.com](mailto:LMichaels@hrcengr.com) if you are interested in helping.

## Detroit 26

Annual Meeting and Exhibition  
July 19-22, 2026

# Thank You to Our 2025 ITE Michigan Sponsors

