



History of the ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program

Welcome to the official history of the ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program—an exciting and dynamic student competition designed to engage, educate, and empower the next generation of transportation professionals.

Objectives of the ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program

The **ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program** aims to:

- Inspire student involvement within the ITE – A Community of Transportation Professionals
- Expand student knowledge of transportation engineering and planning
- Strengthening student chapter activities and professional development

At its core, the Traffic Bowl is a quiz competition where student teams tackle questions across transportation-related categories.

How It All Began

The Traffic Bowl tradition started in **November 1991**, thanks to the and President **Bill Kloos**. The inaugural event, held in Portland, featured custom-built signal equipment, a tuxedo-clad emcee, **Kathleen Johnson**, and spirited participation from Pacific Northwest universities. It was modeled after the College Bowl TV show and aimed to mirror the fun and competition found in events like ASCE's concrete canoe race.

In **1994**, the **Western District** introduced a similar version for professionals at its annual meeting held in Portland. A few years later, the **University of Washington** rolled out a computer-based *Jeopardy* format—still used today.

At the **1999 Joint ITE International and Western District Annual Meeting** in Las Vegas, Nevada, a district-wide Traffic Bowl event expanded to include teams representing other ITE districts. Following Bill Kloos's passing in 2009, the **Oregon Section** and **Western District** named their Traffic Bowl trophies in his honor, recognizing his visionary efforts to involve students.

Similar Events Across Districts

- **Florida Section:** In **1997**, the Florida ITE Section launched the *Brain Brawl* during its annual summer meeting in Clearwater Beach. Featuring a *Jeopardy*-style game, its format evolved over the years to include diverse team compositions, such as students versus members or public versus private sector teams. **Dave Muntean** spearheaded the event's success.
- **Southern District:** The Southern District introduced a Traffic Bowl in **1999** through the Alabama Section, led by **James Foster**. In **2005**, this effort expanded to the **William H. Temple Scholarship Challenge**, developed in collaboration with the district's Associated Business Division (ABD) to foster student engagement and scholarship.

Elevation to an International Competition

In **2007**, **Ken Voigt**, during his campaign for ITE International Vice President, attended the Southern District's Annual Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he observed the William H. Temple Scholarship Challenge. Inspired, Voigt envisioned an international competition for ITE student chapters. Upon his election as ITE International President in **2009**, he initiated a task force, chaired by **John Davis**, to formalize the Traffic Bowl program at the international level. By **2014**, this task force became a standing committee.

Expansion and the Grand Championship Tournament

In **2009**, three ITE districts - **Southern, Western, and Midwestern** - conducted student Traffic Bowls. By **2010**, all nine North American-based districts participated, culminating in the first **Grand Championship Traffic Bowl** during the ITE International Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

With the creation of the **Mountain District** in **2020**, the number of Grand Championship teams grew to ten. In **2021**, the **Midwestern and Great Lakes Districts** realigned their boundaries, and the area covered by the Missouri Valley Section was elevated to district status. That year, the **Missouri Valley District** hosted its first Traffic Bowl tournament.

Traffic Bowl Grand Championship Tournaments

Collegiate Traffic Bowl tournaments are usually held alongside an ITE district's annual meeting. However, districts tournaments have been organized as stand-alone events or as part of student-focused gatherings. The Grand Championship Traffic Bowl typically takes place during the ITE International Annual Meeting and Exhibit, except for 2020 and 2021, when virtual events were conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The locations of past Grand Championship Traffic tournaments have been:

2010	Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	2011	St. Louis, Missouri, USA
2012	Atlanta, Georgia, USA	2013	Boston, Massachusetts, USA
2014	Seattle, Washington, USA	2015	Hollywood, Florida, USA
2016	Anaheim, California, USA	2017	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2018	Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	2019	Austin, Texas, USA
2020	Held as virtual event using Zoom Meeting	2021	Held as virtual event using Zoom Meeting
2022	New Orleans, Louisiana, USA	2023	Portland, Oregon, USA
2024	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA	2025	Orlando, Florida, USA
2026	Detroit, Michigan, USA		

Audience Participation and Sponsors

The audience plays a pivotal role in creating the excitement and vibrant atmosphere of the Grand Championship Traffic Bowl. Their energy and enthusiasm make the event engaging and enjoyable for everyone, especially the student participants. Audience members often show support for their schools by sporting spirit wear and holding signs.

During the 2016 Traffic Bowl at the ITE Annual Meeting in Anaheim, handclappers were first introduced as part of the event’s sponsorship package, enhancing audience engagement, and amplifying the event’s energy. Since then, sponsorship of the Grand Championship has been instrumental in providing not only items such as handclappers but also refreshments, such as beverages and food, to elevate the overall experience for the audience.



2016 Stantec	2017 Iteris and WSP
2018 Iteris and Stantec	2019 Siemens and HNTB
2020 Econolite	2021 Siemens, Stantec, StreetLight Data
2022 Yunex Traffic, CBB, and Urban Systems	2023 Yunex Traffic and Carmanah
2024 Yunex Traffic, CBB, RK&K and Bowman	2025 Arcadis, CBB, and Neel-Schaffer
2026 HERE Technologies, American StructurePoint, Neel-Schaffer, and Yunex Traffic	

In 2020, a generous contribution from **Econolite** enabled the fabrication and procurement of new Traffic Bowl signaling equipment for each ITE District. This standardized equipment ensures consistency in set-up and operation across all Districts and provides regionally available equipment for the Grand Championship Traffic Bowl, particularly during joint International/District Annual Meetings.

The initiative aimed to deliver uniformity and enhance the quality of play in Traffic Bowl tournaments at both the District and Grand Championship levels. This effort also aligned seamlessly with the OneITE Initiative, which sought to promote cohesion and standardization across all ITE Districts.

Champions

Since its launch as an International ITE program in 2009, **145 universities** have participated in a section or district Collegiate Traffic Bowl tournament, representing more than **73% of all ITE student chapters in Canada and the United States**. Of those, **43 universities** have advanced to compete in the Grand Championship tournament, held annually in conjunction with the ITE International Annual Meeting.



The past winners of the Grand Championship Traffic Bowl have been:

2010	Texas A&M University	2011	Brigham Young University
2012	North Carolina State University	2013	University of Florida
2014	University of Texas at Austin	2015	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
2016	Purdue University	2017	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo ²
2018	University of South Florida	2019	University of Texas at Austin ²
2020	Purdue University ²	2021	Oregon State University
2022	Clemson University	2023	New York University
2024	Purdue University ³	2025	University of Florida ²
2026	University of Washington		

Note: Superscripts indicate subsequent number of championships won by the school.

The ITE student chapter team winning the Grand Championship has their school's name added to **The Voigt/Davis Cup**, the trophy of the ITE Traffic Bowl Grand Championship. **Purdue University** has won the Traffic Bowl Grand Championship three times with **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo**, the **University of Texas at Austin**, and the **University of Florida** each winning the Grand Championship tournament twice.

Individual Participants

Since its inception in 2010, the Grand Championship has featured **470** individual student participants. Among them, **86** students have competed in multiple Grand Championship Traffic Bowl tournaments. Notably, ten individuals have participated in four or more Grand Championship tournaments, with **Nick Hudanich** from NYU and **Myles Overall** from Purdue, achieving the distinction of competing in five.



Voigt/Davis Cup

Most Appearances in the Grand Championship Tournament

Name	Schools	Appearances	Years
Nick Hudanich	NYU	5	2020-2024
Myles Overall	Michigan State(2)/Purdue(3)	5	2022-2026
Tanveer Ahmed	Penn State	4	2022-2025
Luke Buttenwieser	NYU	4	2021-2024
Thomas Chase	NC State(2)/Florida(2)	4	2011-2014
Tarek Ghoul	UBC	4	2021, 2023, 2024, 2026
Michelle Mekker	Purdue	4	2014-2017
Erick Moreno Rengel	Oregon State	4	2020-2023
Francis Tainter	UMass	4	2015, 2016, 2018, 2019

Note: Numbers in parenthesis indicate appearances as a student at the school.

Among those who have participated in more than one Grand Championship tournament, five individuals have represented different schools throughout their involvement.

Most Appearances with Different Schools in the Grand Championship Tournament

Name	Schools	Appearances	Years
Myles Overall	Michigan State(2)/Purdue(3)	5	2022-2026
Thomas Chase	NC State(2)/Florida(2)	4	2011-2014
Sarah Adsit	Penn State(2)/Purdue	3	2018-2020
Brad Brimley	BYU/Texas A&M	2	2011, 2012
Ben O'Brien	Purdue/Illinois	2	2025, 2026

Note: Numbers in parenthesis indicate appearances as a student at the school.

For the Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program, there was an upper age limit of 27 years, which was changed for the 2023 season to 30 years. Many individuals have participated within months of reaching this maximum age limit. However, there have been students under the age of 20 who have participated in the Grand Championship event. The youngest, to date, has been **Kezia Suwandhaputra** from **Cal Poly SLO**, who was under 19 years of age during the 2019 tournament. Other individuals who have been under 20 years of age at the time that they participated in the Grand Championship have been **Kevin Carstens, Cal Poly SLO** (2012); **Alyssa Ryan, UMass – Amherst** (2016); **Vanessa See, Cal Poly SLO** (2017); **Mary Paige, Clemson** (2018); **Christopher Wongsavanh, Cal State Fullerton** (2018); **Nick Hudanich, NYU** (2020); and **Marisa Triola, NYU** (2025) and **Petru Sofio, Northeastern** (2026).

Volunteers

While student participants are the heart of the Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program, its success relies on the dedication of countless volunteers who organize and conduct the program annually at ITE districts, sections, and the Grand Championship level.

District Coordinators

Each district has a Traffic Bowl coordinator who serves as the lead volunteer responsible for organizing and overseeing the district's event. These coordinators collaborate with teams of volunteers to prepare and conduct their district's tournaments. The following individuals have served as district coordinators:

Jeannette Montufar (Canadian)	Nick Erpelding (Great Lakes)
Matt Davis (Canadian)	Jeff Young (Great Lakes)
Russell Brownlee (Canadian)	Nicole Kline-Elsier (Mid-Colonial)
Gene Chartier (Canadian)	Susan Best (Mid-Colonial)
Peter Truch (Canadian)	Owen Hitchcock (Mid-Colonial)
Jen Malzer (Canadian)	John Davis (Midwestern & Missouri Valley)
Edward Soldo (Canadian)	Jerry Bollinger (Missouri Valley)
Julia Salvini (Canadian)	Victoria Edington (Mountain)
Ian Lindley (ITE Canada)	Chris Sobie (Mountain)
Dan Beaty (Florida)	Don Adams (Northeastern)
Rob Fulp (Florida)	Mike Knolder (Northeastern)
Vishal Kakkad (Florida Puerto Rico)	Steve Gayle (Northeastern)
Usha Sree Nadella (Florida Puerto Rico)	Ian McKinnon (Northeastern)
Ryan Bush (Great Lakes)	Chris Lyman (Northeastern)
Jerry Bollinger (Great Lakes)	Holly Russell (Northeastern)

James Foster (Southern)	Robert Saylor (Texas)
Richard Caudle (Southern)	Matt Sneed (Texas)
Greg Judy (Southern)	Robin Osborne (Texas)
Rock Miller (Western)	Sean Merrell (Texas)
Danielle Scharf (Western)	Suzanna Set (Texas)
Ken Ackeret (Western)	Jason Wu (Texas)
Kimberly Leung (Western)	Mohammed Rajani (Texas)
Ashley Kim (Western)	
Kayla Fleskes-Lane (Western)	

Note: District names shown in parentheses.

Judges for Grand Championships

Another essential role in a Traffic Bowl tournament is that of the panel of judges. The following individuals have contributed their expertise by serving as judges for the Grand Championship Traffic Bowl tournaments:

2010	Pat Noyes, Ken Voigt, Robert Wunderlich	2011	Jennifer Dugan, Pat Noyes, Ken Voigt
2012	Rock Miller, Hibbett Neel, Robert Wunderlich	2013	John Kennedy, Rock Miller, Hibbett Neel
2014	Paula Benway, John Kennedy, Hibbett Neel	2015	Paula Benway, John Kennedy, Hibbett Neel
2016	Paula Flores, John Kennedy, Shawn Leight	2017	Paula Flores, Shawn Leight, Michael Sanderson
2018	Bruce Belmore, Shawn Leight, Michael Sanderson	2019	Bruce Belmore, Randy McCourt, Michael Sanderson
2020	Randy McCourt, Alyssa Rodriguez, Dalene Whitlock	2021	Beverly Kuhn, Randy McCourt, Alyssa Rodriguez
2022	Rosana Correa, Beverly Kuhn, Alyssa Rodriguez	2023	Rosana Correa, Beverly Kuhn, Eric Rensel
2024	Rosana Correa, Karen Aspelin, Lindsey Van Parys	2025	Karen Aspelin and Gordon Meth
2025	Karen Aspelin, Gordon Meth, Neelam Dorman		

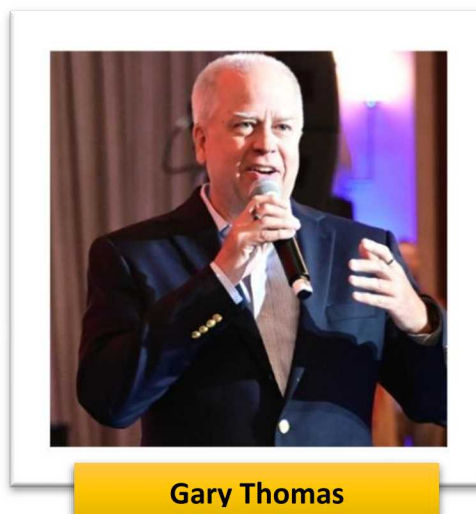
Grand Championship Tournament Emcee

The emcee plays a vital role in moderating the Traffic Bowl tournaments, ensuring smooth competition while creating an engaging and entertaining experience for the audience.

Since the inception of the Grand Championship, two individuals have primarily served as emcees: **Tommy Lee** (2010–2016) and **Gary Thomas** (2017–present). In 2011, Tommy Lee was unable to attend the competition in St. Louis, and **Robert Wunderlich** stepped in to fulfill the role of emcee.



Tommy Lee



Gary Thomas

Traffic Bowl Executive Committee

Guiding the Traffic Bowl Program each year is a committee of resolute volunteers. First established as a task force in 2009 and later elevated to a standing committee, the following individuals served as members of the ITE Traffic Bowl Executive Committee and its predecessor task force. Highlighted in bold are the names of the original task force members.

Ken Ackeret	Tyler Krage	Dave Samuelson
Colleen Agan (ITE staff)	Tommy Lee	Robert Saylor
Russell Brownlee	Shawn Leight (emeritus member)	Ed Soldo
Richard Caudle	Jen Malzer	Bob Stammer
Gene Chartier	Carol MacDougall (ITE staff)	Gary Thomas
John Davis, chair (2009-present)	Steve Manhart	Peter Truch
Jennifer Pangborn Dolde	Rock Miller	Jonathon Upchurch
Victoria Eddington	Jeanette Montufar	Ken Voigt (emeritus member)
Greg Judy	Zaki Mustafa	Dalene Whitlock
Vishal Kakkad	Sean Nix	Jeff Young

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