



History of the ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program



Program Objectives

The objectives of the ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program are to encourage students to become more active members in ITE, to enhance their knowledge of the traffic/transportation engineering and planning profession and of ITE itself, and to strengthen the programs of the ITE student chapters. It features a competition of knowledge, styled after the television game show, *Jeopardy*, where teams from ITE student chapters compete and respond to clues in categories on topics from transportation planning and engineering to ITE trivia.

The Beginnings

The origin of the traffic bowl can be traced back to November 1991 with the Oregon ITE Section. **Bill Kloos**, the Oregon Section's president, envisioned a student quiz event, which was modeled after the television show, *College Bowl*, to be ITE's version of an interactive student activity like ASCE's concrete canoe competition. Working with his staff at the City of Portland, they created traffic signal-like equipment and they invited universities in the Pacific Northwest to participate in the competition with tuxedo-clad **Kathleen Johnson** as the first emcee. In 1994 when the Western District Annual Meeting was hosted in Portland, Oregon, a new event was created to engage professionals in a social event of similar nature and was retained as a tradition at all future district annual meetings. The University of Washington added a computer version of *Jeopardy* to the mix in the latter part of the 1990s. A version of this program continues to be utilized today. In 1999 during the Joint ITE International and Western District Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Western District conducted their annual event along with a second event amongst teams representing each of the other ITE districts. In 2009 shortly after Bill Kloos passed away, the Oregon Section and Western District named their Traffic Bowl trophies after Bill in recognition of his visionary efforts to engage students.

The Florida ITE Section held a similar competition back in 1997 during their annual summer meeting in Clearwater Beach. It was known as the Brain Brawl and featured a Jeopardy style game format. The team composition of the Florida Section's Brain Brawl varied from year to year. The initial event featured teams from the Florida Section's professional chapters. In subsequent years, the competition featured teams comprised of students versus students, students versus members, members versus their spouses, young members versus more mature members, and public sector members versus private sector members. **Dave Muntean** was the driving force behind this event over its many years.

In the Southern District, a traffic bowl event was started in 1999 in the Alabama Section by **James Foster**. Largely due to James and the Alabama Section's event, the William H. Temple Scholarship Challenge (Traffic Bowl) was started in 2005 by the Southern District ITE in conjunction with the District's Associated Business Division (ABD) to encourage student participation in ITE and scholarship.

In 2007, **Ken Voigt**, as a candidate for international ITE vice president, had been looking for an event or competition for ITE student members and chapters. During his campaign for office, he attended the Southern District’s Annual Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee. At this meeting, Ken witnessed the William H. Temple Scholarship Challenge Traffic Bowl and the event fit his vision for a competition for ITE student chapters. As a result, he decided to work to establish a similar competition at the international level of ITE for student chapters and their members. During his term as ITE International President in 2009, the ITE International Board of Direction, at Ken’s request and urging, established a task force to plan and develop a traffic bowl program at the international level. The task force became an ITE standing committee in 2014. **John Davis** was appointed as chair of the task force in 2009 and has continued in this role since that time.

In 2009, three of the 10 ITE districts conducted student traffic bowl events. The districts were the Southern, Western and Midwestern. The following year in 2010, all nine of the North American based districts conducted traffic bowls and sent teams to the first Grand Championship Traffic Bowl, which was held in Vancouver, British Columbia during the ITE International Annual Meeting and Exhibit.

The number of teams participating in the Grand Championship increased to 10 with the creation of the Mountain District in 2020. In 2021, the Midwestern and the Great Lakes Districts were realigned to create a new association of ITE sections that would comprise the Great Lakes District and elevated the Missouri Valley Section to be a district, which is also known as MOVITE. The MOVITE District held their first traffic bowl in 2021 as well.

Traffic Bowl Grand Championship Tournaments

Collegiate traffic bowl tournaments are typically held in conjunction with an ITE district’s annual meeting, but not in every case as some have been held as stand-alone events or with a student member event. The Grand Championship Traffic Bowl has been held during the ITE International Annual Meeting and Exhibit each year except for 2020 and 2021, which were held virtually due to the COVID-19 global 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, USA
2018	Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	2019	Austin, Texas, USA
2020	Held using Zoom Meeting as virtual event in October due to global pandemic		
2021	Held using Zoom Meeting as virtual event in July due to global pandemic		

Champions

Since being initiated as an International ITE program in 2009, **121** universities have participated in a section or district collegiate traffic bowl tournament, which represents about **70%** of the total number of student chapters in Canada and the United States.

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
2018	University of South Florida	2019	University of Texas at Austin
2020	Purdue University	2021	Oregon State University

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. **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo**, the **University of Texas at Austin** and **Purdue University** have each won the Grand Championship tournament twice.

Individual Participants

Over the 12 years that the Grand Championship has been conducted, **346** individual students have participated. **Fifty-five** students have participated in multiple Grand Championship Traffic Bowl tournaments. **Three** individuals have appeared in four tournaments.

Most Appearances by Participants			
Name	School	Appearances	Years
Thomas Chase	NC State (2); Florida (2)	4	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
Michelle Mekker	Purdue	4	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
Francis Tainter	UMass	4	2015, 2016, 2018, 2019
Stephen Fry	Clemson	3	2014, 2016, 2017
Giuseppe Grande	Manitoba	3	2015, 2016, 2018
Alyssa Ryan	UMass	3	2016, 2018, 2019
Giuseppe Grande	Manitoba	3	2015, 2016, 2018
Sarah Adsit	Penn State (2); Purdue (1)	3	2018, 2019, 2020
Rebeka Yocum	Penn State	3	2019, 2020, 2021

Of those individuals who have participated in more than one Grand Championship tournament, **three** individuals have done so representing different schools.

Most Appearances by Participants with Different Schools			
Name	Schools	Appearances	Years
Thomas Chase	NC State (2); Florida (2)	4	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
Sarah Adsit	Penn State (2); Purdue (1)	3	2018, 2019, 2020
Brad Brimley	BYU; Texas A&M	2	2011, 2012

For the Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program, there is an upper age limit of 27 years, and many individuals have participated within months of reaching this age. However, there have been a few students under the age of 20 years have participated in the Grand Championship event. The youngest, to date, has been **Kezia Suwandhaputra** from Cal Poly SLO, who was 18.83 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), and **Nick Hudanich, NYU** (2020).

Volunteers

While the students are the participants and at the forefront of the Collegiate Traffic Bowl Program, there have been many dedicated volunteers who organize and conduct the program each year in the ITE districts and at the international level. Each district has a traffic bowl coordinator who is the lead volunteer in the production of a district's event. Some coordinators have groups of volunteers that assist them in advance of the event while others do most of the preparation by themselves. The following individuals have served as district coordinators over the years.

Jeannette Montufar (Canadian)	Nicole Kline-Elsier (Mid-Colonial)	Richard Caudle (Southern)
Matt Davis (Canadian)	Susan Best (Mid-Colonial)	Greg Judy (Southern)
Russell Brownlee (Canadian)	Owen Hitchcock (Mid-Colonial)	Rock Miller (Western)
Gene Chartier (Canadian)	John Davis (Midwestern/MOVITE)	Danielle Scharf (Western)
Peter Truch (Canadian)	Nick Erpelding (Midwestern)	Ken Ackeret (Western)
Jen Malzar (Canadian)	Victoria Edington (Mountain)	Kimberly Leung (Western)
Edward Soldo (Canadian)	Chris Sobie (Mountain)	Ashley Kim (Western)
Julia Salvini (Canadian)	Don Adams (Northeastern)	Robert Saylor (Texas)
Dan Beaty (Florida)	Mike Knolder (Northeastern)	Matt Sneed (Texas)
Rob Fulp (Florida)	Steve Gayle (Northeastern)	Robin Osborne (Texas)
Vishal Kakkad (Florida Puerto Rico)	Ian McKinnon (Northeastern)	Sean Merrell (Texas)
Ryan Bush (Great Lakes)	Chris Lyman (Northeastern)	Suzanna Set (Texas)
Jerry Bollinger (Great Lakes)	James Foster (Southern)	Jason Wu (Texas)

The master of ceremonies for a traffic bowl tournament is a very important role. This role moderates the competition and generates the event's excitement and entertainment for the audience. Over the years, **Tommy Lee** (2010 through 2016) and **Gary Thomas** (2017 to present) have served as the emcees for the Grand Championship tournaments. For the 2011 competition in St. Louis, **Robert Wunderlich** stepped in and served as emcee when Tommy Lee was not able to attend the meeting that year.

Sponsors

A key aspect to the excitement and environment of the Grand Championship event is the audience themselves. Their energy and enthusiasm make the event exciting and fun for all involved and especially the student participants. Audience members will show support for participating schools through school spirit wear and signs. For the 2016 traffic bowl held at the ITE Annual Meeting in Anaheim, hand clappers were provided to the audience as part of the sponsorship package for the event. The clappers allowed the audience to become even more engaged and increased the excitement and energy for the event. Since 2016 sponsorship of the Grand Championships have been important to not only providing items such as hand clappers, but also beverages and food for the audience.

2016 Stantec	2017 Iteris and WSP
2018 Iteris and Stantec	2019 Siemens and HNTB
2020 Econolite	2021 Siemens, Stantec, StreetLight Data

Through a generous contribution provided by Econolite in 2020, new Traffic Bowl signaling equipment for each ITE District was fabricated and procured. The new Traffic Bowl equipment allows each District to utilize the same equipment set up and operation and to have equipment

regionally available for the Grand Championship Traffic Bowl when it is conducted at a joint International/District Annual Meeting. The objectives of this effort were to provide consistency and uniformity in the operation and quality of play for equipment used by every ITE District traffic bowl tournament as well as for the Grand Championship. This effort with the Traffic Bowl equipment aligned with the OneITE Initiative that was being implemented across all Districts.

Judges

Another significant role for a traffic bowl is fulfilled by the panel of judges. The following individuals have served on the panel of 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 (Benway), 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	Randy McCourt, Alyssa Rodriguez, Beverly Kuhn

Traffic Bowl Committee

Each year a core group of volunteers guide the Traffic Bowl Program. This group was initially formed as a task force in 2009 under the leadership of Ken Voigt, 2019 International President. The founding members of the task force were:

John Davis, chair	Midwestern District	Bob Stammer	Southern District
Rock Miller	Western District	Gary Thomas	Texas District
Jeanette Montufar	Canadian District	Ken Voigt	International ITE President
Dave Samuelson	Great Lakes District		

Since 2009, the following individuals have served as members of the ITE Traffic Bowl Committee and Task Force. The names of the original task force members are shown in bold.

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

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