The Metropolitan Section of New York and New Jersey received ITE’s 2021 Outstanding Section/Chapter Award. This award is given to an ITE Section or Chapter that demonstrates a robust engagement calendar that provides a variety of networking, technical, professional development, leadership, advocacy and fundraising activities for its members.

After starting 2020 on a high note full of great expectations, the extraordinary group of volunteers at the Met Section adapted quickly to the new challenges and could not be stopped by the coronavirus. They quickly pivoted their slate of events to the online format and came up with various ways to adapt to the situation and engage the membership. In addition to monthly meetings with guest speakers, its annual Industry Day to highlight innovative technology, collaborative activities with seven other industry organizations, student and STEM events and promotion, and a two-day Emerging Professionals two-day event, the Met Section’s committees also remained very active. Furthermore, they added 83 new members, include 46 students to their roster.

Lu Ding, President in 2020, said: “The year 2020 was an extraordinary year for the Met Section. The Executive Board, together with over 50 committee volunteers, overcame the unprecedented challenges of the circumstance and created a valuable and meaningful ITE experience for our members. We showed our resiliency, resourcefulness, adaptability, and dedication to continue the work and serve our members. The Met Section is a great community and a warm family. We look forward to many exciting new endeavors in shaping our future together in the coming years!”

2020 Executive Committee pictured in collage above: Andy Kaplan, Jr. Section Director; Lu Ding, President; Marvin Souza, Vice-President; Farukh Ijaz, Secretary; Amir Rizavi, Section Director; Steven Eisenberg, Past President; and Tom Pagano, Treasurer.