



2023 Excellence in Transportation Awards

STUDENT CHAPTER MOMENTUM AWARD

University of Waterloo ITE Student Chapter



Congratulations to the University of Waterloo ITE Student Chapter (Ontario, Canada) for being selected to receive the 2023 Student Chapter Award.

ITE's 150+ chartered Student Chapters offer students a chance to begin to create their networks, develop leadership skills, and launch their careers. The connection between a Student Chapter and local professionals is key to both the experience of the student member and the growth of ITE. The Student Chapter Momentum Award recognizes a chapter that has seen the most growth and momentum in the past year.

Emerging from a five-year dormancy, the University of Waterloo ITE Canada Student Chapter (UW-ITE) has not only revitalized itself but also demonstrated outstanding dedication, innovation, and impactful initiatives in transportation and planning.

Dedication and Transformation. UW-ITE has undergone a profound transformation, revitalizing its legacy dating back to 1974. Overcoming challenges, including a global pandemic-induced hiatus, the chapter has reemerged as a beacon of excellence, invigorating student engagement and knowledge-sharing.

Strategic Leadership and Chapter Administration. The chapter orchestrated weekly executive meetings since September 2022. These strategic gatherings empower team members to collaboratively shape the chapter's trajectory, facilitating discussions on event planning, fundraising, and dynamic social media endeavors.

Dynamic Networking Initiatives. UW-ITE's triumphant return launched with a welcome back event in October 2022, attended by over 25 enthusiastic participants, and featured inspiring speeches by advisors, Professors Fu and Bachmann. This gathering offered insights into joining ITE as student members and fostered camaraderie and networking opportunities among students and esteemed transportation professors.

Nurturing Leadership Development. Through yearly executive elections and interactive discussions, students are empowered to embrace diverse roles within the ITE community. The guidance of Chapter Advisors and the impactful mentorship of Professor Fu Liping catalyzes growth. Notably, the chapter's dedication extended to generously sponsoring ITE graduate and undergraduate students to attend the TRB conference, cultivating technical knowledge and leadership acumen.

Academic Excellence and Technical Knowledge. UW-ITE's members have contributed to the academic landscape, showcasing their research at prestigious conferences. Chapter President Reza Aminghafouri's work



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on Advancing Vision Zero Road Safety in the City of Kitchener with Smart City Data captivated the audience at the 2022 CITE Quad conference. This research integrates smart city data and cutting-edge methodologies to champion the Vision Zero initiative, aiming to eliminate road user fatalities and injuries.

Inclusive Diversity and Outreach. UW-ITE's commitment to inclusivity is evident through its Women in Transportation Series, providing a platform to discuss inter-disciplinary projects with industry leaders. The chapter actively engages students from diverse faculties, fostering a rich, collaborative environment.

Empowering Training and Technical Skills. Engaging academic research seminars, insightful discussions with esteemed speakers and hands-on tutorials equip members with practical knowledge, enhancing their skill sets.

Impactful Field Trips and Service Initiatives. UW-ITE's dynamic approach extends to enriching field trips, providing firsthand exposure to traffic management systems. Additionally, the chapter's commitment to community engagement is evident through its proactive service project to collect parking data, contributing to valuable research in transportation planning.

A Future Fueled by Promise. UW-ITE's successful revival year has set the stage for a promising future. Collaborative ventures with peer chapters and ITE Sections, participation in prestigious events like the Traffic Bowl, and impactful contributions to industry projects form the tapestry of its forthcoming endeavors.

Chapter President Reza Aminghafouri said, "We are honored to receive the Student Chapter Momentum Award. The leadership team has worked hard to restart the student chapter following a five-year hiatus. The student chapter was able to recruit and appoint students to leadership positions across the engineering, planning, and environment faculties, attracting a variety of students with different academic backgrounds and work experiences. This variety allowed the team to put together over a dozen events including student led tutorials, seminars, and a highly successful joint event with York University and McMaster University. The University of Waterloo ITE Student Chapter looks forward to carrying on with our momentum and reaching new heights."

Congratulations to the Leadership Team on a job well done: President – **Reza Aminghafouri**; Vice-president – **Matea Ceric**; Treasurer – **Lucas Sobreira**; Secretary – **Jeffrey Dai**; Media team – **Ida Liu, Jason Skidmore, Karen Siu, Marc Ricciuti**, and **Urooj Khan**; Student Representative – **Andres Valencia Rodriguez**; Event Coordinator team – **Andrew Wong**, and **Shrinidhi Elangovanneela**; Treasurer Support team – **Karemnia Barrera Jaimes**; and Chapter Advisors – **Prof. Chris Bachmann** and **Prof. Liping Fu**.

For more information and updates, visit [UW-ITE Official Website](https://www.uwaterloo.ca/ite), and engage with them on LinkedIn (@UWITE), Instagram (@uwite), Facebook (@UWITEChapter), and YouTube (@UWITE).