

STUDENT CHAPTER MOMENTUM AWARD

University of Arkansas ITE Student Chapter



ITE—A Community of Transportation Professionals is proud to announce the **University of Arkansas ITE Student Chapter** as the recipient of the [2026 Student Chapter Momentum Award](#).

Established in 2020, the Student Chapter Momentum Award recognizes a student chapter that has experienced significant momentum or improvement in an activity or initiative during the past year. The University of Arkansas ITE Student Chapter demonstrated that spirit through a year of renewed energy, stronger programming,

expanded professional engagement, student-led technical work, and meaningful connections with the transportation community.

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the chapter built a more active and visible presence on campus through regular meetings, technical events, officer planning sessions, and targeted recruitment. Its programming included career-focused speaker sessions, aviation engineering, a fall kickoff social, a traffic cabinet tour with City of Fayetteville traffic engineers, and a high-profile visit from ITE International President Karen Asperlin, P.E., PTOE, which drew approximately 80 students and faculty.

A key source of the chapter’s momentum was its commitment to creating events with a clear “spark.” The October 2025 Traffic Cabinet Tour moved students beyond the classroom and into the field, where they learned beside a live signal cabinet with Fayetteville traffic engineers. The experience made controller logic, detection systems, and operations decisions tangible while creating natural opportunities for networking, career readiness, and on-the-spot ITE sign-ups.

The chapter also elevated its profile through the November 2025 ITE International President visit. The event brought together students, faculty, ARITE members, and practicing professionals for a high-energy discussion on leadership and the future of transportation. It also provided chapter officers with valuable experience managing large-event logistics, facilitating Q&A, and engaging with a room full of peers and professionals.

UA-ITE’s networking strategy was intentional and structured around transportation work. Events such as the Fall Kickoff Social, Traffic Cabinet Tour, ITE International President keynote, and MOVITE Annual Meeting helped students practice professional introductions, ask focused questions, and build confidence in professional settings. At the MOVITE Annual Meeting, chapter members participated in the Traffic

Bowl and earned strong recognition, including a Traffic Bowl win, first place in the poster competition, and third place in the 5MT competition.

Leadership development was another important area of growth. The chapter treated leadership as a skill built through ownership, deadlines, and public responsibility. Officers were assigned specific events and action items, managed communications and logistics, and used planning meetings to create structure and accountability. The event ownership model helped students develop project management instincts that translate directly to transportation project delivery.

The chapter's most significant applied technical initiative was the "Improving Rider Satisfaction of the Razorback Transit Project," a student-led research effort addressing real service challenges in Fayetteville's campus transit system. Chapter members developed a survey-based research framework, gathered feedback on rider satisfaction and route reliability, and presented findings to UA Parking and Transit Services and the University Staff Senate, giving the project direct institutional impact.

UA-ITE members also demonstrated impressive technical engagement through research presentations and conference participation. During the academic cycle, members delivered eight presentations at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting and three presentations at the MOVITE Fall Meeting, for a total of 11 presentations. The chapter's speaker programming further broadened members' technical exposure through topics such as airport planning and construction, transportation systems resilience, intelligent transportation systems, connected vehicle concepts, adaptive signal control, and multimodal network redundancy.

Recruitment and inclusion were central to the chapter's improvement. UA-ITE used direct classroom outreach, the Civil Engineering listserv, campus flyers, HogSync event listings, and low-barrier kickoff meetings to reach students across multiple touchpoints. The chapter also intentionally broadened participation beyond the traditional civil engineering transportation track through programming connected to aviation, intelligent transportation systems, resilience planning, and urban mobility.

The photographs included in the nomination reflect this renewed momentum: students exploring a live traffic signal cabinet with City of Fayetteville operations staff, packed kickoff events and semester meetings, the chapter celebrating its MOVITE Traffic Bowl win, and promotional flyers used to bring new members into chapter activities.

Through practical technical experiences, stronger leadership systems, intentional recruitment, professional engagement, and student-led service to the campus community, the University of Arkansas ITE Student Chapter has strengthened the ITE experience for its members. ITE congratulates UA-ITE on receiving the 2026 Student Chapter Momentum Award and celebrates its impressive growth, renewed energy, and commitment to building the next generation of transportation professionals.

Learn more about [ITE's Awards Program](#).