“Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice heard.”

- Liz Fosslien and Mollie West Duffy

Transportation plays an important role in the overall prosperity of our communities and their citizens. I believe that ITE can help ensure that our members and our neighbors are not only included, but heard in a meaningful dialogue so that their needs are met and they can realize the future they want for themselves and their families. As transportation professionals, we are an integral part of helping make their success a reality. After 30 years of active involvement in ITE at all levels, I am excited to have the opportunity to serve our membership and lead ITE into the future.

Diversity, Collaboration, and Leverage

**Embrace Diversity**

The differences in our backgrounds enrich our experiences as members of ITE and the communities in which we live and serve. I believe that by embracing all aspects of our diversity, we can offer a more open exchange of ideas and develop solutions that help ensure a resilient, sustainable, and equitable transportation system that is inclusive and responsive to the needs of everyone.

**Enhance Collaboration**

Transportation has a broad impact on society, presenting challenges and opportunities for such issues as safety, the environment, health, land use, economic development, freight, housing, and rural livability. Transportation is intertwined with all of these elements. We need a broad understanding of the impacts our decisions have on the overall quality of life and the long-term prosperity of our communities. Expanding our ongoing engagement with other professional organizations and groups can enhance collaboration and offer viable solutions to the challenges we face. These linkages can help us remove barriers, increase flexibility, and identify ways to invest taxpayer dollars more efficiently to improve local communities.

**Leverage the Councils and Committees**

The ITE Councils and Standing Committees serve a critical role in identifying developing trends and how we as transportation professionals can address these trends. We need to leverage the expertise and leadership of these groups to foster a healthy dialogue among our members from across the globe. This dialogue, combined with the collaborative spirit inherent in ITE, will result in quality products and resources that incorporate new and diverse perspectives to become essential tools for our members and for the overall profession.