ITE’s Newest Honorary Member Ken Voigt, P.E. (F)

The highest recognition of notable and outstanding professional achievement ITE presents to an individual is election to ITE Honorary Membership. Since 1933 when the first Honorary Member was selected, only 83 individuals have been honored this way. Throughout his 50-year career, Ken has completed hundreds of high-profile projects ranging from urban pedestrian/bicycle enhancements to large, complex corridor management projects that involved capacity improvements and ITS applications. He has demonstrated the utmost dedication and insight when solving clients’ traffic problems, thanks to his common-sense approach to balancing mobility needs of all users to traffic management operation. Before joining Ayres Associates, he was employed with HNTB, DAAR Engineering, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Ken is an ITE past International President and has served as a leader on every level within ITE, advocating for new programs and enhancing the value of membership. While Ken International President, he was instrumental in initiating the Collegiate Traffic Bowl, the Journal of Transportation of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and making ITE logo wear available to members.

Ken has continued his active participation and leadership in ITE, including his service on the Transportation Consultants Council, Sustainability Task Force, Complete Streets Council Executive Committee, and the Traffic Bowl Committee. Most recently Ken has helped develop ITE’s new Strategic Initiatives Plan, the updated Professional Transportation Planner Certification exam and our new Diversity Scholars scholarship program. Beyond ITE, he has contributed to the transportation engineering and planning community through his election as a national board member for the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), president of the CNU Wisconsin Chapter, and executive director of the Great Lakes Transportation Enterprise Institute.

Ken has served for 35 years as an adjunct professor at both the University of Wisconsin (UW) in Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin in Madison, teaching undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education courses in traffic engineering, transportation planning, and environmental impacts. He currently serves on the University of Wisconsin Civil Engineering Advisory Committee. It is often said that there are very few traffic engineers practicing in Wisconsin that have not had Ken as a teacher during their time in college or later in their professional careers. Ken has been recognized with Distinguished Service awards from both the Wisconsin Section and Midwestern District of ITE and ITS Wisconsin, the Burton W. Marsh Award for Distinguished Service to ITE, and the Distinguished Alumni Award of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The Wisconsin Section has established the Ken Voigt Annual Meeting Scholarship for a first time attendee to the ITE Annual Meeting. In 2002, Ken was honored to be selected as an Olympic Torch runner for the Salt Lake City winter games. Ken and his wife Sue’s commitment to the profession includes establishment of transportation engineering diversity scholarships at both the UW-Milwaukee and UW-Madison campuses.

His volunteer activities and leadership have extended beyond ITE into his favorite pastime of soccer, where he served as a founder of the 2,000 member Brookfield Youth Soccer Club, officer, and leader at both the local and state levels of youth soccer in Wisconsin. Ken was inducted into the Wisconsin Soccer Hall of Fame in 2003, and designed/raised funds for the construction of a 60-acre city soccer park in Brookfield, Wisconsin, which bears the Voigt name.

Congratulations to Ken for receiving this tremendous honor! itej

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