In celebration of its 90th anniversary, ITE is recognizing each of its District Administrators throughout the year in a series of profiles. Each month this column will also feature historical facts and figures on the various Districts, including important dates and people throughout their history.

Craig Michael Hanchey, P.E., PTOE (F) has been the District Administrator for the Southern District since in 2010. After his service as past president of the District, he was approached and asked to take on the newly formed position. The two biggest reasons to create the District Administrator role were to avoid the constant turnover in treasurer functions and to provide leadership continuity on the board. In addition to typical treasurer duties, Hanchey’s responsibilities include handling most administrative functions for the District including elections, tax returns, corporation filings, and insurance, among other things.

"I really just enjoy being active in the District," Hanchey tells ITE Journal. "The part of the job I enjoy most is working with the various boards each year and serving as their resource, facilitator, and historian. Over the years, we have changed the District’s financial position and have really built up a healthy reserve fund, which I am pleased to have been a part of."

The Southern District has many notable initiatives, such as the Southern District Leadership Program that began in 2009. Based on membership surveys, senior District leaders developed a 14-module leadership training program that has been used to work with small groups to assist with character building and “starter” skill sets that empower leadership. Each group of workshop alumni is asked to volunteer by conducting similar training to small groups in their Sections. Program costs are controlled by using volunteer facilitators, and the District has provided seed money to each Section to help with any other expenses. The modules are continually being updated and improved and in the 10 years since its inception, 245 District members have completed the training.

Hanchey’s passion for transportation and his desire to pursue it as a career were fueled by some of the educators and early mentors he crossed paths with. “I was fortunate to have two great professors—namely, Dr. Olin Dart at Louisiana State University and Dr. Jack Humphreys at the University of Tennessee—that really inspired me to pursue a career in traffic operations and safety,” he says. “There really wasn’t any question in my mind what I wanted to do after school. Early in my career I had two great mentors in Ed Watt, P.E. (R) and W. Hibbett Neel, P.E. (H) who encouraged me to take advantage of the many benefits of ITE and provided me with opportunities to become active."

As such, ITE has been a part of Hanchey’s entire 35-year professional career, and he is a Fellow of ITE. He began his involvement with ITE in graduate school where he served a student chapter officer. He is a past president and former Section Representative of the Deep South and Tennessee Sections of ITE and is a past president of the Southern District. He...
Getting to Know
ITE’s Southern District

U.S. States Covered
Alabama
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia

Members
Approximately 1,900 members

Sections
Alabama
Deep South
Georgia
Kentucky
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia

Student Chapters: 25

District Board Leadership
President – Becky Rogers, P.E., PTP, RSP1 (M)
Vice President – Cindy Pionke, P.E. (M)
Secretary-Treasurer – Alison Catarella-Michel, P.E., PTOE, RSP1 (F)
Past President – Todd Long, P.E., PTOE (M)
International Director – Kirsten Tynch, P.E., PTOE, LEED AP BD+C, ENV SP (F)

Did You Know?

Annual Meetings and Roll Call – The Southern District is proud of its Annual Meeting and the traditions that go along with it. Those include a roll call of Sections at the opening session: each Section gives a short and often humorous introduction of their members in attendance. The Affiliated Business Division (ABD) is also very active at the meeting, hosting open houses and a must-attend theme party.

Traffic Bowl – ITE started its Student Traffic Bowl competition in 2010, but the Southern District has been holding a competition since 2005. The William H. Temple Scholarship Challenge Traffic Bowl is held each year at the District’s Annual Meeting. Prior to that, each Section holds their own competition to select the nine teams for the District competition. The ABD awards the winning team $3,000 and District provides the second and third places teams $750 each. Since 2005, a total of $72,000 has been awarded.

Scholarships – The eight Sections within the Southern District all have robust student scholarship programs. Two Sections began awarding scholarships in the mid-1980s and the rest started when the District provided seed money around 1990. Three Sections have provided more than $600,000 combined in scholarships. Last year, the eight Sections in the Southern District awarded $72,000 to 35 students.

Historical Perspective
• The Southern District originated as the Southern Section in 1953, and included the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and all of Virginia that was not included in the Washington, D.C. Section. Arkansas and Florida left in 1960.
• Virginia was a part of the Southern Section until 1975 when it was issued a charter as its own Section. Virginia rejoined the Southern Section when the transition was made to the Southern District in 1988.

Hancey says. “Most important to me—I believe because of the culture of ITE—is that the people I have known at the Section and District levels have become some of my longest lasting friends.”

As a transportation professional, he still thrives on the impact of his work. “I am passionate about traffic engineering as a career because it is something that impacts daily life in a real way, like the benefits of retiming a signal system or implementing a safety project. And for the up-and-coming transportation professionals, I say be patient, and enjoy the early roles in your career. As your career progresses, you will miss the days of doing the hands-on engineering work as you move into leadership roles that focus your attention elsewhere.”