Texas District Administrator

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.

The Texas ITE (TexITE) District Administrator role is an appointed position, which Dave Carter, P.E., PTOE (M) assumed in 2016. Dr. James Williams, P.E. (F) served in the role for 25 years, followed by Melisa Finely, P.E. (M) who served for two years. As such a large undertaking for a volunteer, Dave certainly had big shoes to fill. After being involved in TexITE for 30 years and having served in numerous elected positions at the Chapter, Section and District level, Dave has a lot of historical knowledge of how the organization has been run. More importantly, he says, is that he knows who to ask for assistance!

During his 30-year career, Dave has had the opportunity to work in academic research, private sector consulting, and the public sector. He is back in consulting now, but has found all areas of his career to have been very rewarding and fulfilling. His transportation career and involvement with ITE began at Texas A&M University where he served as an officer with the Student Chapter and worked for the Texas Transportation Institute as a research assistant in graduate school.

After graduating with a master’s in engineering, Dave became a consulting engineer at Barton-Aschman Associates, a traffic engineering and planning firm, which was a subsidiary of Parsons. Over a 16-year period, he escalated from engineer in training all the way up to vice president of Parsons.

In 2006, he took the opportunity to begin his public servicer career at the City of Richardson, TX, as their assistant director of Development Services. There he oversaw the Traffic and Transportation department. Though he achieved many goals in 12 years at the city, he feels his greatest achievement was initiating, developing, and overseeing the implementation of 25 miles (40.2 kilometers) of bike lanes. The first bike lanes in Richardson were installed in 2009—a time when the Dallas, TX area was not known for being bike friendly. Now Richardson is recognized as a Bike Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Education
Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University, 1989
Master of Engineering, Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University, 1990
MPA Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management, University of Texas at Dallas, 2012

Professional Affiliations
American Society of Civil Engineers
ITS Texas – Board of Directors, 2008-2018; President 2017

ITE Involvement
TexITE District Administrator/Chief Financial Secretary, since 2016
TexITE, President, 2012
TexITE, District Officer 2010-2013
TexITE Consultants Council, Chairman, 2005-2006
TexITE, District Representative, 1999-2001
TexITE, Greater Dallas Area Section Officer 1996-1998; President, 1998
Texas A&M ITE Student Chapter Officer, 1988-1989

Awards
TexITE Younger Member of the Year, 1999

TexITE leadership at the ITE Annual Meeting in Austin, TX, USA in 2019.
He shifted gears again in 2018 and jumped back over the fence to the private sector, and is now a principal at Stantec where he oversees the firm’s traffic engineering practice in Texas.

Dave has been a member of ITE for more than 30 years and first became involved at the Student Chapter at Texas A&M University in the late 1980s. Dave credits his involvement in ITE as being instrumental to advancing his career, providing him with numerous opportunities for professional development and connecting him closely with a strong network of leaders. All of the people he would consider his mentors and close personal friends have also been members of ITE.

Dave’s advice for younger members and students is to get involved with your local chapter of ITE, participate as much as possible, and get to know your peers. ITE Districts, Sections, and Chapters are always looking for people to help work on committees and to help organize social and professional development events. By getting involved, you will not only grow professionally, but will formulate relationships that will last for your entire career.

He also recommends that, from a practical standpoint, young professionals should start saving and planning for retirement very early in your career. When you start out it may not seem like you have the finances available to start saving, but it’s important to get started early and make it a routine with every paycheck. When you are comparing job opportunities at various companies and/or agencies, don’t just look at salary—you need to compare the whole package, including retirement and health benefits!

Did You Know?

- Since 1954, TexITE has hosted two District meetings each year that enjoy robust attendance. Recent District meetings have been joint meetings with ITE International, the Western District, or with ITS Texas. One event put on at each meeting is a Texas Hold’em Poker Tournament, which is free for all attendees to join and a great social networking opportunity for everyone!
- A large portion of Texas not within an urbanized area is represented on the TexITE Board by an At-Large Representative. The At-Large area constitutes more than 60 percent the state but only about 7 percent of TexITE’s membership.

Historical Perspective

- In 1954, TexITE was first formed as the Texas Section with just 24 members.
- As early as 1958, local meetings were taking place: “The Fort Worth/Dallas group met at Amon Carter Field for dinner with seven members and their wives in attendance,” according to TexITE history documents.
- The Texas A&M student chapter officially received its charter from ITE in 1962.
- The Texas Section became a District in 1987.