

NCSITE 2017 Section Activities Report



President's Message – 2017 In Review

This past year was one of continued evolution for NCSITE. The 2017 Board worked hard to keep the momentum going from the changes made in both 2015 and 2016. Our main goals were to keep moving forward and to be the organization of choice for transportation professionals in North Carolina. The Board worked very hard this year to maintain everything that NCSITE offers to its members and affiliates and I thank all of them for their hard work. I also want to thank the committee chairs and user group chairs for their commitment to the Section. And last, but not least, I'd like to thank the members and affiliates for coming to events. I look forward to seeing our transportation professionals become leaders in our Section and in our industry in North Carolina. And now, it's time for the highlights!!!



Award Winning Section: NCSITE had two great moments of recognition from ITE in 2017. We were happy to receive the award for the **Most Outstanding Large Section** at the Southern District Meeting in Columbia, SC. Then, at the ITE Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, we were elated and humbled that NCSITE won the **Section Activities Award**. It was an exciting moment for the section and a culmination of years of hard work by so many people. Special thanks go to Todd Delk, the 2016 NCSITE President, and Stacie Phillips, the 2016 NCSITE Secretary for pulling together all the information into the final report submitted to International.

TRB Urban Street Symposium: Almost two years in the making and through coordination with the Transportation Research Board, NCSITE hosted the **5th Urban Street Symposium** in Raleigh, NC in May. TRB was responsible for setting most of the agenda while NCSITE was responsible for the planning and logistics of the event. Lead by Christa Greene and Shannon Warchol, the NCSITE TRB USS Planning Group made the event seamless for all those who attended.

With attendees from across the US and as far away as Australia, the event will be remembered for its fantastic agenda and for its incredible activities and food. We hope that everyone took a little piece of North Carolina with them back to their homes and offices.

Annual Meeting: NCSITE's Annual Meeting was held on November 16th at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. This was another great day of learning and fellowship lead by annual meeting chair Elizabeth Scott. We took time during our luncheon to review our goals and give out numerous awards and scholarships. This year, NCSITE added the Emily Blount Trailblazer award, named for the first female professional engineer in North Carolina and a founding member of NCSITE. Based on her contributions to the industry in North Carolina, we were honored to give the first Emily Blount Trailblazer Award to... Emily Blount! She was extremely surprised but also tremendously worthy of the award. NCSITE will also be creating a scholarship in her name to be given for the first time in 2018.

Partnerships: NCSITE recognizes that working with other professional organizations and fostering those relationships will only make us and North Carolina better. This year we focused on partnerships with the **Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS)**, **ITS Carolinas**, and the **North Carolina Chapter of Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP-NC)**. We hosted two events with WTS in Charlotte, both as a means of promoting WTS to our members and to extend our geographic reach in the state. We also co-hosted our first ever stand-alone golf tournament in October at Bryan Park in Greensboro with ITS Carolinas. This event was extremely successful, and generated several thousand dollars of proceeds for each organization's scholarship funds.

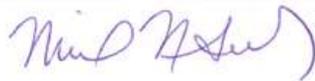
Programming: This year was another great year for our Councils and our Users Groups. Our Traffic Engineering Council and our Transportation Planning Council developed another great year of activities, educational outreach, and social events for our members. Our SimCap and Signal Systems User Groups held several well-attended events across the state, and our new Bike/Ped User Group also held two successful events this year. The Strategic Initiatives Council had two events this year, both of which were attended by NCDOT Secretary and NCSITE

member Jim Trogon. NCSITE is very proud to start a Safety User Group, which will work closely with North Carolina's Vision Zero Team. Special thanks to Sravya Suryadevara for sparking and leading this effort. Our Young Members Committee (YMC) hosted numerous events around the state to bring together college students, young professionals, and veterans of the industry to learn from each other.

Looking forward, NCSITE is financially stable and has sufficient scholarship money to give to worthy recipients for years to come. We are starting 2018 with a new Executive Director, Candace Cansler, who will help us continue to improve the experience for our members. We have also just initiated planning for the 2021 Southern District meeting (as it is never too early to begin that process). I am proud to take on the leadership role of LAC Chair for that conference and I look forward to announcing the location soon. We are also excited to add Paula Flores to our board as our new Strategic Initiatives Council chair. We welcome the Past International President to NCSITE with open arms and an open mind. We expect to lean on her for guidance and knowledge, which will start with the implementation of the our next NCSITE strategic plan.

All in all, 2017 was a great year for NCSITE. We won awards, we gave away awards, we started relationships with other groups, and we continued our record of prosperity. I want to say thank you to all our volunteers, our leaders, and the Members and Affiliates of NCSITE for giving me the honor to serve NCSITE. It has been a year that I will always remember and treasure.

Best of luck to President Stacie Phillips as she takes the reins – she'll do a fantastic job. Here's to a great 2018!!!



Mike Surasky, PE, PTOE, 2017 NCSITE President

2017 SECTION LEADERSHIP

President – Mike Surasky, PE, PTOE
Vice President – Stacie Phillips, PE
Secretary – Eric Lamb, PE
Treasurer – Justin Carroll, PE
Past President – Todd Delk, PE
Section Director – Sarah Wicklund, PE
Affiliate Director – John Sandor, PE
Consultant Vendor Council Chair – Peter Kurtz, PE
Strategic Initiatives Council Chair – Todd Brooks, PE
Traffic Engineering Council Chair – Kellie Reep, PE
Transportation Planning Council Chair – Joshua Reinke, PE
District Representative – Christa Greene, PE
District Representative – Todd Delk, PE
District Representative – Terry Arellano, PE
Mentoring Committee Chair – Terry Hopkins, PE
Awards Committee Chair – Jeff Dale, PE
Operations Committee Chair – Elizabeth Scott, EI
Membership Committee Chair – Kara Peach, PE
Local Meetings Committee Chair – Reuben Moore, PE
Young Member Committee Co-Chairs – Andy Wagner, Cliff Lawson, PE, PTOE
Simulation/Capacity Users Group Chair – Bastian Schroeder, PhD, PE
Signal System Users Group Chair – Chris Cunningham, PE
ITS Users Group Chair – Amanda Good, PMP
NEPA Users Group Chair – Steve Brown, PE
Pedestrian/Bicycle Users Group Co-Chairs – Trung Vo, PE, AICP, Bradley Reynolds, PE

MEMBERSHIP

NCSITE membership includes Members, Life Members, Returning Affiliates, New Affiliates, and Student Members. Members are those who are members of International ITE, and therefore Southern District and the North Carolina Section as well. Affiliates only pay dues to NCSITE. New Affiliates are offered a lower incentivizing dues rate of \$15 for the first year. Most events hosted by NCSITE have a higher cost for non-members than for members, and the cost difference is frequently at least \$15 in order to encourage non-members to join. Our

Membership Committee made an effort this year to clean up our membership records by removing members who no longer wanted to participate and eliminating any duplicate membership subscriptions. The NCSITE membership as of the end of 2017 is as follows:

Members		Affiliates		Student Members	TOTAL
Regular	Life	Returning	New		
203	6	137	42	18	406
209		179		18	406

Not including students, approximately 52% of our membership belongs to International ITE.

FINANCES

Once again NCSITE had a strong financial year, ending the year with over \$5,000 in surplus funds that can be transferred to the Section's savings account to fund scholarship and Legacy funds. NCSITE's Annual Sponsorship Program provides a simple process for corporate sponsors who wish to support NCSITE through multiple events each year and provide a consistent source of funds for the Section. The table below summarizes income and expenses from our various activities.

2017 NCSITE Finances	Expense	Income	Net
Meetings	\$8,813.17	\$15,159.88	\$6,346.71
Dues	\$-	\$7,884.25	\$7,884.25
Board	\$6,613.55	\$300.00	\$(6,313.55)
Executive Associate	\$1,455.75	\$-	\$(1,455.75)
Councils/Committees	\$3,114.53	\$1,675.00	\$(1,439.53)
Scholarships	\$14,000.00	\$14,223.98	\$223.98
Total	\$33,997.00	\$39,243.11	\$5,246.11

NCSITE ended the year with the following bank balances:

- Checking account: \$44,354.97
- Savings account: \$50,546.12
- PayPal account: \$13,859.17
- ITE North Carolina Section Scholarship Funds account: \$105,423.05

SECTION AWARDS

The NCSITE Awards Committee receives nominations from our membership for all the Award categories, and then strives to honor the most deserving individuals for that year. The Committee typically presents seven awards each year; six for individuals and one for a project. The NCSITE President also honors a member with special recognition. This year NCSITE introduced a new award honoring one of its founding members. The NCSITE Awards Committee was honored to present the following awards in 2017.

New Member Award: Trung Vo, AICP, PE

The New Member Award is presented to a New Member or Affiliate who has contributed substantially to the advancement of the Section. Recipients exhibit a teamwork approach to their NCSITE responsibilities, excellent leadership and professionalism skills, integrity, a willingness to learn, and an excitement for NCSITE activities and growth potential. Trung Vo is co-chair of the new Bicycle & Pedestrian Users Group (BPUG), and has brought some significant energy to the organization. He has been a driving force behind the BPUG's programming, and has been selfless when it comes to contributing his time to ITE meetings. Trung is currently the Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager with the City of Raleigh.



Young Professional Award: Shannon Warchol, PE

The Young Professional Award is presented to a Member or Affiliate, under the age of 35 years, who, over their young professional career, has contributed to the advancement of the transportation profession and NCSITE. Shannon Warchol used her experience and skills gained as president of the NCSU student chapter to become an immediate contributor to NCSITE. She played a pivotal role in the

development of the program for the TRB Urban Streets Symposium, working closely with senior members of the executive committee to help develop and execute the sessions for this meeting. Shannon currently works as research associate at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) in Raleigh.

Jay Quinn Technical Excellence Award: Chris Cunningham, PE



The Jay Quinn Technical Excellence Award is presented to a recipient that must possess excellent technical knowledge, that shares their knowledge/insight with NCSITE, and who has made a significant contribution to the Section. Chris Cunningham has conducted numerous technical training and research activities at the municipal, state, and national levels. In 2010, he served as co-editor for the 2nd Edition of the ITE Manual of Transportation Studies, and currently serves as the chair for the Signal Systems User Group. Chris currently works as Traffic Systems Innovation Program Manager for the Highway Systems Group at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) in Raleigh.

Robert J. Dodge Professional Image Award: Mike Kennon, PE

The Robert Dodge Professional Image Award is presented to a recipient that must be a Member or Affiliate of NCSITE, they must possess demonstrated technical competence and excellent people skills, they must have a demonstrated record of service to the profession, the organization, and his/her community; who by personal demeanor and example projects the best image of what a transportation professional should be. Mike Kennon is currently the Assistant Director of Transportation Planning and Operations at North Carolina State University. Mike spent the majority of his career with the City of Raleigh. During his time with NCSITE, Mike served as Secretary, Vice-President, and is a Past President.



R.V. Moss Lifetime Service Award: Jim Westmoreland, PE

The R.V. Moss Lifetime Service Award is presented to a recipient that has been a NCSITE Member or an Affiliate for at least 15 years; they should possess demonstrated technical confidence; and they should have made significant contributions to the profession and ITE through participation in committees, workshops, speakers' bureaus, seminars, fundraising, meetings, and local arrangement committees, and through elected office at the Section level or higher. Jim Westmoreland has served on numerous councils and committees for ITE at the state, regional and national level. Jim has been a go-to person for feedback on NCSITE's direction over the years. He has served as Secretary, Vice-President, and is a Past President with NCSITE. He was the very first recipient of NCSITE's Young Professional's Award in 1999. He previously received the Robert Dodge Professional Image Award, and has twice received the NCSITE President's Award. Jim currently serves as the City Manager for the City of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Contribution to Transportation Award: Gene Conti



The Contribution to Transportation Award is presented to a recipient that is not affiliated with NCSITE in any capacity who has contributed significantly to transportation through professional and/or political activities. Dr. Gene Conti has more than three decades of public service and private business management experience that has focused primarily on transportation budgeting, policy and programming. Gene's career has included Director of the Office of Planning and Management Analysis for the US Department of the Treasury, Chief of Staff for NC Congressman David Price, and Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy at the United States Department of Transportation. Gene served as Chief Deputy Secretary at NCDOT from 2001-2003, where he elevated the importance of their Highway Safety Program. Gene later served as NCDOT Secretary of Transportation from 2009-2013, where he made substantial changes in the department's business practices.

Outstanding Project Award Winner: City of Raleigh – GoRaleigh Station Renovation Project

The Outstanding Project Award is a relatively new addition to the NCSITE Awards program. Project teams presented their projects via a poster presentation at the Annual Meeting, where members can vote on their choice for this award. The City of Raleigh's transit program, GoRaleigh, conducted a substantial renovation to their existing transit hub in downtown Raleigh, formerly known as Moore Square Station. The renovations resulted in a significant improvement in traffic flow, bus capacity, and user experience for the station, which will be expected to shoulder significant increases in transit demand as part of the recently-approved Wake Transit Plan expansion.

President's Award: Christa Greene, PE & Lisa Moon, PE

This Award recognizes a Member or Affiliate who has contributed to the advancement of the transportation profession and the Section. The NCSITE President awards the outstanding individual that has provided them guidance, advice, assistance, and offered help in whatever capacity is needed. This year President Mike Surasky gave this recognition to two of our members for their contributions.



Christa Greene was recognized for her hard work and continued dedication to NCSITE. This year Christa served as co-chair of the TRB Urban Street Symposium, which was extremely successful as a direct result of her organization, her ability to muster assistance from NCSITE members, and her attention to detail. Christa was also a big help early in the year for the group (and especially the President) when they needed help after the departure of the executive assistant. She assisted with the budget and helped get the year off to a great start. We really can't say enough about what Christa means to NCSITE!

Lisa Moon was recognized for her continued efforts in making NCSITE a great place to learn about transportation and be engaged with other professionals in the area. This year Lisa stepped in when membership chair Kara Peach took maternity leave. Instead of sitting back and being a caretaker, she organized an effort to

reach out to "lost" members and update the membership database. Lisa has also played a crucial role every year at our annual meeting by her extraordinary efforts for our Silent Auction scholarship fundraiser. Each year Lisa constructs baskets for the auction that contain many popular items. The baskets usually have themes and include food, drink, recipes, fun ideas for activities, and tickets to other events. There are usually at least 5-6 of these baskets that she puts together on her own. Due to her contributions, she has raised hundreds of dollars for our scholarship fund over multiple years.

Emily Blount Trailblazer Award – Emily Blount, PE

The Trailblazer Award was established this year to recognize members of the section that made significant and unique contributions to the transportation field in our region. The namesake of the award and inaugural recipient, Emily Blount, was the first woman to earn a degree from N.C. State in civil engineering and the first North Carolina woman registered as a professional engineer. After a 40-year career at NCDOT, Emily was inducted into the N.C. Transportation Hall of Fame in 2006.



AWARD NOMINATIONS TO SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Once again NCSITE was pleased to have one of its members receive the John F. Exnicios Government Employee Outstanding Service Award. This year the award went to Stanley Polanis of High Point, NC at the Southern District ITE Meeting in Columbia, South Carolina. Stan previously served as the director for the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation. He retired from WSDOT after 31 years of service in 2012. Stan has been a substantial contributor to NCSITE, having served previously as president. He is also a previous recipient of the R.V.

Moss Lifetime Service Award. Stan was unable to be present at the meeting, and Section Representative Todd Delk presented him the award in person at the NCSITE Annual Meeting.

COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

The majority of NCSITE activities come through our strong Council system, which provides significant opportunities for NCSITE members and affiliates to lead and participate in events across the state and in a wide variety of topic areas.



The **Strategic Initiative Council (SIC)** aims to equip NCSITE and its members to shape local and state transportation policies in North Carolina. The SIC serves the NCSITE Membership by focusing on topics such as Leadership Development, Legislative Issues, Public Education, and Strategic

Planning initiatives. The Council's activities are designed to foster leadership development, soft skill training, transportation professional advocacy, networking, communications, and activities to identify and address strategic and emerging issues for the transportation profession.

The **Traffic Engineering Council's (TEC)** is focused on developing traffic engineering-related training, technical support to transportation-related policies, and networking opportunities for NCSITE members and members of the North Carolina traffic engineering community.

The TEC holds monthly meetings and offers multiple opportunities for members and guests to earn professional development hours. The TEC supports the Signal System Users Group, ITS Users Group, and Simulation/Capacity (SimCap) Users Group to provide technical meetings to NCSITE members. In 2018 the TEC will be launching a new Safety Users Group, aimed at exploring and promoting Vision Zero and advocating for improving our multimodal safety.



The **Transportation Planning Council (TPC)** focuses on promoting professional development and providing fellowship for our membership and for members of the North Carolina transportation engineering and planning community. The Council also seeks ways to offer our student chapter members mentoring opportunities, educational outreach, and outlets for their research. The TPC held eight monthly meetings in 2017, with membership socials after each event. The council also hosted a social outing to see the North Carolina Football Club play. The TPC supports the Bike/Ped Users Group and the NEPA Users Group.



The **Consultant/Vendor Council (CVC)** seeks to promote vendors and their products to the membership, to increase vendor involvement via corporate memberships, and to serve as a resource to other councils. In 2016 the CVC overhauled the consultant sponsorship model to create yearly and quarterly sponsorships in addition to our normal sponsorship opportunities for each individual event. These new sponsorship options have yielded a variety of benefits by improving meeting sponsor recognition, website recognition and advertisements, and have proven to be a very popular with our partners and ultimately beneficial to our scholarship programs.

In 2016 NCSITE formed a **Young Members Committee (YMC)** to encourage graduating students to join our section, providing professionals under 35 with venues for networking and technical development. The committee continued to establish itself by hosting multiple outreach events at each North Carolina student chapter. The YMC also hosted four meetings in 2017, including two regular meetings with guest speakers, a financial planning seminar and a social event.

TECHNICAL MEETINGS & TRAINING

NCSITE provided opportunities to earn over 74 professional development hour credits and over 65 AICP Certification Maintenance credits in 2017 through presentations at Council Meetings, User Group Meetings, and at the Annual Membership Meeting on a wide variety of topics.



TRB / NCSITE
USS 5

NCSITE was chosen as the local host for the **Transportation Research Board's Fifth Urban Streets Symposium**, which took place in Raleigh from May 21st to May 23rd. The event attracted over 250 attendees from across the United States and from locations as distant as Canada, Spain, the Netherlands, and Australia (crikey!). The meeting was composed of a mix of seminar-style presentations and mobile excursions. TRB Committees on Operational Effects of Geometrics, Geometric Design, and Access Management also met during the event. Symposium attendees were also treated to a generous helping of Tar Heel hospitality over two nights. First the attendees were invited to attend a reception at the NC Museum of Natural History, held within the museum's signature "Big Globe." On the second night, we hosted everyone at the Mordecai Historic Park for a classic whole-hog North Carolina-style barbeque "pig pickin'." The event also included a live bluegrass band and outstanding local microbrews from the award-winning Lonerider Brewing Company. Folks that visited North Carolina for this meeting truly got a sense of how NCSITE Makes ITE Funner!

In February, the **Traffic Engineering Council** hosted a session reviewing all of the complex considerations of the Charlotte Douglas Airport Expansion. Their April meeting looked at the challenges of planning and mitigating traffic impacts for the growing community of Mooresville, NC. In July the TEC received an overview of the development of a light rail system linking Durham and Orange Counties in the Research Triangle area. The TEC's August meeting featured a session on microsimulation and intersection analysis. In September the Council hosted a session on connected vehicles and Advanced Stop Assist Systems.

On April 7th, the **Strategic Initiatives Council** hosted a luncheon featuring NCDOT Secretary and NCSITE member Jim Trogdon, who gave an overview of the current priorities and changes at NCDOT. On October 12th, the SIC conducted NCSITE's first **Legislative Overview**, which showcased a broad range of speakers representing municipalities, county government, state government, business/industry, FHWA and NCDOT. These panelists provided their unique perspectives on federal and state legislation in 2017, and discussed the ramifications of these legislative changes. During the afternoon session, the speakers participated in roundtable discussion of what they see coming in 2018 what they see as the "big issues" confronting our profession over the next 5

years. Based on the tremendous success of this meeting, the SIC plans to continue to conduct a legislative overview every other year moving forward.

In July the **Bike/Ped Users Group** hosted a lunch & learn to review various bicycle and pedestrian-related laws and ordinances for communities in the Research Triangle region. The BPUUG also collaborated with the new North Carolina Chapter of the Association Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP-NC) by jointly sponsoring a breakfast at the BikeWalkNC conference in Wilmington in November. In August our **ITS Users Group** hosted a half-day meeting in Raleigh on autonomous vehicle development and regulation. The event featured speakers from the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, NCDOT, Robocists, NC A&T, Eco-PRT, and Duke University.

The **NEPA Users Group** experienced a reorganization and restart largely in response to reorganization with NCDOT's Project Development and Project Management groups. The group had a meeting on August 17th to plan the coming year, generate speaker and topic ideas, and establish a regular meeting schedule.

Collaborations: NCSITE encourages our councils to collaborate on co-sponsoring events, which sometimes yields amazing results. In September our Bike/Ped Users Group put on a full-day joint meeting in Greensboro with our SimCap Users Group focused on engineering elements of bicycle and pedestrian facility development. Sessions included bike/ped forecast modeling, facility prioritization models, multimodal performance metrics, innovations in data collection, multimodal level of service analysis, network planning, and dockless bikeshare systems implementation.

On March 24th our SimCap and Signal Systems User Groups held a joint meeting in Wilmington, NC that was attended by 70 members. This meeting focused on signal system improvements and included training sessions on signal timing, signal planning, and NCDOT requirements for Traffic Impact Analysis development and review. Also in March, our Traffic Engineering Council and our Transportation Planning Council partnered to present "BRT for Dummies," a session dedicated to explaining the design and operational elements of developing a bus rapid transit system.

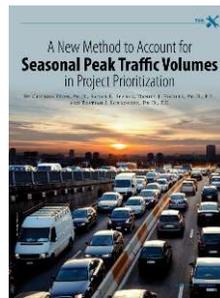
NCSITE was represented by 42 members at the 2017 **Southern District ITE Annual Meeting** in Columbia, South Carolina, including nine who presented as part of the technical program. We were very happy to bring the 2016 Best Large

Section Award back to North Carolina, and we are proud of NCSITE member Stan Polanis, who brought home the Johh F. Exnicios Government Employee Outstanding Service Award.

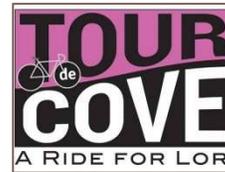
The **2017 NCSITE Annual Meeting** was held on November 12th at the NCSU McKimmon Center in Raleigh. The event was attended by over 300 people and included presentations on a variety of topics including autonomous vehicles, freight logistics, project development, NEPA hurdles, intersection design, TIA best practices, placemaking, and complete streets. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Larry Head, professor of Systems & Industrial Engineering at the University of Arizona. His session, “A Brave New World of Connected Autonomous Vehicles,” gave our members food for thought about the future. Our Councils and User Groups all contributed to hosting various sessions for the meeting, as did the combined student chapters. The student session once again included the annual Quiz Bowl competition, which went down to the final question in a wild, nail-biting finale! The lunch program, in honor of the past presidents of NCSITE, included the swearing in of the 2017 board, a speech by incoming president Stacie Phillips, the presentation of eight NCSITE awards, and the award of multiple NCSITE scholarships to many university students.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

In 2016, NCSITE members working with a task force were published in the ITE Journal. Their article was titled *An Assessment of Highway Capacity Manual Default Saturation Flow Rates to those in North Carolina*. This paper by Tyson Graves, Bowman Kelly, and Chris Cunningham received the Best Member Technical Paper Award at the SDITE annual meeting in 2017. In August 2017, the ITE Journal published another article led by NCSITE members. ***A New Method to Account for Seasonal Peak Traffic Volumes in Project Prioritization*** was authored by Dr. Chunho Yeom, Sarah Searcy, Dr. Daniel Findley and Dr. Bastian Schroder. The paper developed a methodology for evaluating seasonal traffic flows in locations with high peak traffic periods associated with tourism, such as coastal or mountain communities like those in North Carolina.



UNIQUE ACTIVITIES



This year NCSITE member came together to help one of their own. Lori Cove, Transportation & Infrastructure Services Director for Cary, NC, was critically injured in a bicycle crash by an intoxicated driver in 2016. Friends and family rallied to organize **Tour de Cove** to help raise money to offset her mounting medical care expenses. The event was attended by hundreds of people and helped raised over \$130,000 for her expenses. Not only was NCSITE a Gold Level sponsor for the event, but many of our members and their companies also participated with time and money. The overwhelming participation of our membership demonstrated how NCSITE and our transportation community often feels like family.



Special Olympics North Carolina is a non-profit organization that provides for all persons with intellectual disabilities to have the chance to become useful and productive citizens who are accepted and respected in their NC communities. NCSITE once again provided a number of volunteers for a number of Special Olympics events across North Carolina. Seventeen of our members worked as transportation volunteers for

Special Olympics events in 2017, which included the Summer Games (June 2-4) in the Raleigh Area; the Equestrian Tournament (September 29-October 1) in Raleigh, and the Fall Tournament in the Charlotte Area (November 3-5). Special recognition belongs to Mike Reese for spearheading these volunteer efforts!



The **NCSITE Mentoring Program** seeks to support and encourage young professionals to become highly effective leaders by pairing them with seasoned professionals within North Carolina’s transportation engineering and planning fields. In 2017 this program completed its second cohort of protégés and mentors, who collaborated in both one-on-one and in larger group meetings. NCSITE’s Mentoring Committee is now planning for the third installation of the program to commence in early 2018.

NCSITE has the distinction of being the only ITE section with a Committee for People Who Want to Make NCSITE Funner & Other Good Things Like That (a.k.a. **Make ITE Funner**). This committee of everyone and no one remains one of our favorite aspects of NCSITE: we make our members happy to be here! This informal committee is sure to make an appearance whenever a group of NCSITE members gather. The Make ITE Funner committee showed up publicly once again for the SDITE Meeting in Columbia, South Carolina, embracing the “South of the Border” theme for our neighbors to our south.



COMMUNICATIONS

The Operations Committee continues to improve and expand the Section’s communications, with their primary efforts being focused on the NCSITE.org website updates and the publication of **NCSITE Weekly** email newsletters. The email blasts highlighted events, news, announcements and job postings across the State. These emails are distributed via the Section’s MailChimp email list with over 700 subscribers, including specialized lists for each Council and Users Group, with an average open rate of 40%, double the industry average. The Section has expanded its social media outlets, with three Twitter accounts with a total of 250 followers, along with Facebook and LinkedIn pages. NCSITE also utilizes the Paper.li automated newsstand, which delivers transportation-related news and content through our social media on a daily basis. You can follow our section on Twitter at [@NCSITE_Sec](https://twitter.com/NCSITE_Sec).



LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES



Through coordination with Strategic Initiatives Council, NCSITE has continued to be a valuable member of **NC Go!**, a state transportation coalition and advocacy network. NC Go! is our state’s voice for transportation infrastructure and policy at the NC legislature. The mission of NC Go! is to support

efforts to improve transportation funding and improve the state’s transportation infrastructure. NCSITE has prompted the organization to better incorporate multimodal transportation options, namely pedestrians, bikes, and transit, into their discussions with elected officials.

The Section continued its advocacy for all transportation modes by maintaining its member organization status with **BikeWalkNC**, a statewide advocacy organization that promotes non-motorized transportation choices for residents of and visitors to North Carolina. BikeWalkNC coordinated with NCSITE members on lobbying campaigns at the North Carolina Legislature, and many of our members participated in their annual summit in November in Wilmington, NC.



NCSITE maintained membership in the NC Chamber of Commerce-led **Coalition for a Prosperous Future** which launched the “Bridge to a Prosperous Future” campaign in 2017. This campaign placed a priority on maintenance and construction of surface road and highway infrastructure, continued maintenance and directed improvements to the N.C. Ports System, and freight rail optimization and airport infrastructure investment to meet global demands. NCSITE members continue to provide guidance to the Coalition through meeting attendance and providing information on key topics including the benefits of better transportation planning and investments, results-based leadership, resource stewardship, and transportation funding.

STUDENT MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

NCSITE believes that student engagement is vital to the long-term success of our organization, so we strive to maintain a strong connection with our student chapters at **North Carolina A&T University, North Carolina State University** and the **University of North Carolina at Charlotte**. We routinely provide networking opportunities and support the presentation of student research at our meetings. Each University is assigned two NCSITE liaisons who are generally alumni from that university. These liaisons provide mentorship and guidance to each student chapter. The NCSITE Section Director and the Young Members Committee also serve as additional points of contact and support for each chapter.



NCSITE administers a **scholarship program** each year for the student chapters. There are three tiers of scholarships available totaling \$14,000 for these students. Four Tier I scholarships of \$1,500 each are offered to attract students who have or are taking an introductory engineering course or who have a strong interest in transportation engineering or planning as a career. At \$3,000 each, the two Tier II scholarships aim to retain students who are currently enrolled in transportation or planning courses within the transportation profession. We also offer a \$2,000 Tier III scholarship specifically for transportation graduate students. The scholarship awards are announced during the luncheon at our Annual Meeting each Fall. NCSITE is planning to expand the scholarship program with two new awards in 2018.

To encourage interaction between the students and NCSITE professionals, all NCSITE meetings are free to students. At the NCSITE Annual Meeting, one session is set aside specifically for student presentations and the student Quiz Bowl. Six students presented their research at the meeting this year.

Each student chapter is also asked to submit an Annual Report to NCSITE prior to the Annual Meeting. This report is judged by the Awards Committee and used in determining the winner of the Paul D. Cribbins Cup, honoring the Outstanding Student Chapter of the year. NC State was awarded the Cup in 2017.

Each student chapter is also eligible to receive \$500 from NCSITE each year. Additionally, NCSITE covers all travel expenses not covered by SDITE for the winning Quiz Bowl student chapter to attend the SDITE Annual Meeting.

The **Young Members Committee (YMC)** has taken the lead in providing outreach to our student chapters. The committee held a picnic with the NC State student chapter in April to spur interest among the students to join NCSITE and the YMC after graduation. In September, the YMC sponsored a Career Fair Reception at NC State to provide an opportunity for networking between the students and prospective employers. In September the YMC held a meet & greet event with UNC-Charlotte students, and also sponsored a meet & greet event with NC A&T students in October. These events allowed students to mix successfully with our young professionals in order to develop lasting, positive relationships with ITE.

We continue to build bridges with the transportation planning program at **the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**. We believe that students from the university's planning and safety programs would be a valuable asset to NCSITE. After multiple student outreach efforts in 2016 and 2017, we now have an adjunct professor that has expressed interest in serving as an advisor for a student chapter.



CLOSING STATEMENT

2017 has been another great year for NCSITE. We continue to build momentum from our past successes, and we are emboldened by the recognition we received from International ITE and from SDITE. We are looking forward to doing more great things in 2018 as we strive to remain the professional organization of choice to transportation officials across the North Carolina!

