

University of Arkansas ITE Student Chapter

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 2016, the ITE Student Chapter at the University of Arkansas (UofA) was reestablished by Dr. Sarah Hernandez, a new faculty member in the Department of Civil Engineering. The chapter was established in the 1990s but after several active years, went dormant. The focus of this year has been to revive the chapter structurally and create, if not recreate, the foundation on which the chapter will build on in the next years.

To reestablish the UofA ITE Student Chapter, the student group, Transportation Leaders for the 21st Century (TL-21) decided to merge with ITE. Since the UofA Civil Engineering program is not large enough to support two different transportation interest groups, the groups were merged. TL-21 was started as part of the US DOTs University Transportation Center (UTC) program through the Southern Plains Transportation Center (SPTC) Transportation Leadership Councils¹. TL-21 is a student driven organization that offers development of leadership skills to students and encourages students to get involved in the transportation community. SPTC provided start-up funds for the TL-21 chapter to cover meeting costs. Over the past year, the TL-21/ITE Student Chapter has developed a group constitution, elected two cycles of officers, and hosted a variety of events. Currently, the ITE Student Chapter president is taking steps to register the ITE student chapter as a Registered Student Organization (RSO) so that the group can be eligible to receive funds from the UofA.

This report describes the activities carried out by the TL-21 and ITE Student Chapter over the 2016 calendar year. This covers events from the spring and fall semesters of 2016. The report also includes efforts carried out in the spring semester of 2017.

¹SPTC Transportation Leadership Councils: <http://www.sptc.org/tlc/>

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS ITE STUDENT CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

ITE STUDENT CHAPTER HISTORY

Although the UofA has offered a strong Civil Engineering program since 1897, it wasn't until October 29, 1993 that the ITE Student Chapter was first established under the Missouri Valley Section of ITE (MOVITE). As the UofA Civil Engineering department hired more faculty in the areas of transportation engineering and planning, the ITE Student Chapter was able to be reestablished with faculty support. Dr. Hernandez, being a member of ITE, organized, with the help of Dr. Hall, a new student organization called Transportation Leaders of the 21st Century (TL-21). The TL-21 constitution and goals are similar to those of ITE; notably both groups introduce the students to the transportation field and search for ways to increase the quality of transportation in the community. With TL-21 and ITE having similar objectives, the TL-21 officers voted to merge TL-21 with ITE so that the dormant student chapter might be revived at the start of the spring semester in 2017.

ITE STUDENT CHAPTER ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Transportation Leaders of the 21st century (TL-21) is the parent organization of ITE at the UofA. All members of TL-21 are encouraged to become members of ITE. The MOVITE professional members, namely Andy Brewer and Nathan Becknell, have attended several student meetings to explain the importance and benefits of being a member of ITE. Our group has made it a requirement that in order to participate to TL-21 sponsored events such as national/regional conferences, the students must register as members of ITE. While it is not a requirement to be an ITE member to join TL-21, the group has asked every officer to register as an ITE member.

FACULTY ADVISORS

The faculty advisor for TL-21/ ITE is Dr. Sarah Hernandez. Dr. Hernandez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the UofA. She teaches classes related to transportation planning, traffic engineering, transportation data analysis, and transportation systems engineering.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

The TL-21 group established a constitution and outlined the following roles and responsibilities for each officer. These roles and responsibilities have been adopted by the ITE Student Chapter.

1. The President will:

- chair all meetings of TL21 and call special meetings as needed
 - organize any elections associated with TL21 events
 - actively recruit new members on an event basis
 - maintain and update the constitution as necessary
2. The Vice President will:
 - chair any ad hoc committees or task forces of the organization
 - be in charge recruitment and outreach to new or continuing students
 - maintaining or finding a volunteer to maintain the TL21 Facebook and LinkedIn site
 - manage and collect pictures of TL21 activities
 3. The Secretary will:
 - create and maintain the organization's electronic membership directory that includes current names and email addresses
 - take, record, and file meetings minutes, produce all official correspondence for the organization
 4. The Treasurer will:
 - maintain records and report on the financial transactions of TL21
 - develop and produce an Annual Report to SPTC, detailing TL21 activities conducted in the previous year

Requirements for serving in an officer role are that the candidates for office must be currently full-time with a minimum GPA of 2.50 enrolled students of the UofA. Nominations for all offices will open from the first week to the third week of the spring semester. The President will collect the names of the nominees and include all nominated names in the election ballot.

Nominations will be closed at the end of the third week of the spring semester. A simple majority will be sufficient to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates and no candidate receives a majority, there will be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients in the general meeting. If there is one candidate, the candidate will automatically be elected.

The term of office shall be from the beginning of the fifth week of the spring semester to the end of the fourth week of the subsequent spring semester. Table 1 contains the officers serving in 2016 and 2017.

Table 1. Student Chapter Officers for 2016 and 2017

Officer Role	2016 Fall Officers	2017 Spring Officers
President	Allyson Richey	Stephane Bossio
Vice President	Juan Castro	Diego Noriega
Secretary	Bolivar Gonzales	Kelly Overturf
Treasurer	Erica Yeung	Anabella Monterroso
Outreach Chair	Diego Noriega	Diego Noriega
Meeting Chair	Andrew Hindman	Fu Durandal

OFFICERS MEETINGS

An Officer meeting was held a week before the general meeting during which officers were responsible to report the advancement of each task that had been assigned to them. The faculty advisor was invited to some of the meetings in order to clarify information that might present a challenge to the officers.

GENERAL MEETINGS

For the past two years, TL-21 has had a general meeting in which all students were welcomed to attend. The first year (2016) meetings were held the first Thursday of every month. The second year (2017) the general meetings have been held on the second Thursday of every month, excluding January which there was no general meeting. Most of the meetings were held in room 1108G of the Bell Engineering building at 5pm. The structured schedule was meant to prevent overlaps with the many other student group meetings available to civil engineering students. In this way, we hoped to ensure high attendance.

The majority of the meetings included guest speakers who present on different transportation topics, while other meetings were voting for new officers or skill workshops. Typically, emails were sent to the UofA Civil Engineering listserv so all civil engineering students would have the information of the meetings. For each meeting, the group secretary created an event flyer that clearly stated the room, time, and speaker information.

The following section describes each of the general meetings hosted by TL-21/ITE during the 2016/2017 academic year. In addition to the guest speakers' presentations, TL-21 officers told students about upcoming external events, transportation related internships, and summer job opportunities.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Speaker: Nathan Becknell, Missouri Valley Section ITE President 2017, Vice President 2016

Mr. Becknell talked about ITE as an organization and the benefits of becoming a student chapter. Mr. Becknell introduced ITE in the first general meeting of the semester so students are informed about what the group is centered around. Mr. Becknell introduced the idea of attending external ITE events, such as the Midwestern Section Student Leadership Conference

and the MOVITE Fall Meeting, to get group members interested and involved in ITE as an Institute instead of just the student chapter. Figure 1 shows a photo taken during the meeting.



Figure 1. September 20th General Meeting Photo

OCTOBER 6, 2016

Speaker: Cheryl Garner, Advance Economic Development Solutions, President and CEO

Ms. Garner presented about how important railroads are and how crucial they are to transporting goods. Ms. Garner discussed how almost all of the railroads in the US are privately owned and how that can affect distribution and the growth of the railroad industry. Ms. Garner talked about a few of her different projects and the political and public aspects of each. Ms. Garner presented about a Western Arkansas Railroad Reconstruction Feasibility Study project and explained the situation and how to address the project.

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

Speakers: Adam White, Garver Aviation Engineer; and Chris Brown, City of Fayetteville Engineer

Mr. White and Mr. Brown discussed the differences between working for private sectors and public sectors. Mr. White discussed what a private company offers and how he got into Garver. Mr. White talked about aviation and the process of choosing a career in a specific area. One

topic he addressed was adjusting changing standards and rules, for example with the runway of an airport, the specification of how long it was required to be was lengthened. Mr. White then talked about a specific foundation that makes the aircraft sink and slow down giving the runway the equal safety that an elongated runway provides. Mr. Brown discussed working for a city in the public side of the field. Mr. Brown talked about how within specific projects, public and private companies tend to work together. Mr. Brown also talked about traffic control devices around Fayetteville, such as roundabouts, and changing certain aspects of parking lots around campus.

DECEMBER 1, 2016

Speaker: Jessie Jones, Arkansas Highway Department Planning Division

Mrs. Jones presented about the state of Arkansas' plans for long range transportation ideas and improvements. Mrs. Jones talked about how the division conducts planning, gathers data, surveys land, and predicts future movements and developments. Mrs. Jones also touched on the topic of state budgeting for transportation projects, the different types of projects, the expenses and which projects can actually be funded. Predicting the future of transportation is unclear because of how uncertain it is. To help with understanding the public's opinions and wants in the future, surveys are conducted often with different groups of people. Mrs. Jones also talked about how there are opportunities for everyone to get involved with planning, for example there's an Arkansas Transportation Planning Conference for people to register and attend.

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Speaker: Nathan Becknell, Missouri Valley Section ITE President 2017

Mr. Becknell talked about ITE and the different parts that make ITE. Mr. Becknell talked about the different sections and districts of ITE and more specifically, the section that includes the University of Arkansas. Mr. Becknell answered student's questions about TL-21 transitioning into a student chapter of ITE. He stated that ITE offers student members a free year of membership to ITE and that membership provides opportunities for funding and business connections. Mr. Becknell also introduced the chapter to the ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl and discussed the structure of the Bowl (one for each district and then a National Traffic Bowl for the winners of the district bowls). As a result, the UofA ITE Student Chapter initiated a team to prepare for the traffic bowl in future years.

MARCH 9, 2017

Speaker: Kelsey Lavigne, University of Arkansas, College of Engineering Career Services

Mrs. Lavigne addressed interview skills and career readiness. Mrs. Lavigne gave different types of potential questions interviewers could ask and provided tips for answering interview questions professionally and efficiently. Mrs. Lavigne discussed the different qualities and points that interviewers would be most concerned about such as; personal skills, how prepared and interested the student is in the company, problem solving, behavioral skills and manners.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

In addition to monthly general meetings, students also attended external events. Six student members of TL-21 attended the ITE Midwestern Section Student Leadership Conference in Ames, Iowa from September 16-18, 2016. Figure 2 highlights a photo of the students attending the ITE Student Leadership conference.

In addition to members of TL-21 attending the Leadership Conference, five other students attended the Missouri Valley Institute of Transportation Engineering (MOVITE) Fall Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma from October 5-6, 2016. Figure 3 shows the group of faculty, students, and MOVITE members (Andy Brewer and Nathan Becknell) who attended the MOVITE Fall Meeting.

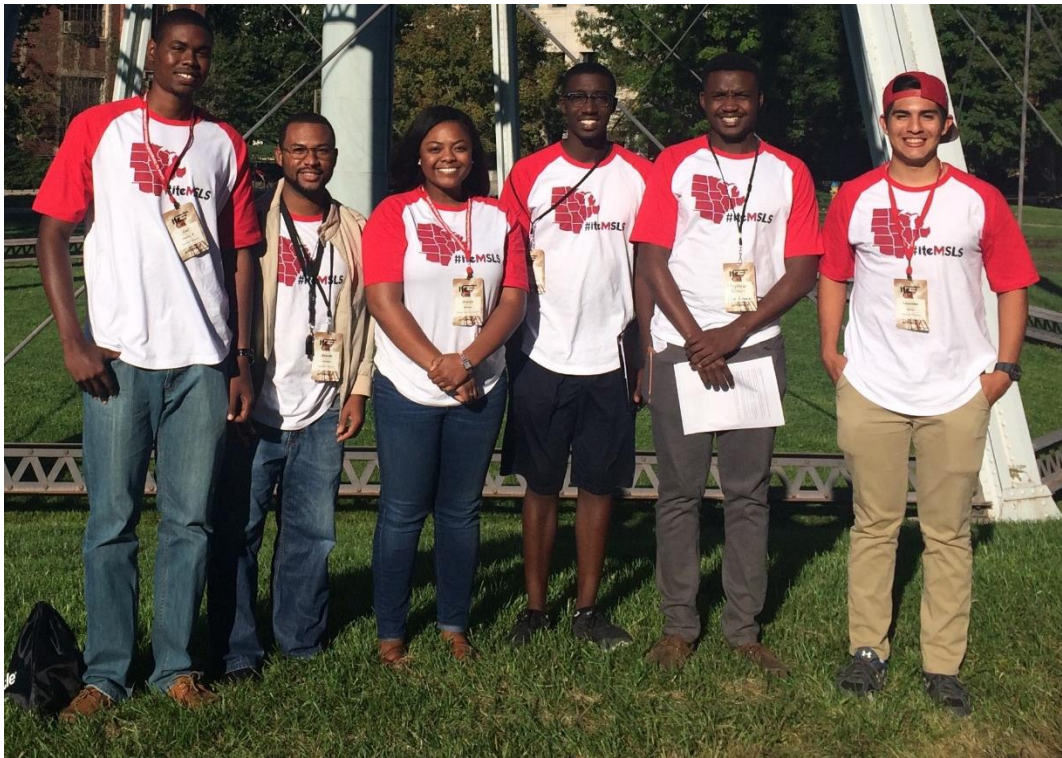


Figure 2. Students at the ITE Student Leadership Summit



Figure 3. Students and Faculty at the MOVITE Fall Meeting

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Our purpose as ITE body members is to persuade younger Civil Engineering students to participate and stay involved in Transportation Engineering. The members are committed to make the chapter more popular and create awareness of Transportation rules and safety. Being part of ITE promotes new career opportunities and development as a Transportation Civil Engineer, and for current members to brainstorm revolutionary ideas related to transportation design. As well, our goal is to educate students about the transportation system in the U.S contributing as a major factor of economic and social development.

The event recently organized was a workshop on “How to obtain a Driver’s License.” This workshop was presented to UofA students and advertised through the UofA international student office (see the event flyer in Figure 4). The main purpose of the event was to make local students and international students aware of all driving regulations in AR, what documentation is needed to register for a Driver’s license in AR, and what one must do to obtain a license. The first half of the presentation focused on the “how to get a license” topic. For the second part of the presentation, driving rules and regulations were shared. All traffic signals were shown through power point slides differentiating shapes, colors, and importance of the signs. Rules and regulation were also explained through the presentation since the written test has a major section on this subject. Figure 5 shows an example of the slides that were prepared for the presentation.

For future events and services, the ITE members are planning to connect with the Fayetteville city council and plan a visit to a local transportation project. This will hopefully result in a better method of teaching students how engineers calculate and design highways outside a standard classroom experience. Through all the events, our purpose is to help student gain experience in leadership and responsibility. New jobs required civil engineers to be efficient in the work place as a leader, and also a worker who can deal with problem solving.

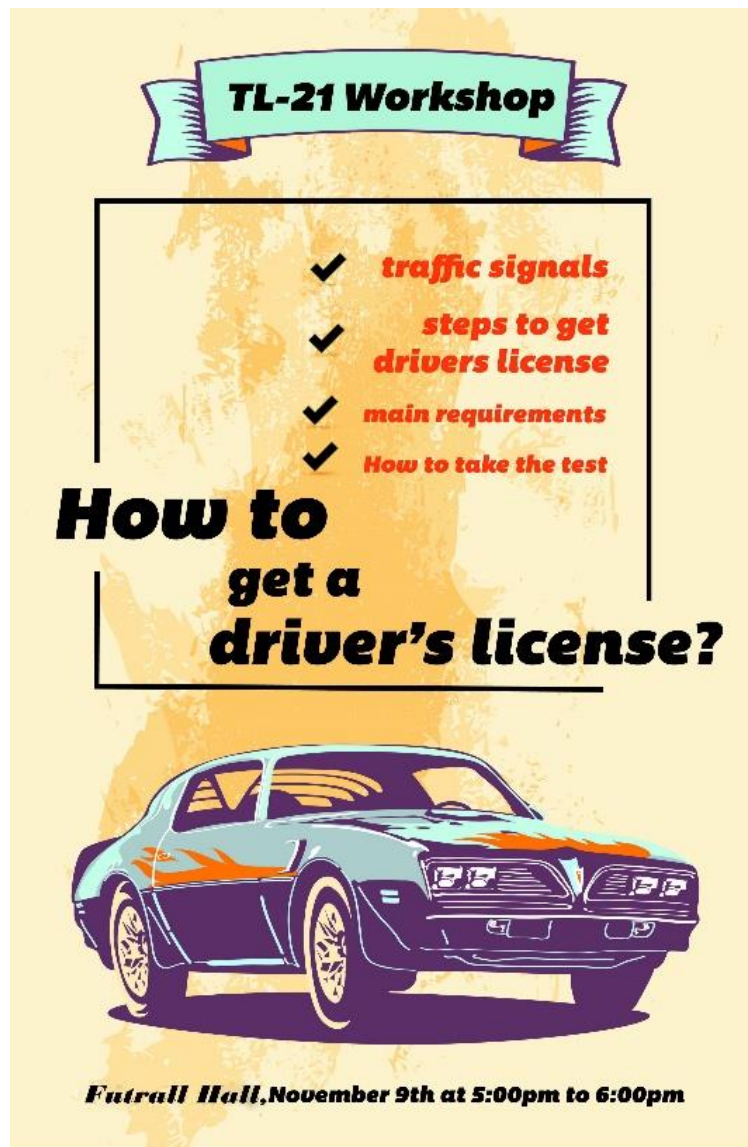


Figure 4. Event Flyer for the Driver's License Outreach Event

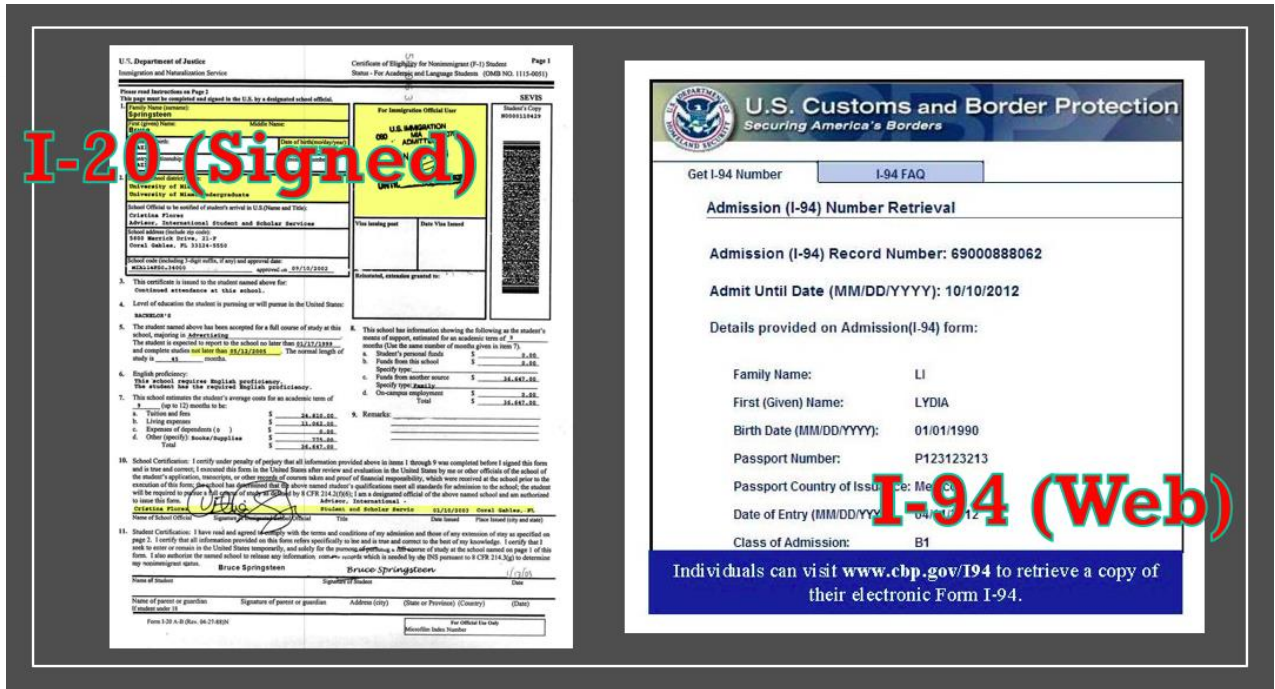


Figure 5. Example of Material Provided During the Driver's License Event

BUDGET

Date	Supplier	Item Description	Debits	Balance
08/01/2015	Beginning Balance	Beginning Balance	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
11/24/2015	Jimmy Johns	Officer's Lunch	\$ 29.47	\$ 4,970.53
12/03/2015	Qdoba	Fall General Meeting	\$ 325.62	\$ 4,644.91
01/28/2016	Jimmy Johns	Spring Elections	\$ 189.40	\$ 4,455.51
01/28/2016	Walmart	Spring Elections: Paper plates, water, paper towels	\$ 12.44	\$ 4,443.07
02/25/2016	Penguin Ed's Catering	February General Meeting	\$ 275.07	\$ 4,168.00
02/25/2016	Walgreens	Water for meeting	\$ 10.00	\$ 4,158.00
03/16/2016	PMC (PO#6834944)	Engineering Pads for Distribution	\$ 450.00	\$ 3,708.00
03/17/2016	Qdoba	March General Meeting	\$ 391.13	\$ 3,316.87
04/13/2016	B-Unlimited, Inc	T-Shirts	\$ 882.39	\$ 2,434.48
Summer 2016		SPTC Conference Travel Expenses (per Dr. Hernandez)	\$ 693.50	\$ 1,740.98
09/20/2016	Qdoba	September General Meeting	\$ 335.25	\$ 1,405.73
10/06/2016	Geraldi's	October General Meeting	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,105.73
10/06/2016	Walmart	Serving spoons and water for general meeting	\$ 4.92	\$ 1,100.81
11/03/2016	Jimmy Johns	November General Meeting	\$ 218.95	\$ 881.86
11/03/2016	Walmart	Water, paper plates, napkins for general meeting	\$ 7.82	\$ 874.04
12/01/2016	Qdoba	December General Meeting	\$ 406.75	\$ 467.29
02/09/2017	Jimmy Johns	February General Meeting	\$ 215.82	\$ 251.47
02/08/2017	Walmart	Water, paper plates	\$ 10.17	\$ 241.30
03/09/2017	Chick Fil A	March General Meeting	\$ 195.56	\$ 45.74
03/07/2017	Walmart	Water for meeting	\$ 10.00	\$ 35.74
TOTALS			\$4964.26	

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Table 2 provides a list of the members. These members include students that have attended meetings over the last year. Table 3 summarizes the membership numbers.

Table 2. Student Membership List (2016-2017)

Last Name	First Name	Major
Akter	Taslima	Grad
Asborna	Magdalena	Grad
Bossio	Stephane	BS Civil
Castro	Juan	BS Civil
Castillo Camarena	Elvis	Grad
Cooley	Corin	BS Civil
Cooney	Carl	BS Civil
Daniels	Joseph	Grad
Durandal	Fu	BS Civil
Early	Marci	BS Civil
Gonzales	Bolivar	BS Civil
Hargrove	Ian	BS Civil
Hindman	Andrew	BS Civil
Jennings	Jeremiah	BS Civil
Kaneza	Nice	BS Civil
Mahmud	Farida	BS Civil
Martinez Castro	Juan	BS Civil
Mitchell	Josilyn	BS Civil
Monterroso	Anabella	BS Civil
Morales	Airam	Grad Civil
Noriega	Diego	BS Civil
Ortega	Anazaria	BS Civil
Overturf	Kelly	BS Civil
Oztanriseven	Furka	Grad
Richey	Ashley	BS Civil
Salazar	Sean	Grad Civil
Watters	Matthew	Grad Civil
Yang	Shu	Grad Civil
Yarborough	Brendan	BS Civil
Yeung	Erica	BS Civil

Table 3. Summary of Student Chapter Membership

Number of Student Chapter Members	30
Number of ITE Student Chapter Members	7*
Number of Faculty Members	2

*Members with known ITE registration completed in 2017

Table 4 provides a summary of the UofA Civil Engineering enrollment for undergraduate and undergraduate students.

Table 4. Summary of UofA Civil Engineering Enrollment in the 2016-17 Academic Year²

Number of Undergraduate Students (Sophomore and above)	302
Number of Graduate Students (MS and PhD)	52
Does the curriculum allow for undergraduate students to major in transportation?	No

² Source: <https://engineering.uark.edu/about-us/2016-Fact-Book-spreads.pdf>

SUMMARY AND CLOSING

This year has been an active year for the TL-21 and ITE student chapters. This year we reinstated the ITE Student Chapter, held regular general meetings, sent students to national meetings, and served the community through outreach events. We anticipate that next year we will be even more active on campus, in the professional sections, and in the community.