



**South Texas Section**  
Institute of Transportation Engineers

**A Section of District 9 of the  
Institute of Transportation Engineers**

Annual Section Report – January through December 2014

**SECTION HISTORY**

The South Texas ITE Section (STITE) is a sub-area of District 9 of the Texas District of ITE (a.k.a. TexITE). The section was formed in 1997 and includes 46 counties in the area that stretches from Del Rio to San Antonio to Victoria and south to the Rio Grande Valley (more land than some states!). STITE boundaries include McAllen, Laredo, Corpus Christi, South Padre Island, Kingsville, Harlingen and Brownsville. There have been few opportunities in South Texas for people in the transportation industry to network with their peers, enhance technical skills or learn new methods of controlling and planning for traffic.

**SECTION LEADERSHIP**

**2015 LEADERSHIP**

Office	President	Vice President	Secretary/ Treasurer	Section Representative
Name	 Justin Clark	 Miguel Luna	 Juilo Ramos	 Mike Garza
Affiliation	<i>Pape-Dawson Engineers</i>	<i>Jacobs Engineering Group</i>	<i>Civil Engineering Consultants</i>	<i>Dannenbaum Engineering</i>

**2014 LEADERSHIP**

Office	President	Vice President	Secretary/ Treasurer	Section Representative
Name	 Derek Mueller	 Justin Clark	 Miguel Luna	 Eduardo Mendoza
Affiliation	<i>Pape-Dawson Engineers</i>	<i>Pape-Dawson Engineers</i>	<i>GKW Inc.</i>	<i>City of McAllen</i>

**2014 & 2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Committee	2015 Committee Chairs		2014 Committee Chairs	
	Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Website Manager	Ben Worsham	City of McAllen	Ben Worsham	City of McAllen
Student Chapter Liaison	Miguel Luna	GKW Engineers	Miguel Luna	GKW Engineers
Membership Committee	Amy Avery	Kimley-Horn and Associates	Amy Avery	Kimley-Horn and Associates
Nominations Committee	Miguel Sanchez	Arcadis	Miguel Sanchez	Arcadis
TexITE Fall 2015 LAC Chair	Derek Mueller	Pape-Dawson Engineers	NA	NA
Section Representative	Mike Garza	City of McAllen	Eduardo Mendoza	City of McAllen
Scholarship Committee	Heather McNeal	Pape-Dawson Engineers	Heather McNeal	Pape-Dawson Engineers
Regional Conf. Committee	Julio Ramos	CEC	Julio Ramos	CEC
Holiday Banquet Committee	Justin Clark	Pape-Dawson Engineers	Justin Clark	Pape-Dawson Engineers

**FINANCES**

The current STITE bank account balance is **\$5,016**. The 2014 fiscal year began with a balance of **\$6,068**. While maintaining a healthy bank balance, the Section has focused more on providing greater value to our members such as hosting webinars and evening socials. The section also gave one scholarship for \$1,500.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The South Texas Section has 102 local and international members in 2014. As of March, 2013, there were 57 International ITE members within the Section boundaries, as listed by the ITE website ([www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)). Table 1 provides a breakdown of the membership grade of these international members. The information in Table 1 will be updated with the 2014 membership once the membership data is provided by ITE international.

<b>Table 1. Membership Grade of International Members in the South Texas Region</b>	
<b>Membership Grade</b>	<b>2014</b>
Student	10
Total Local Member Only	35
Institute Affiliate	0
Fellow	5
Members	52
<b>TOTAL ITE SECTION MEMBERS*</b>	<b>102</b>

*\* Does not include members of Section who are not full ITE members*

**ACTIVITIES**

***General Technical***

The South Texas Section holds its regular monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each Month. In 2014 our section changed meeting location to Blue Star Brewery a downtown restaurant within a several block of the City and very close to Bexar County.

The STITE Regional Conference (see photos), was held in September in Corpus Christi, Texas. No meetings were held in May, July, August or November in order to avoid conflicts with the Spring/Fall TexITE Meetings and the Thanksgiving holiday. The meeting dates, topics, speakers, and attendance are shown in Table 2 below:



**Table 2. 2014 Meeting Summary**

Date	Topic/Event	Speaker	Attendance
Jan 29	Lunch Meeting – Long Range Transportation Plan “Mobility 2040”	<b>Scott Ericksen</b> Public Involvement Coordinator SA-BC MPO	35
Feb 26	Lunch Meeting – \$825M for San Antonio Highway Projects	<b>Jonathan Bean, P.E.</b> Director of Transportation Planning TxDOT	51
March 26	Lunch Meeting – VIA Ongoing Projects	<b>Brian Buchanan</b> Senior Vice President of Development VIA Metropolitan Transit	35

**Table 2. 2014 Meeting Summary – Con't**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Event</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
April 23	<b>Meeting with UTSA Student Chapter</b> Integrated Prioritization Method for Active and Passive Highway Rail Crossings	<b>Jose Weissmann, Ph.D.</b> Professor - UTSA	38
<b>May – No meeting</b>			
June 27	<b>Joint Meeting Capital Area Section</b>  IH-35 “Growing Pains”	<b>Sabas Avila</b> , City of San Marcos <b>Victor Vargas, P.E.</b> , TxDOT Austin  <b>Gary Ford</b> , City of New Braunfels  <b>Leon Barba</b> , City of Kyle	23
<b>July – No meeting</b>			
<b>August – No Meeting</b>			
Sept 19	Regional Conference	<b>Trey Baker</b> , TTI – Autonomous Vehicles  <b>Kassondra Mouoz</b> , TxDOT – Corpus District Projects  <b>Rick Valdes</b> , TBPE - Ethics	66
Oct 25	<b>Joint UTSA Student Chapter Event</b>  UTSA Football Tailgate	None	50
Oct 29	Lunch Meeting – Loop 1604 Variable Speed Limits	<b>Darren McDaniel</b> Safety Engineer TxDOT	53
<b>November – No meeting</b>			
Dec. 12	<b>Annual Holiday Banquet</b>	Officer Installations; White Elephant Gift Exchange; Traffic Jeopardy	29

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

### *Scholarship Committee*

The Scholarship Committee Chair is Heather McNeal. This year the scholarship was once again opened up to all ABET accredited schools in our region. The Scholarship (\$1,500) was awarded to Justin De La Rosa from The University of Texas A&M Kingsville. In previous years, STITE had coordinated their scholarship program through the University of Texas – San Antonio Department of Engineering. In 2013, the Officers decided to include all schools in the region and be responsible for the selection process. This change was done in order to include more of our wide-reaching section and also help to foster ties with, and encourage ITE chapters at all schools to become more active.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### *Website*

The Section website is consistently updated with the latest meeting and conference information, previously published newsletters, and meeting presentations.

### *Additional Communication Initiatives*

The Section has been using Constant Contact to create email announcements for events and meetings and manage the guest lists. In 2014, this service was used to manage all event registrations, announcements, newsletter distribution, and officer elections. Constant Contact has proven to be a valuable addition to our website for communication meeting announcements and section news. We continue to look for more ways to utilize this service including better organization of our membership lists.

## SECTION STUDENT CHAPTERS

The Section has been very active with the UTSA Student Chapter throughout the year. Highlighted activities include the Annual Joint Student/Professional meeting held in March, participating in the Adopt-A-Highway Program with the student chapter, finding various speakers/volunteers for different student chapter events/meetings, and offering discounted rates at meetings in an effort to attract more student chapter members to experience the professional chapter atmosphere. In 2014, the Joint meeting was held at a nearby restaurant to entice more professional member to attend. In October, STITE and the Student Chapter jointly hosted a tailgate for a UTSA football game at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio. In addition the student chapter host a BBQ to help raise money for chapter events which was very well attended.



**University of Texas, San Antonio**

The current UTSA Student Chapter Officers are listed below:

President: **Eliseo Suarez**  
Vice President: **Daniel Cardenas**  
Treasurer: **Ruben Elizondo**  
Secretary: **Roger Terrazas**  
Webmaster: **Jesus Juarez**

The UTSA STITE Student Chapter is having a successful semester. The Chapter has “Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up” on in February and is planning another later in the year. The UTSA student chapter also has two training sessions planned for Synchro and MicroStation. The UTSA Student Chapter has established networking relationships with other organizations such as ASCE and ACI to share ideas and work towards greater achievements.

**Texas A & M University, Kingsville**

At the time of submission of this report, no information was received.

**GOALS FOR 2014**

- a. Increase attendance at events and involve more members in the Section’s committees.
- b. Submit STITE Newsletter for ITE District and Section Award.
- c. Increase section revenues through Business Card Advertisement and social events.
- d. Continue to offer program meetings with informative topics and prominent speakers.
- e. Expand the scholarship program to include other universities in South Texas.
- f. Offer at least one valuable professional development program/workshop.

**AWARDS/HONORS**

The STITE Section was selected as the winner of the TexITE Section Activities Award for 2014. The award was presented to Derek Mueller, current Section Past-President, at the TexITE District Meeting Spring Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Justin De La Rosa of the University of Texas A&M Kingsville was recognized as the winner of the 2014 STITE Scholarship.

The Section presented a plaque to **Derek Mueller** for his dedicated service as an officer.

## OTHER

### *Election Results*

The STITE Section held elections for 2015 officers. Justin Clark will serve as President, Miguel Luna as Vice President, Juilo Ramos as Secretary/Treasurer, and Mike Garza will begin his two year term as Section Representative.

- **END REPORT** -