

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, MT ITE! We have an exciting year ahead of us. This year, I am looking forward to working with the Montana Board, Local Arrangements Committee, and District as we prepare to host the Mountain District Annual Conference. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to help with planning and organizing this event. I also expect to continue growing our membership and opportunities here in Montana. We intend to build on our prior member engagement opportunities by offering technical sessions, project tours, and social events in 2024.

Involvement in ITE has allowed me to connect with members and offers a sense of pride being able to give back to the transportation profession. I look forward to the collaboration and networking that will come with our 2024 events. I appreciate the time and effort everyone has put into making our organization great. If you are looking for additional ways to get involved, I encourage you to consider volunteering for a committee. I'm excited to see everyone at our upcoming events!



Shae Talley, PE
ITE Montana Section President

MONTANA ITE 2024 AWARD WINNERS

Dillon McLain is this year's **Young Professional Award** winner! Dillon is a Transportation Project Manager and Roadway Team Supervisor at KLJ Engineering. In his time since becoming an ITE member in 2014, Dillon served as the Montana Section President in 2020, the Montana Section District Representative in 2021-2022, and as a Mountain District Advertising Committee member since 2020. Additionally, he is the current Mountain District Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) Chair, leading efforts to organize the District Annual Meeting in Big Sky this year! Dillon resides in Helena and is a demonstrated leader in the community with involvement in the Leadership Helena Program and recognition as a Helena "20 Under 40" award winner.

Sanderson Stewart is this year's **Transportation Achievement Award** winner for their integral work in the [Skyline Trail & Inner Belt Loop project](#) in Billings! The Skyline Trail is a scenic trail connection atop the Billings rimrocks within the city's 26.11 mile trail corridor known as the Marathon Loop, connecting to the southwest end of the Inner Belt Loop which is providing a new seven-mile, multimodal connection from the Billings Heights to the West End. The overall project not only enhances transportation network emergency response, safety, and operations, but it will also improve the Billings community's quality of life with increased outdoor recreational access and economic opportunities. Sanderson Stewart has worked directly with the City of Billings and Billings TrailNet throughout project development from planning through construction, along with partners MDT, FHWA, Montana DNRC, MET Transit, and many key community stakeholders; and all involved demonstrated perseverance in helping build community support, ultimately leading to the City securing \$11.6M in BUILD grant funds for the project. Four key project team members are active MT ITE members: **DJ Clark**, **Erin Claunch**, **Joey Staszczuk**, and **Audrey Stoltzfus**.



MSU STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Several MT ITE members and MSU ITE student members gathered for a student/professional mixer event at Columbo's Pizza in Bozeman, MT late February. The event was organized by the MSU ITE Student Chapter and was well attended with several professionals already in Bozeman for the MSU career fair. Attendees had a great time networking while enjoying good food.

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Consider joining us for the 2024 Mountain District Annual Meeting on June 19-21, 2024 in Big Sky, MT. We have an exciting agenda planned including ample opportunities for learning, socializing, networking, activities, and enjoying Montana's greatness in a beautiful setting! For more information visit our conference website and register at the links below.

- **Website:** [Mountain District ITE - 2024 Mountain District Annual Meeting \(mountainite.org\)](https://mountainite.org)
- **Registration:** [Mountain District ITE - Meeting/Event Information \(mountainite.org\)](https://mountainite.org)
- **Schedule:** [2024 MD ITE-Big Sky Draft Schedule 10 27 2023.pdf \(starchapter.com\)](https://starchapter.com)
- For questions about the Annual meeting, reach out to **Dillon McLain** (Local Arrangements Committee Chair) at dillon.mclain@kljeng.com or any of the board members listed below.



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