

May 1, 2018

Hi San Francisco Bay Area Section,

In 2017, the Western District [Student Endowment Fund](#) expanded its Student Initiatives Program to increase student support from \$15,000 to \$18,000 annually. New initiatives included four Regional Travel Scholarships and a sixth Data Collection Fund project.

The full list of funded Student Initiatives includes:

- Regional Travel Scholarships to attend the Western District Annual Meeting (\$500/student for 4 students)
- Support for the Student Leadership Summit (\$1,000)
- Funding for the Data Collection Fund (\$1,000/project for 6 projects)
- Funding (\$1,500) and awards (\$300) for the James H. Kell competition held at the Western District Annual Meeting
- Support of travel for our winning Student Traffic Bowl team to the ITE International Meeting (\$1,000)
- Support of travel to the ITE International Meeting if a Western District student chapter wins the International Student Chapter Award (\$1,000)
- Awards for student chapter annual reports (\$100/report for 25 reports)
- Awards for our student paper winner (\$500), outstanding graduate (\$500) and undergraduate (\$500) students, and outstanding student chapter (\$1,000) at the Western District Annual Meeting
- Sponsoring special events for students and professionals (\$250)

The initial \$500,000 goal for the Endowment Fund was intended to support the District's established Student Initiatives. The recent expansion of the program was made possible through seed money provided by the Western District Board to support the Regional Travel Scholarships and an additional data collection project for the first three years. However, in order to ensure the sustainability of these new initiatives as well as further expansion of the program, the Endowment Fund still needs support from the District membership.

This year, eight students applied for four Regional Travel Scholarships to attend the Annual Meeting in Keystone, and 13 student chapters applied for six projects in the Western District's Data Collection Fund. These numbers alone exhibit the excitement that the students have for ITE. On a bimonthly basis, student chapters are sharing with the District membership about what excites them about ITE and the transportation field and the ways in which the Endowment Fund has benefited their chapters. You can hear directly from the students about the impact that ITE has had on their college experiences through the [Student Endowment Fund spotlights](#).

When you make your contributions to the Endowment Fund, you will be prompted to designate your contribution for either:

1. The General Fund, which includes all of the Student Initiatives supported by the Endowment Fund, or
2. The Regional Travel Scholarship, which helps to activate the scholarship for your chosen region.

Two awards are given at the Annual Meeting to recognize Sections or Chapters with the highest overall contribution and with the highest contribution per member during the prior year, so all of these contributions will be added to the totals for your Sections or Chapters. All contributions are tax-deductible.

I hope that you continue on this journey with the Student Endowment Fund as we expand our Student Initiatives Program to support the next generation of transportation professionals.

Thanks for your consideration,
Kimberly Leung
Endowment Fund Committee Chair