

Institute of Transportation Engineers New York Upstate Section Awards

2009 PROJECT OF THE YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR LIFETIME MEMBERS RECOGNITION 2009 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



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CANANDAIGUA, N.Y. - ITE New York Upstate Section President Michael Wieszchowski announced the Section's Awards for 2009 including Transportation Project of the Year, Transportation Professional of the Year, Lifetime Members and Student Scholarships.

The 2009 Transportation Project of the Year was awarded to the [Interstate 86 / US Route 15 Interchange Reconstruction](#) in Corning, NY. The project included a complete redesign and replacement of the juncture of I-86/Route 17-Southern Tier Expressway with the I-99 Corridor, which includes US Route 15 from Williamsport, PA to Corning, NY. The project designs needed to face unique challenges to replace the existing diamond interchange layout on the north side of the Cohocton River adjacent the 600' wide flood control levee. Tucked in the valley at the confluence of the Tioga and Cohocton River, the tee-style interchange faced major challenges as well - river crossing bridge design, railroad constraints, high-volume local flows, community cohesion, and economic development. This project also included the implementation of only the second fixed, automated-spray, anti-icing system in New York to reduce accident potential on the four new interstate connecting ramps over the Cohocton River levee system. The system uses a Remote Weather Information System (RWIS) tower adjacent to the site to monitor weather conditions along with a series of pavement sensors to automatically activate the spray of de-icing solutions on the pavement surface.

The 2009 Transportation Professional of the Year was awarded to [Todd B. Westhuis, P.E.](#) Mr. Westhuis is Special Assistant to the Director of Operations at the New York State Department of Transportation and was primarily recognized for his exemplary leadership with the 511 NY project, a traveler information technology service. Mr. Westhuis provided concise, yet informatively detailed overviews of 511 NY to ensure all partners understood the depth and breadth of the undertaking and to obtain their buy-in and support for the system. He managed to establish a level of trust and forged groundbreaking relationships with other agencies. As a forward-looking visionary, Mr. Westhuis encouraged the Team to "think outside of the box" and explore all opportunities presented to them. Michael Wieszchowski stated "*Mr. Westhuis exemplifies the persona of today's transportation professional and we are pleased to recognize him with this award.*"

Three ITE members were recognized for their long-term contributions and affiliation (25+ years) with the NY Upstate Section. They are: [Mr. Frank Dolan](#), [Mr. Bernard Schatz](#), and [Mr. Barry Hecht](#).

The ITE New York Upstate Section awarded two \$500 scholarships to [Belinda Leung](#) and [Lora Cunningham](#). Ms. Leung is an environmental engineering student at Syracuse University and Ms. Cunningham is a graduate student in historic preservation at Clemson University. Congratulations to all.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) is an international association of over 17,000 professionals dedicated to the practice of traffic and transportation engineering and planning. The ITE New York Upstate Section has nearly 200 members from Albany to Buffalo.