ITSA Awards – Nomination Form

The Consortium for ITS Training and Education (CITE) is a unique organization of universities, associations, and private sector members focused on providing comprehensive ITS training and education in a manner that is convenient for both existing practitioners and graduate students.

What makes CITE different from other organizations offering ITS training and education? For one thing, CITE has pioneered the use of web-based distance learning for ITS courses, eliminating the cost and inconvenience of attending a class away from the office.

Besides being accessible 7 days a week, 365 days a year over the internet, CITE's courses are "interactive", which means that they include a stimulating mix of participatory activities such as simulations, self study quizzes and exercises, drag and drop pages, crossword puzzles or jeopardy games. These activities are used to support and reinforce the text-based information.

CITE's distance learning approach also enables prospective students to enroll and take a course whenever they want or need it. There is no need to wait for a course that will be offered in August when it is currently February and you need the information right away. CITE's courses are there when you need them.

CITE initially developed a semester long graduate level course called "Fundamentals of ITS and Traffic Management" consisting of 11 modules, each focused on a different aspect of ITS. The course was designed to give students a complete picture of ITS as well as a sound background in each topic. Students' reactions to the pilot offering (Spring 2000) made it clear that the modules generated enough interest to be offered by themselves, as well as part of the full semester course.

CITE offers the Fundamentals course and each of the individual modules as their own course to students for Continuing Education Units. The graduate level for-credit version of the Fundamentals course is offered through CITE university partners.

Since July 2000, when the courses were put on line, CITE has registered 45 students. Many of the students who have already completed one course are requesting their agency's permission to take another. This positive response is illustrated by some of their comments listed below:

- "Overall, I thought the experience was great and would strongly consider distance learning op"Great course. I learned quite a bit."
- "It's very interesting course material that will have real applications in the present and future."
- "Thanks for providing this distance learning course. It was really useful and interesting to me."
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To ensure the pedagogical quality of the courses, CITE requests students to fill out an on-line survey after taking their final exam. This gives them an opportunity to comment on all the aspects of the course they just took, and provides CITE with valuable feedback on the various components of the course, and their effectiveness.

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- Initiated with the support of the I-95 Corridor Coalition and the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, CITE is now on its way to become self-sustaining. One of the tasks at hand is to generate enough revenues from existing courses to develop additional courses while maintaining the current ones in existence. In 2001,

CITE will be adding two additional courses to its curriculum, Systems Integration and Project Management.

As of December 2000, CITE consisted of 54 university Partners worldwide, each with free access to the courses developed by CITE and free CITE membership. More than half of these university partners are offering the "Fundamentals of ITS and Traffic Management," either in its entirety or as part of an existing course. In the Fall 2000 semester, approximately 175 graduate students participated in the Fundamentals course in some fashion at their university.

One of CITE's current goals is to increase its university membership significantly, both nationally and internationally, in order to expand the geographical realm of graduate level ITS course offerings. The more graduate students coming to the workforce with ITS knowledge and experience the better.

In this era of rapidly changing needs and technologies, transportation is no exception. CITE courses endeavor to transmit up-to-date knowledge of the transportation environment and its concerns, and to familiarize students and professionals alike to the necessity and feasibility of applying technology to transportation systems, all in a format that is convenient, accessible and flexible.