

2024 COUNCIL IMPACT AWARD

ITE Canada for its *Career Connect with Kate* Initiative



ITE—A Community of Transportation Professionals is pleased to announce that **ITE Canada** has been awarded a [2024 Council Impact Award](#) for its *Career Connect with Kate* initiative. This award recognizes individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the transportation industry and the communities they serve. They celebrate excellence across various disciplines, including Complete Streets, Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO), Traffic Engineering, Planning, Safety, and Education, as well as recognizing contributions from the Public Agency, Consultants, and Industry Councils.

Purpose and Goals of Career Connect with Kate. Initiated by **Kate Whitfield, RSP1 (M)**, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, *Career Connect with Kate* began as a series of virtual

networking conversations aimed at supporting young professionals entering the transportation field. The program's goals are to remove barriers to employment, provide practical job-seeking tips, and offer a platform for networking during a time when in-person events were not feasible. Through engaging video series and in-person panels, the initiative has helped numerous students and job seekers by offering insights into various transportation careers and facilitating connections with industry professionals.

Impact and Achievements. Since its inception in August 2020, *Career Connect with Kate* has produced 18 episodes, featuring more than 87 participants and reaching more than 4,350 viewers. The series has become a reliable resource for job seekers and young professionals, providing valuable advice on topics such as resume building, interview techniques, and networking strategies. Beyond the virtual realm, Kate has also organized in-person Career Connect panels at ITE Canada Annual Conferences and various universities, further broadening the program's impact. Her dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion is evident in the initiative's focus on representing a wide range of perspectives and disciplines within the transportation industry.

Acknowledgements. This award highlights the exceptional efforts of **Kate Whitfield** in creating a program that not only supports career development but also fosters a sense of community and inclusivity within the transportation profession. **ITE Canada** supported the program with video editing, hosting, and distribution, helping to ensure the initiative's professional execution and broad reach. Their commitment to fostering professional growth and inclusivity in the transportation field is commendable, as their backing of this initiative has significantly enhanced its impact and accessibility.

Visit [here](#) for more information on ITE's Awards Program and to see the other 2024 award recipients.