News Release
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**2018 HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data Competition Awarded to Two Iowa State University Students**

*Awards program encourages students to prepare for a career in highway safety by using high quality data and prioritizing safety in research*

MINNEAPOLIS — Two Iowa State University students take the top prize for the 2018 HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award competition. Megat-Usamah Megat-Johari and co-author Justin Cyr creatively used Highway Safety Information System (HSIS) data to develop the winning paper, "Transferability of Safety Performance Functions (SPFs) Across Jurisdictions: A Comparison of Interstate SPFs between Minnesota, Ohio, and Washington Using HSIS Data," and will be recognized at the Joint ITE International and Midwestern/Great Lakes Districts (MWITE/GLITE) Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Minneapolis, Minn., on August 21.

The HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award is part of the Highway Data Analysis Excellence Awards Program. It was created to introduce future highway safety professionals to HSIS safety data, the process of applying the appropriate research methods to derive recommendations, and to practice using that data to make decisions. The competition is jointly administered by the Federal Highway Administration and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE).

"This year's winning paper demonstrates an innovative use of HSIS data by students looking for patterns and transferability to better understand safety issues and implications across different locations," said Hari Kalla, FHWA's Associate Administrator for Research, Development, and Technology. "The goal of the awards program is to inspire university students to use HSIS data to investigate a topic that advances highway safety, and we hope these young researchers will continue exploring important transportation safety challenges in the future."

"It is an honor for me and my co-author to receive this award," said Megat-Johari. The winning paper explores the exchangeability of Interstate Safety Performance Functions (SPFs) between three states from the HSIS database (Minnesota, Ohio, and Washington). "This research will provide a better understanding of how crash patterns vary across jurisdictions with different traffic, weather, and topographical conditions."

This year's HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data winning paper is published in the August 2018 issue of ITE Journal, available online at
www.nxtbook.com/ygsreprints/ITE/G97366_ITE_August2018/index.php#/40.

As lead author, Megat-Johari also received a commemorative plaque, as well as travel and registration for the 2018 Joint ITE International and MWITE/GLITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit.

The competition's second-place recipients are Snehanshu Banerjee and Nashid K. Khadem, both from Morgan State University, for the paper "Factors Influencing Injury Severity in Alcohol-Related Crashes: A Neural Network Approach Using HSIS Crash Data." The third-place recipients are Chennan Xue and Dan Xu, Auburn University, for the paper "Factors Influencing Crash Severity at Rural Horizontal Curves in Maine."

More information about the HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award is available at www.hsisinfo.org/contest.cfm.

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**About the Highway Safety Information System**
HSIS is a safety database that contains crash, roadway inventory, and traffic volume data for a select group of States and cities. The participating agencies were selected based on the quality and quantity of data available, and their ability to merge data from various files. FHWA uses the HSIS to support the FHWA safety research program and provides input for program policy decisions. For more information, visit www.hsisinfo.org.

**About the Institute of Transportation Engineers**
ITE is an international membership association of transportation professionals who work to improve mobility and safety for all transportation system users and help build smart and livable communities. Through its products and services, ITE promotes professional development and career advancement for its members, supports and encourages education, identifies necessary research, develops technical resources including standards and recommended practices, develops public awareness programs, and serves as a conduit for the exchange of professional information.

Founded in 1930, ITE is a community of transportation professionals including, transportation engineers, transportation planners, consultants, educators, technologists, and researchers. Learn more at www.ite.org.

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