

**Inside this issue:**

Transportation Conference	1
From the President	2
Truss Bustin' Summary	3
Member Spotlight	5
Scholarship Winners	6
Calendar	7

## Transportation Conference

*Date:* Friday, May 28 and Friday, June 4

*Host:* Nebraska Section Transportation Technical Committee

*Location:* Virtual

*Program:*

### May 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM - 8:05 AM – Welcome

8:05 AM – 10:05 AM – Presentations

10:05 AM – 10:15 AM – Break

10:15 AM – Noon – Presentations

Noon – Adjourn

### June 4<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM – 8:05 AM – Welcome Day 2

8:05 AM – 9:50 AM – Presentations

9:50 AM – 10:00 AM – Break

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM – Presentations

11:45 AM – Adjourn Day 2

You're invited to the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual ASCE/NITE Transportation Conference featuring 13 presentations and 7.25 PDHs!

Registration for this conference is open and is \$75 (ASCE Members) and \$100 (Non-ASCE Members). The deadline to register for this conference will be **May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Full time students are free to attend as per regular! The registration fee for this conference covers our annual scholarships that ASCE awards to students.

The annual Transportation conference provides multiple topics that tie-in to our profession including the keynotes for this year: NDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan Update, the UNMC Master Plan, and the Iowa/Nebraska Predictive Flood Modeling. Various other topics include City of Omaha, City of Lincoln, and DOT projects and policies, as well as some happenings at the College of Engineering.

The event is 100% virtual this year, and here's to hoping that next year we can meet back up for our conference!

Registration/Deadline: May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, [REGISTER HERE](#).



**Brandon Gardels, PE,  
M.ASCE**

### **From the President**

Dear Nebraska ASCE Members,

We are excited about several upcoming events yet this year. First, the Transportation Conference will be hosted over two separate dates, May 28<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>. This will be a virtual event from 8 AM to noon both days. We are also looking forward to the Annual Meeting sometime in June. You can expect more details for these events in the near future.

Most recently, we hosted the Environmental Section Meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> which was a virtual event. An update to the City of Omaha's CSO Control Program was presented by Tom Heinemann and Pat Nelson. Thank you to Shannon DeVivo for planning the event, the presenters, and all those who participated in this successful event!

Also, as a reminder, we will be hosting our elections for the NE-ASCE board at the upcoming annual meeting. Please reach out to me directly if you are interested in being more involved as we will have several openings on the board and committees.

As always, let us know how we can help improve the civil engineering profession.

Sincerely,

*Brandon Gardels*

Brandon Gardels, President, ASCE Nebraska Section

### Truss Bustin' Summary by Mike Sklenar

Truss Bustin' this year was a little different this year due to COVID-19. With many students remote learning from home, materials and resources were limited. Trusses were constructed with materials the student would have on hand at home, cardboard. The span was also reduced to 13 inches, overall length of 16 inches, and the height a maximum of 8 inches. The Bustin' event was held Saturday, February 27 at the end of E-Week. Due to COVID-19, this was a virtual event and shared on Zoom. The event was recorded so the teachers could review the breaking of each truss and review how each of the trusses failed. We did miss out on the socializing since it was a virtual event. We did save some money on the snack and pizza budget.

We broke 72 trusses Saturday morning via Zoom. It was a slower paced event compared to previous years since I was on my own. Not all of the trusses met the dimensions, so we took a short break to reconfigure the machine to test the oversized trusses at the end. The top two trusses were from the Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School but were ineligible for the prize. We tested those as well to see how they compared to the others. The first was not a truss but broke at 535 lbs. The second was the teacher's truss which broke at 174.5 lbs.

The loads ranged from 2.98 lbs to 319.52 lbs. The weight of the trusses ranged for 14.2g to 189.7g.

	Truss No.	Name	School	Weight (grams)	Submittal Factor	Geometry Factor	Aesthetics Factor	Load at Failure (lb)	Strength Factor	Overall Score
1st Place	N17	Bowen Steffen	Omaha North	61.7	1	1	1	96.421	0.55759	0.5576
2nd Place	G14	Andrew Jesus, Luke Rice	Gross	189.7	1	1	1	319.522	0.45385	0.4539
3rd Place	G6	Abby Cox, Rolend Nelson	Gross	101.9	1	1	1	141.582	0.43731	0.4373
4th Place	G8	Nick Kleinsagger	Gross	56.3	1	1	1	59.073	0.38305	0.383
5th Place	N31	Nayera Abdessalam	Omaha North	30.9	1	1	1	25.155	0.34528	0.3453

Thank you to the participants, the schools and teachers that make this event such a success.



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# **Congratulations to Dr. Laurence Rilett**

Dr. Laurence Rilett, Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering, inaugural holder of the Keith W. Klaasmeyer Chair in Engineering and Technology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is the director of both the UNL Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) and the Nebraska Transportation Center (NTC). He has been awarded the ASCE's Frank M. Masters Transportation Engineering Award! Established in 1975, this award is given to a member of ASCE for the best example of innovative or noteworthy transportation facilities. He will receive a medal in June during the ICTD/Pavements virtual conference.

Under the leadership of Rilett, MATC was designated as the US Department of Transportation Region VII University Transportation Center competition in 2006, 2011 and 2016. MATC has currently been awarded \$28.9 million and an equal amount of matching funds to support research projects and their associated faculty, staff and students. While being the Director of MATC, Rilett also leads important outreach activities. "Roads, Rails, and Race Cars" (RRRC) celebrated its ninth year of being an after-school program for middle schoolers. Over 12,500 students have participated within the program and within the past two years it expanded to the Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> Nation Public School on the Omaha Reservation, the Winnebago Public School on the Winnebago Reservation, and the Santee Community School on the Santee Sioux Reservation. Developed with the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs Rilett has also helped with a week-long STEM summer academy for Native American high school students as well since 2017. Lastly Dr. Rilett participates in the "MATC Scholars Program" which provides mentorship to undergraduate students from underrepresented groups for navigating graduate school. To date over 130 students have participated in this program.

His passion for research has led him to focus on Intelligent Transportation Systems applications and largescale transportation system modeling. He has been the principal or co-principal investigator on more than 40 research projects, authored or co-authored over 90 refereed journal papers and 90 conference papers. Within ASCE, he has been awarded the Arthur M. Wellington Prize, and the Transportation Research Board Committee on Highway Capacity and Quality of Service (AHB40) Best Paper Award. Currently he is the Managing Editor of the ASCE Journal of Transportation-Part A and Vice-President of the Council of University Transportation Centers for 2020-2021. Congratulations Dr. Laurence Rilett on your latest achievement!

# Congratulations to the 2020-2021 ASCE Scholarship Recipients!

Each year we help support civil and environmental engineering students by donating funds to scholarships. Our ability to help students with financial need can make a difference in their pursuit of a degree. By creating and awarding scholarships, NE ASCE helps the University of Nebraska College of Engineering in the civil and environmental engineering department award \$85,000 in scholarship funds. Congratulations to this year's three recipients and we can not wait to see what they accomplish!

## Scholarship/Fellowship Recipients:

- Jordan Jurgens
- Lane Applegarth

## Nebraska Section ASCE Student Support Fund for Transportation Engineers Recipient

- Sydney James

### Upcoming Events and Seminars

Program	Full Dates	City/State
Transportation Conference	May 28 & June 4	Virtual
Annual Meeting	June TBD	TBD

### ASCE Continuing Education

ASCE currently holds more than 300 live webinars annually and has available more than 400 on-demand webinars covering a wide variety of technical and management topics. To access these webinars, see the following links below:

ASCE's [live webinars](#) provide cost-effective training for large and small groups. Use Promo Code **WEBNEBSEC** to secure your preferred rate.

ASCE's [on-demand webinars](#) provide real-world knowledge and convenient delivery to fit your demanding schedule. Use Promo Code **WEBNEBSEC** to secure your preferred rate.

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*President*

Brandon Gardels, P.E., M.ASCE  
HDR  
402-399-1361  
Brandon.gardels@hdrinc.com

*President-Elect*

Brandon Vacek, P.E., M.ASCE  
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig  
402-455-4405  
Brandan.Vacek@fhueng.com

*Vice President*

Garret Martindale, EI, M.ASCE  
HDR  
Garrett.Martindale@hdrinc.com

*Past President*

Elizabeth Vacek, E.I., A.M.ASCE  
Lamp Rynearson  
Elizabeth.Vacek@LampRynearson.com

*Treasurer*

Greta Ehrhorn, E.I., A.M.ASCE  
Olsson  
gehrhorn@olsson.com

*Secretary*

Isabella Walsh, E.I., A.M.ASCE  
HDR  
402-392-8600  
Isabella.walsh@hdrinc.com

*Director*

Marie Stamm, P.E., M.ASCE  
The Schemmer Associates, Inc.  
402-493-4800  
marie.asce@gmail.com

*Director*

Mike Sklenar, PE, M.ASCE

**The Nebraska Civil Engineer**

c/o Sarah Hruby  
Olsson  
601 P St, #200  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Thank you to the businesses that support this  
newsletter through their contributions.

For underwriting information, contact Sarah  
Hruby, Newsletter Editor, at 531-365-4629 or  
shruby@olsson.com

Email articles to Sarah Hruby at shruby@olsson.com