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Florida International University Student Receives 2019 HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award

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

AUSTIN—Florida International University Ph.D. candidate Seyedmirsajad Mokhtarimousavi received first place for the 2019 HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award competition. The winning paper, "A Time of Day Analysis of Pedestrian-Involved Crashes in California: Investigation of Injury Severity, a Logistic Regression and Machine Learning Approach Using HSIS Data," explores the contributing factors for pedestrian-involved crashes in California. Mokhtarimousavi was recognized during the Award Luncheon at the 2019 Joint ITE International and Texas District Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Austin, Texas.

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 the practice of using that data to make decisions. The competition is jointly administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE).

"This year's winning paper is a great illustration of how the HSIS database allows young researchers to gain insights into and explore transportation safety topics of interest to them," said Brian Cronin, FHWA's Acting 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."

"This prestigious award gives me recognition and exposure, which enables me to inspire other students as I, myself, was inspired by previous winners," said Mokhtarimousavi. "I used the HSIS database to investigate pedestrian-involved crashes in California by time-of-day, which was interesting and important to me because, in recent years, California has ranked among the States with the highest pedestrian fatalities in traffic crashes across the country."

The competition's second-place recipient is Alyssa Ryan, University of Massachusetts Amherst, for the paper "Evaluating Crash Type Likelihood at Various Control Devices: A Multinomial Logistic Regression Using HSIS Data." The third-place recipient is Jianqing Wu, University of Nevada, Reno, for the paper "Analysis of Crash Severity for Hazard Material Transportation Using Highway Safety Information System Data."



This year's HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data winning paper will be published in the October 2019 issue of *ITE Journal*.

As lead author, Mokhtarimousavi received a commemorative plaque, as well as travel and registration for the 2019 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit.

More information about the HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award is available at <https://www.hsisinfo.org/award>.

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 safety and mobility 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. ITE develops the next generation of transportation professionals through its K–12 STEM program and its more than 150 student chapters.

Founded in 1930, ITE is a community of transportation professionals that includes transportation engineers and planners, consultants, educators, technologists, and researchers. Through meetings, seminars, publications, and a network of more than 15,500 members working in more than 90 countries, ITE brings together a world of ideas, people, and resources. For more information, visit www.ite.org.