

## Cleveland State University Student Receives 2022 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.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 30, 2022) — Cleveland State University graduate student Norris Novat received first place in the 2022 Highway Safety Information System's (HSIS's) Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award competition for a paper titled, "Predicting Drivers' Injury Occurrence in Vehicle Crashes Occurring at Horizontal Curve and Grade Combination Segments." Novat, the paper's lead author, co-authored the work with graduate student colleagues Sia Mwende, Hellen Shita, and Grace Mbiaji. Dr. Carol Tan, Safety Data & Analysis Team Leader at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety & Operations R&D, presented the award during the 2022 ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers) Annual Meeting and Exhibition's Awards Lunch on August 2, 2022.

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 FHWA and ITE.

"The goal of this contest is to encourage students to research topics that advance highway safety, and the winning students of the 2022 data contest did just that," said Brian Cronin, FHWA's Office Director for Safety & Operations Research & Development. "The winners of this contest investigated real-world safety issues by identifying factors that influence the severity of driver injuries sustained in crashes at horizontal curves with different curvature and grade combinations. FHWA is proud to recognize these young professionals for a job well done and excellence in research."

"We are truly delighted and joyed that the judges found this collaborative project titled 'Predicting Drivers' Injury Occurrence in Vehicle Crashes Occurring at Horizontal Curve and Grade Combination Segments' to be a rewarding work of science and a contribution to highway safety research, but most importantly, for acknowledging our skills in utilizing the HSIS data in research.," said 2022 HSIS Award winner Norris Novat. "This award simply fuels us to work hard and achieve more, even better to use HSIS data to uncover more patterns that will help solve different highway safety and mobility problems."

The 2022 competition's second-place recipient is lead author Meghna Chakraborty, Michigan State University, with co-author Mohamed Shakir Mahmud, for the paper, "Evaluation of the Safety Impacts of Variable Speed Limits." The 2022 third-place recipient is Sunday Okafor, University of Alabama, for the paper, "Severity Analysis of Single-Vehicle Left and Right Run-off-the Road Crashes Using a Random Parameter Ordered Logit Model."

The HSIS 2022 Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award winning paper will be published in the August 2022 issue of *ITE Journal*.



Lead authors of the 2022 winning papers received a commemorative plaque as well as registration for the ITE 2022 Annual Meeting and Exhibition. More information about the HSIS Excellence in Highway Safety Data Award is available at <https://www.hsisinfo.org/award.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's Safety Research and Technology Program and provide input for program policy decisions. The HSIS program also makes data available to other researchers upon request. For more information, visit [www.hsisinfo.org](http://www.hsisinfo.org).

### **About the Institute of Transportation Engineers**

ITE is an international membership-based association of transportation professionals who work to improve safety and mobility for transportation system users and help to build smart and livable communities. Through its products and services, the ITE promotes professional development and career advancement for its members, develops public awareness programs, and supports and encourages education. ITE identifies necessary research and technical resources, including standards and recommended practices, and serves as a conduit for the exchange of professional information. ITE fosters the next generation of transportation professionals through its K–12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program, which has 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 ideas, people, and resources from around the world. For more information, visit [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org).