Dr. Mitsuru Saito received the Educator of the Year 2017 Award from the ITE Utah Chapter at its 2018 Annual Conference held January 21, 2018 at the University of Utah. In order to receive the Outstanding Educator Award, an individual must demonstrate extraordinary creativity in teaching, take exceptional measures to spark student interest in the transportation profession, provide unwavering encouragement for student endeavors or show unequaled service to the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) in the past year.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) is an international educational and scientific association of transportation professionals who are responsible for meeting mobility and safety needs. ITE facilitates the application of technology and scientific principles to research, planning, functional design, implementation, operation, policy development and management for any mode of ground transportation. ITE promotes professional development of its members, supports and encourages education, stimulates research, develops public awareness programs and serves as a conduit for the exchange of professional information.

The ITE Utah Chapter boasts a membership of nearly 200 members with diverse backgrounds including UDOT, UTA, MPOS, municipal, agencies, and private sector professionals. Membership includes traffic engineers, designers, signal technicians, GIS specialists, planners, project managers, and much more.