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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Raphael Stern Receives the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science, and Technology Societies Young Engineer of the Year Award**

Saint Paul, Minn., 12/1/2022 – Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science, and Technology Societies (MFESTS) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) - Minnesota Section have named Raphael Stern as the 2022 recipient of the Young Engineer of the Year Award.

The Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science and Technology Societies (MFESTS) present this award annually to a nominated individual submitted by MFESTS member societies which includes the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Minnesota Section. The award will be presented at the 2022-2023 MFESTS Awards Ceremony to be held in May.

The Young Engineer of the Year Award recognizes outstanding achievement by an engineer 35 years of age or younger by December 31st prior to the Engineers Week Awards Banquet. Nominees are judged based on educational and collegiate achievements; professional society activities; civic and humanitarian activities; continuing competence; engineering achievements; and overall professional experience.

Minneapolis, MN resident Raphael Stern holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering, both from the University of Illinois. He is employed by the University of Minnesota where he is an Assistant Professor teaching students at the undergraduate and graduate level about the principles and profession of transportation engineering. He conducts innovative scientific research in transportation engineering.

"The MFESTS award nomination process realizes many career benefits such as reflection for our members to take stock of unique contributions and motivates our members to seek feedback to achieve further stretch goals" said Cathy Krier, MFESTS 2020-2022 President. "Based on the nomination channels, the MFESTS recognition process ultimately boosts the immediate and long-term visibility of the member’s science/engineering contributions across the widest range of engineering disciplines collectively represented by the member societies, reaching the broader Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics community in Minnesota."

Dr. Raphael Stern was nominated for Young Engineer of the Year in consideration of his contribution to engineering education, scientific research, and service to the civil engineering profession. He is a leading scholar in quantifying the impacts of automated vehicles on traffic flow and operations. His work combines experimentation with control theory and traffic flow modeling to predict how vehicle automation will impact traffic flow, and what operational challenges and opportunities will provide for the practice of traffic engineering. Stern’s recent work has demonstrated that while full automation may benefit traffic flow and increase highway capacity, the first generation of automated vehicles such as driver assist vehicles will decrease capacity, requiring creative traffic management strategies to maintain current levels of capacity.

The Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science, and Technology Societies (MFESTS) is an umbrella organization comprised of engineering-related member societies within the State of Minnesota. There currently are nineteen societies/chapters, representing approximately 6,000 individuals, that are members of MFESTS.

MFESTS three primary mission foci are:

1) To provide service to the Societies that are members of the Federation.

2) To provide a service to the community at large and especially to young people in hopes of helping them learn more about potential careers in the fields of engineering, science, and technology.

3) To provide professional development services to professionals in engineering-related careers.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is one of the member societies of MFESTS. It is a non-profit professional organization founded in 1852 with over 150,000 members worldwide. Locally, the Minnesota Section was established in 1914, and represents more than 1400 members that work in all levels of government, academia and the private sector to design, construct and maintain our State’s infrastructure. One of ASCE’s key responsibilities is to advocate for infrastructure stewardship in an effort to protect the public’s health, safety, and improve our quality of life. The Minnesota Section represents all of Minnesota except for the Counties in the northeast portion of the state, which are part of the Duluth Section.

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