

The ITEA leadership would like to extend their appreciation to the Professional Awards Committee, chaired by **Stephanie Clewer**, former ITEA Board President. Ms. Clewer is supported by five committee chairs for each technical award and the Allen R. Matthews Award; and they are supported by several individuals from Government, Industry and Academia to provide a thorough and rigorous review process. ITEA also recognizes three individuals who contribute to the success of ITEA. The following recipients are commended for their outstanding work and dedication to the T&E profession and the Association dedicated to the Test and Evaluation community.

**The 2021 Allen R. Matthews Award**  
**Presented to**  
**Kenneth G. LeSueur**

Mr. Kenneth G. LeSueur is recognized for 35 years of meritorious civilian service to the United States Army. Throughout his civilian career, Dr. LeSueur has served with honor and distinction in the Test & Evaluation career field, starting as an intern in 1986 to becoming the Senior Experimental Developer for Redstone Test Center. His unchallenged technical acumen and unwavering dedication to duty have consistently earned the respect of subordinates, peers, and superiors alike. A forward-thinking engineer interested in enabling the Army to find better ways to perform intricate tests, his vast technical knowledge enabled the Army to develop a proven process for distributed testing while also advancing the adaptation of modeling and simulation techniques. The ability to bring national assets into a test, no matter where they are geographically located, and to also fully immerse the systems under test in a simulated yet operationally realistic environment, is a force multiplier and provides critical information directly to decision makers. His experience, gained over many years of service on multiple projects, is invaluable in training the next generation. His career achievements reflect great credit upon himself, the Redstone Test Center, the Army Test and Evaluation Command and the United States Army. ITEA is proud to recognize Ken LeSueur with this lifetime achievement award.

## **2021 Technical Achievement Award**

**Presented to**

**Dr. Peter L. Wick Jr.**

The ITEA Test and Evaluation Professional Award for Technical Achievement is presented to Dr. Peter Wick for his contributions to laser weapon testing and evaluation from July 2020 through June 2021. Dr. Wick made significant advances to the state-of-the-art in testing High Energy Laser Weapons in both laboratory and maritime operational environments, despite the added challenges of COVID-19 travel and physical distancing restrictions. His innovative approach to testing and development of novel hardware and software solutions has helped ensure Directed Energy remains a key strategic thrust to support the United States' defense in-depth, and ability to counter tactical and strategic threats to the warfighter. ITEA proudly recognizes Dr. Wick for his outstanding contribution to Test and Evaluation.

## **2021 Special Achievement Award**

**Presented to**

**Detachment 5 Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center**

Detachment 5, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Edwards Air Force Base, California distinguished itself through outstanding service to the United States, from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. During this period, Detachment 5 planned, executed, and reported on operational evaluations for twenty-four acquisition programs valued at one hundred and ninety billion dollars. Additionally, Detachment 5 conducted sixteen cyber evaluations on ten weapons systems, safeguarding Department of Defense personnel and assets from current and future threats. Finally, Detachment 5 provided timely operational truth to senior Department of Defense leaders, assuring viable US, allied, and cyber combat capabilities across six major commands and NATO. The distinctive accomplishments of Detachment 5 reflect great credit upon itself and the United States Air Force. ITEA proudly recognizes Commander, Col Glenn A. Rineheart, USAF and his team for their outstanding accomplishments.

## **2021 Richard G. Cross Award**

**Presented to**

**Ken Miller**

The Cross Award was established in honor of the late Major General Richard G. Cross, Jr., USAF (Ret), one of the most highly respected individuals in the field of T&E in the 20th century. Mr. Ken Miller, with the NAWCAD Prototyping, Instrumentation and Experimentation Department, has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments by providing a variety of instrumentation courses to flight test engineers and instrumentation specialists from across the DoD and industry, using advanced technology and traditional methods. He moved more than 40 technical instrumentation training courses that he developed for department employees to a virtual platform so that, regardless of location, employees and outside organizations alike could take advantage of this essential instruction. He presents online courses on the basics of instrumentation for flight test engineers. In person, he provides guidance and mentoring to department employees to help educate future generations of NAVAIR engineers and scientists. He is committed to providing quality educational material to instrumentation professionals, which ensures top-tier data products are delivered to the test and evaluation community. ITEA proudly recognizes Mr. Ken Miller for his outstanding contribution to Test and Evaluation.

## **2021 Dr. Wilson N. Felder II Early Career Award**

**Presented to**

**Captain Lauren Mount, USAF**

Captain Lauren Mount distinguished herself as Chief of Training, 746th Test Squadron, Holloman AFB. Over the last year, she led a 25-member analysis team to execute 106 tests supporting 52 Department of Defense organizations. Her direction of analysis for the next generation GPS satellite program resulted in identifying an urgent deficiency and 59 other software issues prior to deploying the satellite worldwide. Additionally, Capt Mount overhauled the test execution training program, which focused on ensuring the unit had trained and qualified test control personnel, resulting in over 70 qualifications and increased the organization's instructor cadre by 175%. Furthermore, she directed a 12-member team to develop and execute a hands-on training course for new squadron personnel. The focus of the training is dual-purposed: it informs new members of internal processes while instilling the ethics and test discipline expected of the test community. The pilot program alone slashed on-boarding time by 50%. Capt Mount's professionalism, meticulousness, and dedication have greatly impacted the 746th Test Squadron and its test and evaluation

mission. Her efforts and drive singlehandedly standardized training processes and will have direct impacts to the mission for years to come. ITEA proudly recognizes Capt Mount for his outstanding contribution to Test and Evaluation.

**2021 Publication Award**  
**Presented to**  
**Commander Donald "Bucket" Costello**

The ability to field autonomous functionality within Naval Aviation may soon become a reality thanks to CDR Donald Costello's game-changing research. During the award period, he successfully published his Doctoral Dissertation, Certifying an Autonomous System to Complete Tasks Currently Reserved for Qualified Pilots, and three peer reviewed journal articles, highlighting issues with current Test and Evaluation (T&E) procedures and practices for certifying autonomous systems. Current T&E procedures are designed for certifying an aircraft to operate with a qualified pilot in, or on, the loop. Autonomous systems will not have this capability. Industry is approaching a point where these systems are being developed. However, a path towards certification does not exist. CDR Costello developed and exercised a methodology for certifying autonomous systems using current T&E practices. His research developed critical lessons learned that will influence policies, procedures and certification standards as the Department of Defense prepares to begin fielding autonomy. ITEA is proud to recognize CDR Costello with this year's Publication Award.

**2021 Board of Directors Award**  
**Presented to**  
**Charles R. Garcia**

The ITEA Board of Directors presents their award to Mr. Charles "Charlie" Garcia for his contributions to the growth, development, goals, and mission of the Association. Mr. Garcia has over 56 years of experience in Test and Evaluation spanning from his career in the federal government to his leadership roles within industry. His commitment to ITEA is unwavering, most notably in 1987 serving as the Founder and former President of the White Sands Chapter to his leadership role serving as an elected Board Member for two-terms from 2011 to 2017. Mr. Garcia volunteered as a Subject Matter Expert in the establishment of the Certified T&E Professional program and orchestrated the 2017 ITEA System of Systems workshop and the

third Offset Environment Engineering Conference – Charlie Garcia has a proven track record of being a highly regarded advocate for this organization. The Board would like to recognize Charlie’s most recent accomplishment as he worked tirelessly to reinvigorate the White Sands Chapter by pulling together, nearly single-handedly, the successful Test and Evaluation in Multi-Domain Operations Workshop in El Paso in July. Charlie’s contributions during this difficult year have been extraordinary and we are grateful for his ongoing commitment to ITEA. It is with great pleasure that the Board of Directors recognize Mr. Charlie Garcia for his outstanding contributions to ITEA.

**2021 President’s Award  
Presented to  
ELK Management Group**

Established in 1996, this award is presented by the President of the Board of Directors to recognize exemplary contributions to ITEA. This year, the President’s Award is bestowed on Eileen Redd, Lena Moran, and Kathi Swagerty of ELK Management Group for their exceptional efforts in transitioning the operational structure of ITEA to a more rigorous, accurate, and robust foundation. This transition included changing ITEA’s day to day operations from an Executive Director to an Association Management Company, managing the transition of ITEA’s fiscal management from cash basis accounting to accrual accounting, establishing a certified public accountant bookkeeping process, overseeing the review and reconciliation of past tax issues, and updating all aspects of the ITEA By-Laws and Operating Policies. This team also supported Chapter and Committee Chairs to accomplish their missions through the year. These outstanding individuals accomplished all of this during a Global Pandemic that devastated our normal operations and demanded incredible flexibility in meeting the demands for ensuring ITEA’s financial solvency. Eileen, Lena, and Kathi demonstrated amazing resiliency and tremendous abilities in overcoming the numerous obstacles to achieving success in 2021. It is with great appreciation that I award the President’s Award for 2021 to Eileen Redd, Lena Moran, and Kathi Swagerty of ELK Management Group.

**2021 Energizer Award**  
**Presented to**  
**Wendy M. Peterson**

High energy and enthusiasm go hand in hand and describe Ms. Wendy Peterson perfectly. She was appointed President of the Antelope Valley Chapter at the start of 2021 and stepped up to host the virtual 24th Annual Test Instrumentation Workshop with only 5 months to plan it. Wendy Peterson overcame major obstacles in orchestrating the event and her positive attitude motivated her team through the process. The Test Instrumentation Workshop has a solid reputation within the T&E community for being an event with stellar presenters and technical tracks, and this year, thanks to Ms. Peterson, was no exception. During a year of isolation, she showed the community that we could continue to network and share knowledge regardless of what is occurring in the world around us. Behind the scenes, Wendy Peterson has made one of the biggest impacts on the Test and Evaluation community and the ITEA membership. The leadership of ITEA expresses gratitude to the Director of the 812th Test Support Squadron for her commitment to the organization and Test and Evaluation.