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WTS Connecticut Chapter's Vision

Offer a WTS chapter that provides exceptional benefits to its members in the areas of professional development, career support, mentorship, and student outreach; offers leadership, educational, and networking opportunities; advances women in the transportation industry; and strives to function in an environmentally sustainable manner, with integrity and a commitment to diversity.

Visit us at: www.wtsinternational.org/connecticut/
STUDENT OUTREACH AT THE SCIENCE CENTER

On Saturday, October 20, 2018, the WTS Student Outreach Committee organized by Nancy Rolfe, were invited back to the Hartford Science Center to be a part of Science Saturdays, a STEM event (also Halloween trick or treat day).

Committee members included Nancy Rolfe (AECOM), Katie Klose (BL Companies), Alex Klose (BL Companies), Tess Schwartz (Tessera Engineering and Lori Long (HNTB). The committee members brought hands on activities including using a shake table to demonstrate the principles behind engineering for earthquakes and bridge design.

The interested children built structures out of wooden sticks and then place them on the shake table to see how the structure would fair. Follow up discussions included how to strengthen a structure and what engineering techniques could be used. A rolling video of what happens during an actual earthquake demonstrated this in real time.

In the bridge design category, a miniature bridge structure was set up and loaded with small weights, until failure. Follow up discussions included how a bridge is weight loaded and how to design a strong structure.

Giveaways included water bottles from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), CTDOT Road Safety clappers, stickers, pencils, STEM bookmarks and other items STEM related.

The WTS Student Outreach Committee has been invited back to the Science Center for a future event entitled “The Case for Engineering”. The event to guide interested kids through an exploration of the engineering design process through history and current technologies. Each hands-on and immersive workshop will be led by a professional female Engineer, recruited from SWE (Society of Women Engineers), NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) and SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers), and will incorporate elements from the newly launched Engineering Lab Exhibition that highlights the contributions of women to the fields of Engineering. Teen mentors recruited from the Connecticut Science Center's Teen Innovation program will assist and offer near-peer encouragement to the girls as they begin to contemplate a future STEM-based career.
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING MORE INVOLVED IN THE WTS CT CHAPTER?

Serving on an industry board, such as WTS, offers many benefits for you and your firm or agency including:

- Exposure to new contacts
- Relationship building
- Management and leadership skills enhancement
- Professional and personal development

Unsure and want to "test the waters" or just learn a little more about WTS CT before committing?

Contact WTS CT President Elect, Bonnie Damato-Torres at btorres@fhiplan.com for more information.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING - MINDFULNESS

On November 8, 2018, Nancy Rolfe and Lori Long held a session on Mindfulness for Life. Both led a discussion on how being mindful and what simple things can be done to reduce stress, increase personal resiliency and adapt to the commonplace changes in life. During the session, the attendees were asked about being Mindful or is your Mind Full, and asked to take a moment to reflect on the differences and be aware of the impacts of one versus the other. Lori and Nancy also shared tips on what changes you can make in completing tasks at hand as opposed to constantly thinking of what you still have left to do.

Overall, the session was interactive and very well received. Nancy and Lori hope that all the attendees found an interesting takeaway that will help in everyday life.

Stay tuned for future Leadership Modules coming in early 2019!
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A CORPORATE SPONSOR?

A sponsorship of WTS Connecticut offers vital mutual benefits to WTS and your company.

WTS Connecticut offers outstanding networking and professional development opportunities for transportation industry employees and leaders at every level.

WTS offers informative programs, scholarships for students, mentoring program, and information exchange through our newsletter and website (including job postings).

For more information on the Corporate Sponsorship Program please contact our Corporate Sponsor Liaison, Lori Long at llong@HNTB.com.

MEGAN LEETHER- 2018 EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD WINNER

The WTS CT Chapter awarded the 2018 Emerging Professional Award to CT Chapter Member, Megan Leether of WSP. One of the opportunities for the winner is to write an article of their choice for publication into a newsletter. Below, is Megan’s article:

I have greatly enjoyed my first year of involvement in the WTS-CT Chapter as the 2017 Emerging Professional Scholarship recipient. Over the past year, I have attended banquets, networking and social events, the Transportation Mini Series (TMS), and a board meeting. The TMS was one of my favorite events this year because it offered a diverse schedule of presentations and included many topics I enjoy learning about. I found the session about Innovative Technology in Transit to be very interesting and I look forward to seeing further progress of transit in Connecticut. Attending the board meeting helped me understand how committees delegate responsibilities and how the organization continues to achieve its mission and goals. I am excited to contribute more by joining a committee and to continue my professional development within WTS. I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved with WTS and I look forward to continue building my relationship with the organization and its members.

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On Thursday, October 18, the WTS CT Chapter held their 12th Annual Transportation Mini Series (TMS) at the Sheraton in Rocky Hill. It was a fabulous day filled with thought provoking presentations and inspiring panels. Attendees heard presentations about a variety of topics including work zone safety, tolling, drones, autonomous vehicles, and developing technology in the transit industry. The lunchtime presentation brought comedians from the Sea Tea Comedy Theater to discuss effective communication, leadership, and mindfulness, in the work environment though interactive improv.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) opened TMS with a presentation on work zone safety and discussed CTDOT’s Work Zone Safety Awareness Working Group. Dave Ferraro, Amy Hare and Rick DiNardi shared their stories and encouraged all to abide by the speed limit, especially when traveling through construction work zones. Following safety, the CT Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) discussed the impacts of the Special Transportation Fund on the transportation industry.

Exciting breakout sessions throughout the day were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:35 - 9:35</td>
<td>COMTO “Budgets and Business: Impacts of the Special Transportation Fund on the Transportation Industry”</td>
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<td>Track 1 (Salon A)</td>
<td>Track 2 (Salon B)</td>
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<td>9:45 - 10:45</td>
<td>CDM Smith “The Evolution of Tolling in the Modern DOT”</td>
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<td>“Innovative Technology in Transit”</td>
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<td>11:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>FHI “Complete Streets from a Higher Perspective: Using Drones to Capture the Big Picture”</td>
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<td>ITC “Planning for the Inevitable and Accepting a New Reality - Resiliency and Sustainability at Airports and Beyond”</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 1:30</td>
<td>Sea Tea Improv Touring Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Lunch)</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom Salon 1/1</td>
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<td>1:45 - 2:45</td>
<td>Transport Hartford @ The Center for Latino Progress</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Urban and Community Transportation Education and Civic Engagement”</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 - 4:00</td>
<td>HDR “Integrating Autonomous Vehicle Technology into Transit”</td>
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<td>WSP “Hartford Line: The Story”</td>
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<td>4:10 - 4:45</td>
<td>NYDOT “Mario Cuomo Bridge: The Last Five Years and What’s Ahead”</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 - 7:00</td>
<td>WTS Scholarship Silent Auction/Corporate Sponsor Recognition/Cocktail Hour/Wall of Wine</td>
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Thank you to all who took the time out of their busy schedules to volunteer to make this day a great success. As always, thank you to all of the WTS CT Chapter Corporate Sponsors, this day would not have been possible without you!
Girls for Technology is a 501(c)(3) organization Co-Founded by Sabrina Tucker-Barrett and Anthony Barrett. The organization serves to empower the next generation of girls to explore careers in STEM fields. Participants of this program include middle and high school students from across the Hartford region.

Throughout the year, enrichment programs and events are held to engage middle and high school girls in hands-on STEM activities. Ongoing activities include an After-School Program where certified teachers, college professors, and industry leaders and professionals, lead project-based activities. The program follows the Common Core Standards utilized in the classroom curricula, as well as offering homework help and STEM-focused field trips throughout the year.

Alongside this program is the Robotics Team, which allows the girls to learn various processes of designing, building, testing, and programming robots. Teams compete in the community and regional Robotics competitions. Other programs include workshops and training for middle and high school students and their parents.

The organization will be kicking off 2019 with their Saturday Math & Science Academy beginning January 5th, 2019. The theme for the 2019 academy sessions is Beyond The Dream – A Virtual Reality Experience. The sessions are held on a biweekly basis, followed by a pitch competition in June. Visit girlsfortechnology.org for more details or contact Caritta Kwarko.

Caritta Kwarko is a Transportation Engineer at CME and has been involved with Girls for Technology (GFT) for 2 years. When asked why she likes being involved, she responded, “it’s exciting to see younger kids interested in STEM. Organization allows me to give back to my community and be a positive influence on students who are interested in the same career path I’m in.” Caritta is also on the GFT Planning Committee for the 2019 Gala. They are currently looking for Corporate Sponsorships and interested attendees. Please email Caritta at ckwarko@emeengineering.com for more information.
EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President**
Krista Kenney  
GM2 Associates, Inc.  
860-659-4146  
KKenney@GM2INC.com

**Vice President**
Bonnie Damato-Torres  
Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.  
860-256-4911  
Btorres@fhiplan.com

**Immediate Past President**
Sandra Dumas  
HAKS Engineers, PC  
860-632-5155 Ext. 232  
sdumas@haks.net

**Treasurer**
Rebecca Hall, P.E., PTOE  
CDM Smith  
860-808-2308  
HallRR@cdmsmith.com

**Secretary**
Alicia Leite  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
860-594-2826  
alicia.leite@ct.gov

**Director At Large**
Pat Padlo, P.E.  
TranSystems  
860-274-7544  
ptpadlo@transystems.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Communications**
Amanda Marino  
VN Engineers  
203-234-7862  
amarino@vnengineering.com

Bridget Boucaud  
VN Engineers  
203-234-7862  
amarino@vnengineering.com

Katherine Klose  
BL Companies  
203-608-2518  
k.klose@blcompanies.com

**Historian**
Lori Long  
HNTB  
860-202-8412  
llong@hntb.com

Tiffany Garcia  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
860-594-2243  
Tiffany.Garcia@ct.gov

Sharon Okoye  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
860-594-2367  
Sharon.Okoye@ct.gov

**Diversity**

**Scholarship**
Shivani Mahajan, P.E.  
AECOM  
860-529-8882  
Shivani.Mahajan@aecom.com

Katherine Klose  
BL Companies  
203-608-2518  
k.klose@blcompanies.com

Lisa Slonos, P.E., PTOE  
Weston & Sampson  
860-513-1473 Ext. 3032  
slonos@wsecinc.com

Theresa A. Albanese, PWS  
Mott MacDonald  
413-315-2409  
theresa.albanese@mottmac.com

**Regional Representative**
Laurel Stegina  
Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.  
860-256-4914  
l.stegina@fhiplan.com

**Student Outreach**
Nancy Rolfe, P.E.  
AECOM  
860-263-5803  
Nancy.Rolfe@aecom.com

Bin (Brenda) Zhou, Ph.D.  
Central Connecticut State University  
860-832-0075  
zhoubin@ccsu.edu

**Mentorship**
Shawna Bartkus  
GM2 Associates, Inc.  
860-659-1416 Ext. 120  
SBartkus@GM2INC.com

Susan Baillargeon  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
860-594-3606  
Susan.Baillargeon@ct.gov

Lindsey Meyer  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
860-594-2917  
Lindsey.Meyer@ct.gov

**Leadership**
Laura Udice  
WSP  
860-874-5182  
Laura.Udice@wsp.com

Taylor Schumann  
WSP  
860-815-9438  
Taylor.Schumann@wsp.com

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