I want to start by saying that I am honored to serve as President of Women's Transportation Seminar Connecticut Chapter (WTS-CT) for the 2019-2020 term. I am excited about the opportunities to grow our organization as we carry out the mission of WTS to “attract, sustain, connect and advance women’s careers to strengthen the transportation industry.”

I would like to welcome the other members of our Executive Board who were selected to serve this term: Rebecca Hall, Vice President; Lisa Slonus, Secretary; and Alicia Leite, Treasurer.

Our Board, along with our committees, are focused on providing programs that will help members of the transportation industry grow, operate, and contribute individually.

As we look forward, I would like to thank our outgoing president, Krista Kenney, for her leadership of WTS over the past two years. I appreciate your hard work and dedication.

WTS-CT’s Board is made up of talented professionals, and I invite you to join us on our journey of making impactful contributions to the transportation industry.

**WTS Connecticut Chapter’s Vision**

To 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: Engineers Night Out

On March 13, the WTS CT Student Outreach committee hosted its second annual attendance, a rising year-over-year. The event started at the Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. The event was designed to encourage students to pursue studies in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Education) with a focus on careers and celebrate National Engineering Week (February 17–23). The event was originally scheduled to coincide with National Engineers Week but was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

Students in 5th through 12th grades were provided an opportunity to connect with engineers, scientists, and industry professionals as they participated in hands-on activities related to STEM. The activities included water quality, buoyancy, friction, Department, and Weston & Sampson – for pavement permeability, bridge structures, helping us create a fun and educational experience for all ages. How hands on processing, and robotics.

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Student Outreach: Women Take Flight!

On Saturday March 9, WTS CT Student Outreach, Transportation-You Chair, Nancy Rolfe, and WTS CT President, Bonnie Damato-Torres attended the Women Take Flight event at the New England Air Museum. It was a daylong celebration of women’s contributions to aerospace both past and present. Nancy & Bonnie assisted children of all ages build rocket cars and gliders to demonstrate how thrust works.
2019 WTS Legislative Breakfast

New beginnings was the theme of the 2019 Legislative Breakfast, which took place at the Connecticut State Capitol in Hartford on February 20.

Newly elected WTS-CT President Bonnie Damato-Torres opened the 2019 Legislative Breakfast remarking on the change in WTS leadership, and in the CT legislature and at the Connecticut Department of Transportation. She thanked our partner CACT for inviting WTS CT to be a part of such a great event again this year.

Newly-appointed CTDOT Commissioner Joseph Giulietti delivered the keynote address. Commissioner Giulietti is the former president of Metro-North, but his 46-year career spans all areas of the public transportation industry. He shared his experiences and his vision for the future, including a transportation network that uses all modes and connects the state in a way that you can "wrap your arms around."

"I was pleased to hear about Commissioner Giulietti's long-time support of WTS, and about his vision for transportation in Connecticut," Bonnie said.

Don Shubert, head of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association, provided an update on transportation funding and the importance of making sure Connecticut can fund its infrastructure needs now and in the future.

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As a leading builder of the nation’s transportation infrastructure, we recognize that we live and work in a global society and are committed to diversifying our workforce. Lane is headquartered in Chester, CT and we are seeking professional level positions ranging from engineers and estimators to project managers.

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WTS CT Member Goes to Washington

In addition to being the WTS-CT Scholarship Co-chair and Communications Chair, Katie Klose Development, homeland security, and energy (BL Companies) is active in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Katie has been a Jennifer met with representatives from Senator Blumenthal (CT-D), Senator Chris undergrante at Worcester Polytechnic Murphy (CT-D) and CT District Z Representative Institute and is currently a corresponding Joe Courtney (CT-D) on Capitol Hill. The CSCE member of the ASCE Committee on Younger Fly-In team discussed the ASCE goals and shared Members, the vice president of the CT Society of information from the 2017 National Civil Engineers (CSCE) Younger Members Group Infrastructure Report Card and the 2018 and a member of the CSCE Legislative Affairs Committee.

"After the 2016 US election, I became very interested in politics and legislation and what more I could do as a citizen. Serving on the CSCE Legislative Affairs Committee combines my interest in legislation with my love for engineering, Connecticut and ASCE," Katie said.

This past year the committee lobbied for "Vote YES on the Transportation Lock Box during the 2018 elections and promoted the first Connecticut Infrastructure report card.

On March 12-13, Katie, along with Brianna Maljanian, WSP, and Jennifer Buchanan, Haley & Aldrich, flew to Washington D.C. to represent CSCE at the 19th Annual ASCE Legislative Fly-In, an intensive two-day program that provides participants with an inside look at how public policy is made.

At the 2019 event, 268 ASCE members from all 50 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico visited more than 270 congressional offices urging members of Congress to draft a comprehensive infrastructure bill, fix the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and advocate for FY 2020 appropriations critical to categories such as transportation, housing and urban development, homeland security, and energy.

"Being accepted to attend the Legislative Fly-In was an honor. I learned new ways to engage in infrastructure funding conversations with federal and state legislators and fellow constituents," Katie said. "I hope to continue the conversation and keep pushing for infrastructure funding; America deserves better than a D+ grade."

"We are excited to welcome the WTS-CT membership to ASCE and look forward to seeing how their highly professional and diverse backgrounds continue to bring innovative ideas to the engineering community," said ASCE’s CEO Michael Bass.

"Our partnership with WTS-CT is a valuable opportunity to bring women engineers and leaders together to collaborate and advance the profession," said WTS-CT President Lise Poirier.

"We are thrilled to welcome the WTS-CT membership and the engineers and leaders they represent into our ASCE family," said ASCE’s CEO Michael Bass. "We value the diversity and unique perspectives that ASCE members bring to the profession, and we are excited to see how they will contribute to our efforts to advance our mission of creating a safer, stronger, smarter world with engineering."
March 7, Cheryl Malerba of the Connecticut Department of Education (CTDOT) held a leadership module on Innovation and Change Management. There is one thing we know for sure, and that is that nothing ever stays the same. That’s where innovation comes in. Change for the sake of change is never a goal but change for the better—that's a goal worth fighting for. In this session participants learned about how people psychologically react to innovation and change, and heard about proven strategies to help manage those reactions and successfully handle change in their organizations. Cheryl discussed the process of change and implementing innovation in the three stages, giving insight on engaging and enabling the entire organization and how to manage the change curve and its respective four stages.
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