PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As the end of the year approaches and my term as President comes to an end, I want to thank our dedicated team of Board members, our Corporate Sponsors, and our members. Over the past two years, our Chapter has added many new programs that speak to diverse audiences throughout our industry. We have also had record setting attendance and positive feedback.

WTS is an amazing organization that provides great opportunities for our industry. To be lucky enough to have served as your President these last two years is one of the most rewarding endeavors I have been given the opportunity to undertake.

From myself and our Board of Directors, thank you for your membership and sponsorship support.

CTTRANSIT OPEN HOUSE

WTS CT continues its outreach for new members and diversity. CTtransit hosted a WTS Open House on June 27th. More than 20 CTtransit professionals joined us for a light lunch at our open house to learn more about the WTS organization, mission, benefits, and members. Many CT Chapter board members were in attendance to provide insight on their personal WTS experiences.

Thank you CTtransit for your support of this event and employee memberships. Thank you to our CT Chapter leaders that attended; Alicia Leite, CTDOT (Secretary), Sharon Okoye, CTDOT (Diversity), Shawna Bartkus, GM2 (Mentorship), Lori Long, HNTB (Corporate Sponsorship), Susan Baillergeon, CTDOT (Leadership), and Lisa Slonus, Weston & Sampson (Membership). - Cont’d p .5
For the second year in a row the committee teamed up with CTDOT, CRCOG and Connecticut Girl Scouts to tour CT fastrak. Lisa Rivers (CTDOT), Alicia Leite (CTDOT) and Jennifer Carrier (CRCOG) led the tour.

The girl scouts and tour guides met at Cedar Street Station in Newington where the tour began with an introduction to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), the trip planner, the transit app tools and the new Smartcard. The group then boarded the 101 to Downtown New Britain, looped around to Flatbush, Bushnell, and Asylum and High Stations before returning to Cedar Street Station.

Along the route Alicia Leite shared information about the various station layouts, and how to buy a ticket, find your way, and get real time information about your bus. Transit Oriented Development (TOD), Access to Education, and multi-use trail connections were other topics discussed with the girls. – cont’d bottom of p. 4

Interested in becoming a member? Contact Lisa Slonus at slonusl@wseinc.com

GIRL SCOUT CT FASTRAK TOUR

For the second year the committee hosted 30 incoming freshmen and their tutors from UCONN on Friday, July 20, 2018, as part of UCONN’s BRIDGE program. The WTS CT Diversity Committee sponsored and participated in the event, and provided breakfast and lunch.

BRIDGE, a 5-week summer program is designed to prepare students who are underrepresented in engineering fields for the rigor of engineering curriculum at UCONN. The program introduces leadership opportunities and careers in engineering through industry tours, and familiarizes students with the college experience as a whole.

This year the program was held at the CTDOT New Haven Rail Yard (NHRY) on Brewery Street in New Haven and began with an informative and captivating presentation by consulting group Michael Baker International. The presentation included the history of the NHRY, background on completed projects including budgets, challenges, and timelines; and a look at future projects. The presenters did a great job aligning some of the aspects of the work to the engineering disciplines of interest to the students. After the presentation the students had the opportunity to ask questions, and then they were off to the tour!

Cont’d p. 3

Students took advantage of the Q&A periods and networking opportunities with CTDOT, Michael Baker and Metro-North.
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, Krista Kenney at KKKenney@GM2INC.COM for more information.

UCONN’S BRIDGE PROGRAM—NEW HAVEN RAIL YARD

Cont’d from p. 2. The tour included a walk through the Component Changeout Shop (CCO) and a peek at the new robotic warehouse. The robotic warehouse, otherwise known as the Central Distribution Warehouse (CDW) project, is intended to store and manage the vast supply of railcar parts as well as fulfill the storage needs of the NHRY. Since space for such a vast facility was limited in the railyard, the facility was constructed utilizing a high density automated storage retrieval system; meaning, the facility was built up rather than being spread-out over a large footprint. The major components of the facility include, a 14,320 SF x 97 LF. high rack supported building and the automated storage retrieval system within the CCO for distribution of stored goods.

CTDOT, Michael Brown and Metro-North present on the improvements to the commuter rail.

Students get an inside look at the New Haven Rail Yard.
GIRL SCOUTS TOUR CTFASTRAK

Cont’d from p2—

Lisa Rivers continued the tour by highlighting engineering, and specific design elements used such as GeoFoam, wick drains, the Flatbush Bridge, and Wetlands. Each station had unique challenges and special characteristics to spotlight in the design and development.

Once Bushnell Station was reached, Jennifer Carrier led a discussion about careers in Engineering and summer internship opportunities. She stressed the importance of utilizing internships to explore areas of career interest and the importance of mentoring.

While waiting to board CTfastrak for the return trip to Cedar Street Station, Jennifer Carrier shared information regarding Hartford initiatives, regional vision and the I-84 Viaduct. We were also excited to see people using the city’s first bike-share program, LimeBike.

At the end of the 2 1/2 hour tour each girl completed a quiz and received a CTfastrak and TransportationYou patch.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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CTTRANSIT OPEN HOUSE, CONTINUED

Cont’d from p.1 - If you are a Public Sector employee, WTS offers a discounted annual membership rate of only $95. This is less than one cup of coffee a week. We encourage you to invest in yourself. The WTS network, events, mentoring and leadership opportunities are priceless in comparison.

Our next Open House will be hosted by the Connecticut Airport Authority this fall. If your organization is interested in hosting an Open House, please reach out to our Membership Chairperson, Lisa Slonus, PE, PTOE of Weston & Sampson at slonusl@wseinc.com.

Cont’d from p.2 - information about your bus. Transit Oriented Development (TOD), Access to Education, and multi-use trail connections were other topics discussed with the girls.

Lisa Rivers continued the tour by highlighting engineering, and specific design elements used such as GeoFoam, wick drains, the Flatbush Bridge, and Wetlands. Each station had unique challenges and special characteristics to spotlight in the design and development.
“With my hands on the steering wheel of my profession, I have been given the opportunity to reach outside the car and pull in a diverse population of passengers and teach them how to drive themselves.”

Julia Su. Jack is a, self-proclaimed, daughter of diversity. She is the second child of two West Indian immigrants who, in 1967, left their beautifully hot island for the frozen splendor of Canada. Her parents would eventually leave that cold place for a temperate state in the United States.

Raised in a neighborhood in Connecticut, where there were very few families that looked like hers, she accepted that she was born for diversity. But, what she could not predict is that her career would follow a similarly unplanned and non-traditional path.

Graduating with a Master of Architecture degree, her career started out traditionally as she went straight to work in an architectural firm. But, the tide would turn after she took a leave of absence from work to focus on her growing family. When she returned to her career, circumstances would take her through many different professional roles in a variety of sectors across the AEC industry. She worked in interior design, pre-construction management, and non-profit construction employment management and more, finally landing her in the transportation sector.

As a result, Julia brings to her employer, WSP USA, WTS and the transportation industry as a whole, a wealth of knowledge as well as a vision of diversity, thought and understanding that only that type of shifting of experiences could produce, including an understanding of how companies and people work, how different people and generations think, how they process information, and how structures are built and delivered from all different sides of our profession.

She would claim that her most empowering and lifechanging experience was in her work at Capital Workforce Partners in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity where she endeavored to engage young men and women in the fields of construction. With such a growing, yet still small, pool of female constructors she felt immeasurably passionate about her work.

“I have always wanted to change the world for the better. As a younger woman, I thought changing the world could only be done by selling everything and taking to the streets with only a pair of sandals on your feet and a satchel on your shoulder. But, because of my experience with Capital Workforce Partners and Habitat for Humanity I have come to understand that we can change the world by using our professional experience, sharing our knowledge, mentoring and understanding the needs of people, populations and our industry.”

Julia is a transportation professional with a passion for generational, ethnic, racial and gender diversity within our industry that goes beyond mandates and monetary gain.

[Julia Su. Jack holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Howard University and a Masters in Construction Management degree from Central Connecticut State University; she is National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Certified and is a Certified PMI Project Management Professional.]
CTFASTRAK PUB CRAWL

The 3rd Annual CTfastrak Pub Crawl was held on Thursday June 7, 2018. Participants visited City Steam, Vaughn’s, and Pig’s Eye Pub.

Many participants took CTfastrak from the Downtown New Britain Station into Downtown Hartford.

Thank you to CTtransit for providing bus tickets for those who rode CTfastrak!

THOUGHT PROVOKING:

“ONE OF THE LESSONS THAT I GREW UP WITH, WAS TO ALWAYS STAY TRUE TO YOURSELF AND NEVER LET WHAT SOMEBODY SAYS, DISTRACT YOU FROM YOUR GOALS”
- MICHELLE OBAMA

Want to help the Newsletter Committee? Contact Aileen at aileen@cttransit.com

Do you have comments or suggestions on how we can improve the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to submit?

Please contact:

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E-mail: alennon@cttransit.com

This newsletter was compiled and edited by Aileen Lennon, Alicia Leite and Lori Long Current WTS CT Chapter Newsletter Co-Chairs

CORPORATE SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Our collective goal is to attain great things and...

EXCEL. TOGETHER.

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Advancing Women in Transportation
Connecticut Chapter
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