



*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
Greater Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

## January 2015

### Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter Officers:

**President**

Nikki Simon, P.E.

**Vice-President**

Belinda Pate

**Secretary**

Darla Payberah, P.E., CFM

**Treasurer**

Monica Wommack

**Immediate Past President**

Wanda Schafer

**Programs Director**

Angela Smith

**Professional Development Director**

Lane Wheatley, P.E.

**Membership Director**

Laura Weis, P.E.

**Recognitions Director**

Christie Gotti

### International Corporate Sponsors

### *Strategic Partners and Trailblazers*

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## Upcoming Events

**WTS Greater D/FW  
February Luncheon - State-Listed Threatened  
Mussels and Regulatory Requirements  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
February 17, 2015  
NCTCOG**

In 2010, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) listed 15 native freshwater mussels as "state threatened" species. State-listed mussels occur in the Red, Neches, Sabine, San Jacinto, Trinity, Colorado, Guadalupe, San Antonio, Nueces-Frio, Brazos, Rio Salado, Pecos, and Rio Grande river basins. State law prohibits take (i.e., harm, etc.) of state-listed species. Projects that may have impacts to rivers, tributaries, and/or reservoirs within the state of Texas, may require mussel presence/absence surveys and associated relocation activities, if applicable, prior to construction. These activities should be conducted by persons possessing a permit issued by TPWD, and plans for potential relocations, if required, must be approved by TPWD. In addition, zebra mussel populations have been recently documented at various locations within the Red, Trinity, and Brazos river basins; therefore, zebra mussel presence should be taken into consideration when performing TPWD-required native mussel survey and relocation activities. This presentation will educate attendees on new state-listed mussel regulatory requirements and emerging zebra mussel issues so that future projects may be planned accordingly and costly delays may be avoided.



*Ashley Oliver - HALFF*

[Click HERE to Register for this Event](#)

Corporate Sponsors

**PLATINUM LEVEL**

**2015 WTS Annual Conference**  
May 22-24, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois



We are pleased to announce that WTS International has selected Chicago as the site for the 2015 WTS Annual Conference. WTS is looking forward to bringing the Conference to the Windy City. Congratulations Chicago!

**MORE DETAILS TO COME ON THIS EVENT!**

**WTS Greater D/FW**  
**13th Annual Golf Tournament**  
September 2015

**MORE DETAILS TO COME ON THIS EVENT!**

## Word From the President

Dear WTS Members and Friends,

With the new year come new goals, commitments and opportunities. One of the goals of WTS International is to grow our membership to a level that initiates change in the industry. As WTS International continues its commitment to engage new and diverse organizations ready to join in partnership and advance our mission, the D/FW Chapter has a commitment to do the same. Numbers speak volumes. In order to truly see the advancement of women we speak of, it is the responsibility of all of our members to grow our membership.



If you have a relationship with a potential Corporate Partner in the transportation industry that we haven't tapped into, let them know all the great programs and opportunities that we offer, and get them connected to our chapter - the same goes for potential members. Our goal is for the D/FW Chapter to be a sizable influence as WTS International begins to make a greater impact.

Nikki Simon, P.E.  
President, WTS Greater D/FW Chapter

## WTS Greater D/FW Awards Nominees Named



**GOLD LEVEL**

**Baker**



**SILVER LEVEL**



**ferrovial**



The 2014 Greater D/FW Chapter of WTS award nominees were selected and voted on this month. The winners will be announced at the Annual Awards Banquet in May.

A description of the award categories and nominees are as follows:

**Member of the Year**

Recognizes a WTS member who has made extraordinary contributions to the success of the organization.

**Ayumi Anderson** has been instrumental in WTS by overseeing the branding efforts for the D/FW Chapter. She provides all graphic communications and marketing needs for the WTS D/FW Chapter. Her major efforts include: updating the chapter website, developing marketing materials for the Transportation YOU and Mentoring Programs, supporting the annual awards and corporate sponsors' reception events, as well as the holiday mixer. Her graphics expertise has been utilized for our: invitations, flyers, brochures, presentation boards, event banners, PowerPoint presentations, e-invites, and website updates.



**Yolanda Coleman** oversees the administrative and certified payroll duties of the project DBE office at Ferrovial. She has been a stellar WTS member and leader as the Programs Logistics Chair. For the past two years, she has worked with not only the events led by the Programs area, but also with several other WTS events, such as the professional development sessions and golf tournament. She has utilized her wealth of experience in administrative and grant management to support our local WTS chapter. Yolanda has consistently stepped up to help WTS chapter activities and members whenever she is called on, and she provides assistance over and beyond the average member.

**Audrey Saldana** has served as Golf Tournament chair since 2012. She organizes a committee of members that seek tournament and hole sponsors, solicit donations for the silent auction, and recruit teams and individuals to play each year. Due to Audrey and her committee's efforts, we have been able to apply more money to our Professional Development (including the HOME Fund) and Scholarship Funds. Over the last few years, the Annual Golf



## BRONZE LEVEL



Tournament has raised approximately \$18-\$20,000 per year.

### Woman of the Year

Honors a woman who is an outstanding role model and has contributed to the advancement of women and minorities in transportation.



**Tracey Friggle Logan** retired after 25 years of service with TxDOT where she served as the first female Director of Construction for the Dallas District Office. In this role, she managed 140 projects valued at \$1.5 billion annually. She has made an outstanding contribution through her leadership and tenure at TxDOT. She worked closely with elected officials to increase opportunities and participation for

minority and woman-owned firms and was actively involved in the coordination of the Cooperative Inclusion Plan (CIP), a program that strives to address the lack of certified D/W/W/SBEs in highway contracting.

**Stephanie Halliday** has worked at HNTB for over 20 years and is a Vice-President with the company. She has worked on several projects during her career, including the Dallas High Five and US 75 Corridor. She currently serves as the Program Manager for NTTA's Program Management Consultant contract. She is committed to obtaining and maintaining the DBE goal for the NTTA PMC contract by managing several minority consultants. Additionally, Stephanie is involved in NTTA's Road Program where she mentors several minority firms on behalf of HNTB.



**Angela Berry Roberson** has led the diversity efforts for the inclusion of diverse women in transportation. Her mission is to increase the level of diversity in the highway industry. Angela's advocacy for women and minorities especially evident in her work with the Associated General Contractors of Texas- Heavy Highway division. Her work and perspectives on the DBE Taskforce and on committees is creating a better understanding and acceptance of diversity in the contractor

community. She loves to see the change in the thoughts of some contractors about the intent behind the need for diversity programs, and fairness in contracting as an essential part of contracting, not as a burden.



**Websites and Links:**

[WTS National Website](#)

[WTS D/FW Website](#)

[WTS International Conference](#)

[WTS D/FW Board of Directors](#)

[WTS D/FW Job Postings](#)

**We are Social!!**



**WTS Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award**

Honors an individual, group, or organization that has made significant contributions in promoting diversity and cultural awareness within their organization, the transportation industry, or in a project or activity that supports the goals and mission of WTS.

**Dr. Audrey Andrews** regularly reaches out to several minority and women owned firms in regard to teaming with HNTB on TxDOT, DART, NTTA, and other procurement opportunities. Audrey coordinates a program with Townview High School in which she involves HNTB volunteers to mentor high school students in the HNTB Partners School and Business (S&B) partnership program between HNTB and local public schools. The program provides professional mentorship, tools, and resources to support, encourage, and promote student interest in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).



**Stella Vargas** has facilitated and advocated for professional opportunities for women and minorities through her roles as a DBE Coordinator, M/WBE Program Manager, and Economic Opportunity Specialist over the last 15 years in the public and private sectors. She has provided these opportunities through her leadership and participation in minority and woman-owned outreach events and workshops. Stella consistently exhibits an enthusiasm to speak with women and minorities about professional opportunities not just in the highway industry, but overall in the business industry. Her ability to communicate with individuals on all levels, while at the same time encouraging them to explore uncharted business avenues is remarkable.

**Employer of the Year**

This award honors an organization (company, non-profit, association or government agency) for recruiting, retaining and advancing women.

**Brad Gorrondona, RPLS, founded Gorrondona & Associates, Inc. (G&A)** in 1990 - with a vision of offering high quality professional services to public sector agencies and engineering consultants. Since that time, G&A has continuously provided services for both private and public entities throughout the State of Texas, which have included full-service professional land surveying, aerial photogrammetric mapping, LiDAR, geotechnical engineering, and



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construction materials testing. The most valuable asset G&AI has is the quality of its people; with a professional staff averaging over 18 years of continuous service with G&AI - the inherent knowledge and local familiarity of these individuals provides quality, consistency, and efficiency to projects.

G&AI has stayed current in new technology through training, and the purchase of the latest equipment in all areas, and strives to deliver the newest and most advanced technological product to clients; continuing to set the gold standard for the industry.

G&AI has built a company that embraces different ethnicities and diversities throughout its workplace. Ten percent of the workforce added in the previous four years has been comprised of women with another 17 percent in minorities. Currently, three women at G&AI hold departmental head positions. G&AI has mentored their progress through internal training and they have been promoted to management positions because of opportunities available within the corporate structure.

G&AI supports education within the workplace and continues to fund continuing education for any employee who so desires it. Education is rewarded by advancement and promotion from within the company. Professional development is funded at the company level and employees are encouraged in their personal involvement and rewarded for contributing to the community.

A big WTS congratulations goes out to all the nominees. Special thanks to the Christie Gotti for reviewing all of the excellent applications our chapter received.

## **Young Women Leadership Schools Seeking Volunteers**

Two fantastic opportunities are coming up if you're interested in working with young women.

The Irma Rangel (Dallas) Young Women's Leadership School "Career Day" will be on March 6th from 1-4 p.m. This year they will be hosting panels according to your place of work. Panelists will speak for four 30 minute sessions, as the students will move from session to session throughout the afternoon. All speakers will have to complete this volunteer application/background clearance per District's (Dallas ISD) requirement.

The Young Women's Leadership School at Arnold (YWLA @Grand Prairie) is having Leadership & Career Day on Friday, May 22, 2015.

They are looking for a variety of guest speakers: Engineering, Marketing, Finance, Legal, CEO, and more!!! Presenters will be asked to present 25-30 minutes about their profession, college, or leadership topic and allow the last 15-20 minutes for questions.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Adrienne Williams at [adrienne.williams@plciv.com](mailto:adrienne.williams@plciv.com) or at 972-421-2343.

## WTS Greater D/FW Chapter- Year in Review!

So what has our chapter been doing so special this past year? Well, you can take a look at some of the highlights in our 2014 Annual Report on the WTS Greater D/FW website!

All of our past professional development programs, monthly luncheons, tours, Transportation YOU events and so much more can be found in this report.

After looking through the report, we are sure you will remember something special that brought you to WTS and will find that 2015 will bring so much more!

[Click HERE to view the 2014 Annual Report](#)

## WTS Greater D/FW Chapter January Program

The January Lunch Program was held at NCTCOG this month where Dr. Steve Tidwell hosted an interactive workshop that provided guidance on how to negotiate - both personally and professionally.

The focus was on having a purpose, being prepared, creating a plan, and prioritizing needs and wants. The program also touched on the importance of how an individual understands not only who they are dealing with, but how to deal with them.

The workshop also involved discussions on salary negotiations, purchasing items, and getting the most from your negotiating session. It was designed to help an individual develop their own strategy and style that empowers them to advance both professionally and personally.

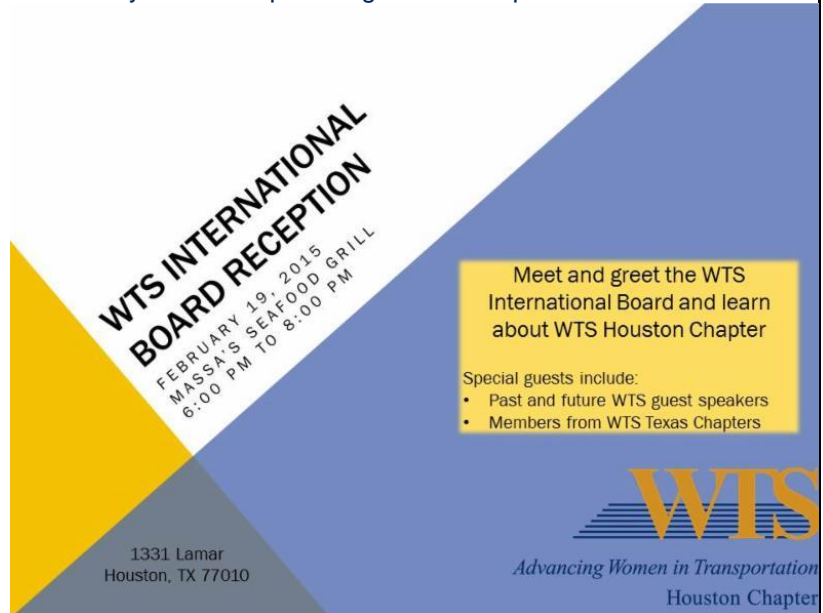


## Meet the WTS International Board in Houston

The WTS Houston Chapter has invited our chapter to have the honor of welcoming the WTS International Board to Houston.

A welcome reception is slated for February 19th, which makes for a great opportunity for those of you who have been unable to attend the annual WTS Annual Conference or WTS Chapter Leadership Conference, to get some face time with the international executives.

Marcia Ferranto, WTS President & CEO, was recently named as an Influential Person of the Decade by METRO Magazine. WTS International Board members include senior executives from around the country from both public agencies and private firms.



The poster features a diagonal split background with yellow on the left and blue on the right. The text is arranged in a triangular shape following the split. A yellow box on the right contains details about the event, including a list of special guests. The WTS logo and tagline are at the bottom right, and the address is at the bottom left.

**WTS INTERNATIONAL  
BOARD RECEPTION**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2015  
MASSA'S SEAFOOD GRILL  
6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

Meet and greet the WTS International Board and learn about WTS Houston Chapter

Special guests include:

- Past and future WTS guest speakers
- Members from WTS Texas Chapters

1331 Lamar  
Houston, TX 77010

**WTS**  
*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
Houston Chapter

[Click HERE to RSVP to this Event](#)

*\$50 for members and \$65 for non-members*

## WTS Membership Affiliation

All members are encouraged to become affiliated with the other chapters in Texas: Heart of Texas, Houston and San Antonio. Just log into your WTS International account and select the affiliations you would like to join!

## Irma L. Rangel Young Women's Leadership School to Offer Paid Summer Internship Program in 2015

Attorneys Serving the Community has chosen the Foundation for the Education of Young Women as its 2014-2015 beneficiary!

The Irma L. Rangel Young Women's Leadership School (YWLS) in partnership with the Foundation for the Education of Young Women has received a grant for a paid summer internship for high school juniors.

The program, beginning in June 2015, will provide 10 girls with paid internships at various companies. The students will work 25 hours per week for a six week period in fields such as law, medicine, business, social work, technology, etc.



Irma Rangel YWLS is requesting employers to volunteer as an internship placement for this paid summer internship program. This is a great development opportunity as these young ladies begin to prepare for their future careers.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Katie Albritton at 214-824-1400 or [kalbritton@feyw.org](mailto:kalbritton@feyw.org).

[Click HERE to Learn More about the Junior Internship Program](#)



## The WTS Greater D/FW Chapter is on Facebook!

The WTS Greater D/FW Chapter is on Facebook! Check out our page for upcoming WTS Greater D/FW Chapter events and more.



[Click HERE to visit the WTS Greater D/FW Chapter on Facebook!](#)

## WTS Greater D/FW Member Spotlight

**Name:** Diane Gollhofer, PE

**Job Title/Firm:** President/DGR Consultants, LLC

**Years employed with Firm:** 3 years

**City/Town in which you reside:** Dallas

**Hometown:** St. Louis, MO

**College Affiliation:** Texas A&M

**Marital Status/Children:** Married/3 boys

**Organizations:**  
WTS, ACEC, APTA, DRB

**Nickname:** Sunshine

**Favorite Quote:** "Live in the moment and Seize the Day" Oprah

**Favorite Food:** Chocolate

**Hobbies:** Reading and gardening



**Favorite Vacation Spot:** Any place with history and/or beauty

**Something my colleagues might be surprised to learn about me:**

That there are no surprises.

**What super-power would you most like to have, and why:**

Endless Energy! To get everything done that must be done, every day.

**How do I contribute to WTS?**

I am the Corporate Partner Chair

## WTS Membership Benefits

### Membership Benefits

In support of its mission to transform the transportation industry through the advancement of women, WTS helps women find opportunity and recognition in the transportation industry through professional activities, networking opportunities, education, and research. Members of WTS International receive the following benefits:

- **Networking Opportunities** - Monthly program events, thought-provoking speakers and interaction with WTS members, many of whom are top leaders in the industry.
- **Professional Development** - Access to a diverse mix of contacts within and across transportation sectors, access to the WTS International Career Center and educational and career-focused guidance.
- **Education** - Leadership training, scholarship and fellowship opportunities and distinguished speakers.
- **Mentoring** - Chapter mentoring programs, developed to benefit both the mentor and the mentee.

[Click HERE to Join Today!](#)

## Corporate Sponsor Spotlight



Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI) is a privately-owned, multi-discipline, professional consulting firm serving municipal and county governments, transportation agencies, federal and state governments, water districts and river authorities, and military and higher education clients. FNI was founded in 1894 in Fort Worth as one of the first independent consulting engineering firms in Texas.

For 118 years, FNI has built its practice on a strong foundation of client service and a continued commitment to project excellence.

The firm's recent major awards include the 2010 Malcolm Baldrige Award, an honor that has not been given to any other Architecture/ Engineering firm. The Baldrige Award is a prestigious national recognition that promotes excellence in organizational performance, recognizes the achievements of U.S. organizations and publicizes successful performance strategies. In 2011, FNI was named the "Best Civil Engineering Firm To Work For" in the large firm category by CE News, and ranked fifth among the overall Top 25 civil engineering firms in the country.

With 13 offices in Texas, FNI's nearly 500 employees provide planning, engineering, architectural, environmental science and program management services throughout the U.S. for a wide variety of transportation and public works facilities. For more information on FNI's transportation services, please visit their website [www.freese.com](http://www.freese.com).

## **WTS Greater D/FW Chapter is Seeking Corporate Partners!**

The WTS Greater D/FW Chapter appreciates the support and sponsorship of our Corporate Partners! Our organization offers great opportunities to both women and men in the transportation field. A few of the benefits that come with WTS membership include:

- Professional development and training
- Networking with peers and leaders in the industry
- Opportunities to get involved and develop leadership skills

Each month, we organize lunch programs, technical tours, and/or professional development activities. Samples of our activities this year include:

- Tour of DFW Airport Terminal A, DART Orange Line Construction projects
- Seminars from TxDOT, NTTA, DART, NCTCOG, DFW Airport, etc.
- Professional Development seminars on personality styles and team working
- Continued development of a Student Chapter at the University of Texas at Arlington
- Development of a college student mentoring program
- Development of a high school transportation mentoring program at the Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School

Corporate partnerships are very important to our chapter's ability to provide these great benefits to our members. We encourage you to click on the link below for our corporate sponsorship application. The many benefits of corporate partnership are listed on the application.

[Click HERE for a 2015 Corporate Partnership Form](#)

## WTS Greater D/FW Job Bank

Looking for your next opportunity or a new addition to your team? Check out the Greater D/FW Chapter's Job Bank at [www.wtsinternational.org/greaterdallas/job-postings/](http://www.wtsinternational.org/greaterdallas/job-postings/).

As a benefit to our corporate partners, members and local non-profit organizations, we will run job postings for 30 days at no cost on our chapter website. If you would like to post a position on the site, please send the information to Lane Wheelley-Zarate at: [lmw@freese.com](mailto:lmw@freese.com).

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteers Needed for Corporate Partner Membership Committee

The Corporate Partner Membership Program is being revamped with new ideas gleaned from the WTS Texas State Conference held last summer. Volunteers are needed to establish a strong committee. Please contact Diane Gollhofer, Corporate Membership Committee Chair at [diane@dgrconsultants.com](mailto:diane@dgrconsultants.com) to become a member of this committee.

### Greater WTS D/FW Chapter Seeking Volunteers

The WTS Greater D/FW Chapter is requesting volunteers in Professional Development for a HOME Funds Chairperson, Mentoring Chairperson, Job Bank Chairperson and Archivist Chairperson. If you're interested, please contact Lane Wheelley-Zarate, Professional Development Director at [lmw@freese.com](mailto:lmw@freese.com).

## WTS Safety Moment

### January Safety Topic - Earthquakes: Drop, Cover and Hold On

At least three dozen small quakes have hit in or near Irving since April - most around the old Texas Stadium site, and half of them this month.

It's unknown what is causing them, but many theories are circulating to anything from hydraulic fracturing from oil and gas drilling, to the long Texas droughts, or even the recent implosion of Texas Stadium in 2010.

Although the earthquakes are causing alarm among many, residents are urged not to call 911 about the earthquakes, unless a true emergency situation exists. Talk with your children, and check out the following tips to keep you and your loved ones safe:

How to prepare for earthquakes:

- Have an emergency kit that includes items such as bottled water, several days' worth of food, a flashlight, a first aid kit, pet food, and a battery powered radio (for full list go to [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov))
- Fasten shelves securely to walls
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves
- Locate safe spots in each room under a sturdy table or against an inside wall
- Hold earthquake drills with your family members: Drop, cover and hold on!
- DROP to your hands and knees
- COVER your head and neck with your arms and only move if you need to get away from the danger of falling objects
- HOLD ON to any sturdy shelter until the shaking stops

If you find yourself in an earthquake, it's important to remember these Do's and Don'ts:

- DO drop, cover and hold on!
- DO stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls
- DO NOT get in a doorway
- DO stay inside until the shaking stops
- DO NOT use the elevators.
- If outside, DO move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires



Please send WTS Greater D/FW Chapter news items to

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[dpayberah@hntb.com](mailto:dpayberah@hntb.com)

(972)628-3153