This past year, 2017, was one of continued growth for WTS-GNY, which maintained its prominence as WTS International’s largest chapter. The board focused on:

- Expanding professional development options for our members
- Expanding programming in New Jersey
- Improving member retention and engagement
- Improving internal chapter documentation
- Providing better chapter communication
- Initiating partnerships with local organizations to expand our reach
- Hosting a successful 2017 Annual WTS International Conference

Our annual meeting gives us an opportunity to honor our members who contribute to the mission of WTS and also to welcome our incoming board. We thank this year’s award winners – Denise Berger, Sutapa Bhattacharjee, Patrick A. Nowakowski, Arup, and the New York City Department of Transportation Queens Boulevard Safety Improvement Project – for their efforts in making Greater New York (GNY) transportation more diverse and equitable. Stephanie Dawson gave the keynote address, prior to retiring, in her role as chief operating officer for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. She has been a long-time supporter of the GNY chapter through her involvement as a WTS International board of director.

We had dynamic speakers at both our spring and fall dinners. In March, Mary K. Murphy, executive director of North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, moderated a diverse panel related to “transit villages,” residential developments in close proximity to public transit hubs and retail. In October, we hosted a panel discussion on connected and autonomous vehicles which took place at the Cranbury Inn in New Jersey. In November, Adam Giambrone, director of the Brooklyn-Queens Connector (BQX) presented on the City’s plans for the much-discussed BQX light rail project.

Our expanded professional development programming included workshops in New York and New Jersey on social media and networking, seven roundtables as part of our summer Learn from a Leader series, and six Emerging Women Leader webinars screened at three sites throughout the year. This members-only continued on page 8

### GNY Chapter’s 2017-2018 Corporate Partners

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The Greater New York Chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank all the companies, agencies and individuals who have generously contributed to WTS-GNY and supported our programs and services. We look forward to your continued support in 2018.

**COVER ART:** Gabriela Kappes
AWARDS

Woman of the Year

Mary K. Murphy serves as the executive director of one of the largest Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the country. The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) ranks in the top five MPOs of the more than 350 MPOs nationwide, serving more than 6.5 million people and supporting a capital program in excess of $2 billion annually. Prior to joining NJTPA, she served as the deputy executive director for Operations and Planning at the NJ Turnpike Authority responsible for tolling, operations, maintenance and strategic planning for both the NJ Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. In her 30+ years as a licensed professional planner, Ms. Murphy also has served as the director of planning and community development in Union County, NJ, the manager of Transportation Planning for the Louis Berger Group, and the manager of Policy and Intergovernmental Liaison for the Port Authority of NY and NJ. Ms. Murphy is a strong advocate for improving safety in all aspects of our transportation system and believes in the value of public engagement to ensure everyone has a voice in shaping the future of transportation throughout our region.

In addition to Ms. Murphy’s extensive career in the public sector at the local, state and regional levels, she is also a dedicated member of WTS. She has served as the WTS-GNY chapter president; is an active member of the WTS-GNY Advisory Committee; served as co-chair of the Blue-Ribbon Committee for the 2017 WTS Conference; and recently joined the WTS Executive Women’s Roundtable.

Raymond LaHood Award

Patrick A. Nowakowski oversees more than 7,000 employees and directs a commuter-rail system with more than 700 miles of track, serving 86 million+ passengers annually. In true testament to his leadership, Mr. Nowakowski has personally promoted the involvement of Long Island Railroad employees in WTS, hosting a large 2015 WTS professional development event at the agency’s offices. Thanks largely to Mr. Nowakowski’s efforts, the agency’s WTS member list has increased 10-fold.

Member of the Year

Sutapa Bhattacharjee, an active participant in WTS-GNY’s Transportation YOU Committee, has worked diligently over the course of two years to establish the New Jersey Transportation YOU program with Newark Science Park High School in Newark, NJ. Like the New York program with City Polytechnic High School in Brooklyn, the program will support eight eager high-school students each year with carefully planned information sessions, tours, and other curriculum developed in conjunction with school counselors. She is a shining example of true leadership as she has prepared to launch the inaugural year of the NJ Transportation YOU program.

Employer of the Year

Arup is a global professional services firm with over 1,000 employees in the Americas focusing on infrastructure projects. Arup received this award in 2017 because of its support of employees’ active participation in WTS leadership roles, corporate sponsorship at the Emerald Level as well as sponsorship of the upcoming Annual Conference.

Innovative Transportation Solutions Award

Queens Boulevard Safety Improvement Project — New York City Department of Transportation (Project Team: Nichole Altmix, Ann Marie Doherty, Kessia De Leo, Lily Gordon-Koven, Olivia Gibeson, Chiragi Amin, and Navjodh Singh)

The Queens Boulevard Safety Improvement Project is a multi-year corridor complete street redesign involving nearly every unit within New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT). In 2015, NYCDOT implemented safety improvements on Queens Boulevard from Roosevelt Avenue to 73rd Street. The agency continued the project in 2016, installing safety improvements on Queens Boulevard between 74th Street and Eliot Avenue. For decades, Queens Boulevard had the reputation for being “the Boulevard of Death.” NYCDOT designed this project to mitigate the specific patterns of crashes encountered by drivers and pedestrians alike.

Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award

Denise Berger, with over 29 years of experience, manages a department of over 500 engineers at the Port Authority of NY and NJ. She has also been an active participant in WTS events in the past. In addition to her experience and commitment to the advancement of women in transportation, she receives this award for her creation of the Port Authority Women’s Council (PAWC), a formally chartered employee resource group aimed at fostering the advancement of women within her agency.
The programs in 2017 focused on professional development and leadership, but there was a range of events that also explored very different aspects of the field. In addition to the many events in NYC, there was also a rich assortment of offerings in New Jersey.

The following is a summary of the variety of topics and speakers at our 2017 programs:

**JANUARY**

Future City Judging Volunteer Event

37th Annual Awards Program and 19th Annual M/W/S/DBE Expo

Keynote Speaker

Stephanie Dawson, Chief Operating Officer, Port Authority of NY & NJ

**FEBRUARY**

New Jersey Winter Solstice and Professional Development Event

Emerging Leaders On-Site Training Series

Speaker

Jo Miller, founding editor, BeLeaderly. com and CEO, Women’s Leadership Coaching, Inc.

**MARCH**

TransitCenter Panel: “Women Changing Transportation”

Speakers

Inbar Kishoni, NYCDOT
Monica Tibbits-Nutt, MassDOT
Dani Simons, Motivate
Kate Fillin-Yeh, NACTO
Shefali Ranganathan, Transportation Choices Coalition

Scholarship Fundraiser

**APRIL**

Transportation Trivia (partnered with APA and YPT)

Emerging Leaders On-Site Training Series

Speaker

Shveta Miglani, leader Global Leadership Development, Palo Alto Networks

Professional Development Workshop: Networking Your Network

Speaker

Jaclyn Libowitz, executive coach

Transportation Trivia Night. Host, Alexandra Aiello (furthest left), asking a participant a bonus question.
MAY
WTS Annual Conference
Young Professionals Conference
Happy Hour

JUNE
Recycle-a-Bicycle Volunteer Event
Emerging Leaders On-Site Training Series
Guest speaker
Liz Centoni, senior vice president and general manager, Computing Systems Product Group, Cisco

Learn from a Leader Roundtable Series (NJ)
Speaker
Jeevanjot Singh, principal engineer, Transportation Systems Management, NJDOT

JULY
Cardboard Kayak Race
New Jersey Summer Kick-off Networking Event
Membership Appreciation Event
Learn from a Leader Roundtable Series
Speakers
Beth DeAngelo, NY deputy area manager, vice president, WSP/PB
Lois Goldman, director, Regional Planning (NJ), NJTPA
Loriann Hoffman, vice president, Talent and Organization Development, NYCT

AUGUST
Learn from a Leader Roundtable Series
Speakers
Vivian Baker, director, Intermodal and Interagency Coordination, NJ Transit (NJ)
Clarelle DeGraffe, deputy director, PATH
Cheryl Mckissack, Mckissack & Mckissack, CEO

WTS Greater New York Chapter Annual Report 2017
**AUGUST continued**

Emerging Leaders On-Site Training Series

Guest speaker

Cindy Pace, AVP, Global Diversity and Inclusion, Head of the Global Women’s Initiative, MetLife

**SEPTEMBER**

Autumn Bike Tour and Happy Hour (partnered with NYC DOT)

**OCTOBER**

Annual Gala

New Jersey Dinner Meeting

Speakers

Dana Hecht, Lynn Middleton, Genevieve Clifton, NJDOT

Emerging Leaders On-Site Training Series

Speaker

Jo Miller, founding editor of BeLeaderly.com and CEO, Women’s Leadership Coaching, Inc.

**NOVEMBER**

New York Fall Dinner

Trending Topics Series: “Cause & Effect: How Transportation Prepares, Prevents, and Reacts”

Speakers

Shoshana Cooper, director of operations, Analysis, MTA NYCT
Olga Gorbunova, FEMA project manager, Stantec
Raymond Sandiford, vice president, HNTB

**DECEMBER**

Young Professionals Holiday Happy Hour

Holiday Party

Emerging Leaders on Site Training Series

Guest speakers

Kim Ernzen, vice president Operations, Raytheon
Lorene Phillips, vice president, European Treaty Reinsurance Division, Allied World Reinsurance Company

Trending Topics "Cause & Effect: How Transportation Prepares, Prevents, and Reacts." From left: Olga Gorbunova, FEMA project manager, Stantec; Shoshana Cooper, director of operations analysis, MTA NYCT; and Raymond Sandiford, vice president, HNTB.
On October 4th, the chapter hosted its 15th Annual Gala. Held at Battery Gardens Restaurant on a beautiful, clear night with its spectacular views of New York Harbor, it was a fabulous evening to celebrate WTS-GNY. This year, with over 300 attendees, it was another great success.

After a lively cocktail reception, there were opening remarks by President Polina Knaster and the evening’s guest host, NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg. Guest speaker Petra Todorovich Messick, senior officer of outreach and communications in the Northeast Corridor Infrastructure Investment Development (NEC IID) division at Amtrak, observed that she had the most fun job of the evening as she presented the scholarship winners with almost $20,000 in awards.

The highlight of the evening was a toast to Mary K. Murphy, executive director of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority as the 2017 Woman of the Year. She was introduced by Richard T. Roberts, who worked closely with Ms. Murphy for many years. “Who has these four attributes: cool under fire, focus, courage and determination?” he asked. Mr. Roberts went on to describe a few stories to illustrate each of these character traits in Ms. Murphy, primarily through her actions in 1993 after the first World Trade Center bombing. He remarked that no one knew what the threat was, that it was unknowable, but that “Mary immediately thought of others, not herself,” and that she “immediately got into action.” She recognized immediately that because of their medical limitations such as asthma and heart issues, there were people who wouldn’t be able to handle the 50 flights of stairs to get out of the building. He remarked that “she had a sense of purpose, showed the determination heroes show,” as she helped over 150 evacuate the trade center, people who otherwise wouldn’t easily have made it.

When Ms. Murphy took the podium, she thanked the many people who have supported her along the way and then transitioned to her theme for the evening which involved the three letters, “Y-E-S.” She talked about how it was a common continued on page 8
ANNUAL GALA
continued from page 7

thread throughout all her professional opportunities. “All too often, women in particular, think that they have to know how to do the job, but the secret is that no one knows how to do their job when they start out.” She went on to observe that “We’re all learning and doing and that’s how we get to do more. That’s how we grow and experience new challenges.” She then commanded the audience to “be open when opportunity arrives.” Ms. Murphy also cautioned everyone that it doesn’t mean that each of us does the job on our own, that a well-rounded team leads to greater long-term success. “You need to find people who are a good fit, but not clones of yourself. And don’t be scared of people who are smarter than you!”

As Ms. Murphy focused on resources to help women propel themselves in their careers, she concluded her speech with three more letters; “W-T-S.” It is an organization where “no one gets fired, even if you try. Seek us out and ask what is the next move in your career? If you don’t apply, you can’t get that next job.”

The gala was not yet over though. There was still more mingling and the announcement of the many raffle winners, a great fundraiser for the WTS-GNY scholarship fund and a tribute to the impact and success of WTS, as the organization invests in the next generation of women in transportation.

Patricia Masi of B. Thayer Associates led our Silent Auction which featured items donated by our members, corporate sponsor firms, and other businesses, and which raised $5,000 for the WTS Scholarship fund.

DEAR VALUED MEMBER
continued from page 2

programming adds value to formally joining our chapter and allows our members to learn from industry leaders as well as each other.

The Scholarship and Mentoring programs further our mission to support women pursuing careers in transportation, both early- and mid-career. Through the Annual Gala fundraiser in the fall and our Annual Spring Scholarship Fundraiser in May, we raised $8,000 for the chapter scholarship fund in 2017.

WTS-GNY continued its Transportation YOU programs at City Polytechnic High School in downtown Brooklyn and Science Park High School in Newark, New Jersey. Activities included various professional development sessions, attendance at the national Transportation YOU Summit in Washington DC, and tours of Newark Liberty International Airport, the New York City ferry system, and the MTA Subway Simulator.

The Young Professionals Committee offered interesting opportunities to cross-pollinate with the wider transportation community through partnerships with the City of Water Day festival, American Planning Association (APA), Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT), Recycle-a-Bicycle, TransitCenter, and others.

We invited the WTS-GNY community to network at the New Jersey Summer and Winter Solstice events, New York happy hours, our annual members-only summer and holiday gatherings, and of course, the Annual Gala, attended by over 300 transportation professionals from the Tri-State Area.

Our Annual Gala grows every year. This year, for our 15th gala, the board was very pleased to honor and celebrate Mary K. Murphy. Mary K. has been an invaluable resource for WTS-GNY and a champion for women in transportation. Richard T. Roberts expressed all of our admiration for her in his introduction and Mary K. brought the house down with her acceptance speech, focusing on saying YES to opportunities as they come and taking advantage of the power of WTS. She is often still quoted at many of our events!

As a highlight of the year, the Greater New York chapter hosted the 2017 Annual WTS International Conference in Downtown Brooklyn. It was a pleasure to welcome nearly 700 women from across the US and have the opportunity to introduce the City’s large and small transportation projects through regional technical tours organized by our conference committee. We were happy to offer scholarships to three of our members to attend for free. Over 100 members volunteered to help make the conference a success. A big thank-you to the conference chairs, Alexa Gangemi, Julia Kerson, Sheriza Majid, and Laura Toole, for all of their hard work!

As I conclude my time as president of the Greater New York chapter, I can say it has been a wonderful experience, full of challenges and opportunities. There is much to which to look forward such as, our newly-formed Glass Ceiling Committee which administered a survey to local organizations and conducted a literature review to further conversations regarding equity in the transportation industry. We look forward to sharing their findings in 2018.

As I pass this leadership role on to GNY president-elect, Alexa Gangemi, I feel heartened by the current state of the chapter and privileged to have worked with such a high-energy and motivated board of directors whose intelligence and dedication is unmatched.

Sincerely,

Polina Knaster, WTS-GNY President

WTS Greater New York Chapter Annual Report 2017
BY ADRIENNE ZICKLIN KANTER

From May 17th through May 19th, nearly 700 women from across the United States came together for the Annual WTS International Conference in Downtown Brooklyn. It was a wonderful opportunity to compare notes, network, and explore a wide variety of transportation topics in NYC, the country’s richest public transportation laboratory. It was also a rewarding occasion to hear many female transportation leaders who call the region home.

The first day of the event was devoted primarily to a range of technical tours presenting the City’s vast array of recent transportation projects as well as other large and small-scale transportation phenomena. These included East Side Access, the Old City Hall Station and NY Transit Museum, Atlantic Terminal, the NYCDOT Sign Shop, the Barclays Center, the Port Authority, the Brooklyn Bridge as well as wayfinding signs in Lower Manhattan. Indeed, over the course of the conference, there were a total of 19 technical tours.

While there were speakers who hailed from all over the country, there were many local female leaders in the field who had a prominent role. These women were featured in both a morning panel discussion as well as a couple of breakout sessions. The panel included Karen Rae, senior advisor for Innovative Project Delivery, Empire State Development; Stephanie Dawson, chief operating officer, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; Veronique (Ronnie) Hakim, interim executive director, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA); Mary K. Murphy, executive director, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority; and Polly Trottenberg, commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation, who all shared entertaining and often self-deprecating stories about their experiences as they have pursued their careers.

While each woman’s story is unique, they all highlighted the importance of building consensus, supporting teamwork, and despite often conflicting opinions and interests both internally and externally, emphasizing the common goal that everyone working on a project shares. That can be a tall order when, as Ms. Hakim jokes, there are six million people moved each day by public transit and each one has an opinion.

Another program, entitled “Chief’s Eye View: How to Navigate Office Politics and Build Better Relationships,” also featured women in leadership roles focused on transportation in the New York region. Emily Gallo is chief of staff at NYC Department of Transportation, Naomi Renek is chief of staff at NYCT, and Donna Evans is chief of staff at MTA. This event, which drew a standing-room audience, highlighted some of the challenges that had been addressed in the panel discussion. Speaking with a great deal of humor, thoughtfulness, and experience, each of the women described their ever-evolving priorities in supporting their bosses and organizations for which they work. They also talked about being a woman in the job. One highlight was Ms. Evans’ description of her initially not being able to get her voice heard at a meeting where she was surrounded by men until she took off her shoe and hammered her heel on the table. After that, she had a different relationship with them.

The other session that featured New York women leaders was “Multi-Agencies Coming Together to Design with Community in Mind.” Lori Ardito, former NYC Department of Transportation first deputy commissioner and now a consultant at iDEK0gov; Jane Marshall, senior vice president at Forest City Ratner Companies; Rachel Shatz, vice president, Empire State Development; and Susan Walter, vice president, Stantec; all discussed a recent large project in New York, the Atlantic Yards and Pacific Park developments. This is a multi-use development comprised of the Barclays Center, an 18,000-seat arena; a major transportation hub linking nine NYC subway lines and the LIRR, over a dozen high-rise residential/commercial buildings; and eight acres of intertwining public open space, and all of this surrounded by two of Brooklyn’s busiest arterial roads. The panel discussed strategic phasing plans that were created so portions of the site could open while others remained under construction; maintenance and protection of traffic designs that were vital to keep pedestrians; vehicles, subways and trains safe and operable at all times; and the complex engineering solutions that were required to physically connect the new Barclays Center with a number of active but aging subway tunnels, all below one of the busiest intersections in Brooklyn.

Throughout the conference, New York and its many female transportation leaders were a great highlight, spotlighting some of what makes the New York area such a rewarding place to be focused on transportation.
Mentoring Program
In 2017, the WTS-GNY Mentoring Program graduated 10 apprentices from its program. The apprentices were transportation professionals representing an array of disciplines, agencies, and corporations. The yearlong program is designed to help women in transportation assess and advance their careers through professional guidance from leaders in the transportation community. Apprentices, who have at least five years of professional experience, were matched with mentors in our “speed matching” workshop and each pair worked together over the year, meeting independently on a monthly basis to discuss career goals and development.

The participants also met as a program group once a month to develop professional skills and learn from diverse speakers as well as each other. In addition to our traditional development topics, such as networking and delivering engaging presentations, we had two professional trainers coach our apprentices (and mentors, too!) in communication and in projecting a good image. In the summer, the mentors and apprentices had a wonderful behind-the-scenes tour of the Port Authority’s Oculus.

For our graduation, we invited WTS-GNY 2017 Woman of the Year, Mary K. Murphy, executive director of NJTPA, to participate in one-on-one conversations with our mentors/apprentices. She provided great insight and a valuable strategy to help us function when we feel overwhelmed. When we just don’t have the resources to manage, Mary presented each of us with a small box to put our emotions in: when work is too much, and we need to focus on home; and vice versa.

Our apprentices put in an amazing amount of work over the year to advance their careers. Nicole Bucich of WSP / Parsons Brinckerhoff and Sarah Steib of T&M Associates once again led our program with great professionalism. Congratulations to our graduated apprentices and thank you to our talented mentors who volunteered their time throughout the year!

Young Professionals
2016 marked the third year of the revitalized Young Professionals Committee. The committee, led by Co-Chairs Tiffany Cummings and Ece Koch, as well as Board Liaison Portia Henry, based the year’s programming largely off the successes of the previous years. The group’s annual calendar included monthly committee meetings; the “Trending Topics” speaker series at a midtown bar; a joint American Planning Association (APA) and Young Professionals Transportation (YPT) Trivia night; team participation in a Cardboard Kayak competition; and a holiday happy hour. The committee also assisted in coordinating cross-committee networking socials prior to scheduled Greater New York chapter events. More details about all of our events are provided below:

- Future City Judging Volunteer Event – January 11th at HNTB Office, NY, NY. The event mixed networking and volunteering by judging Future City competition models in small groups. The Future City Competition is a non-profit national competition sponsored by the engineering community to promote technology and engineering for middle school students.
- TransitCenter Panel: “Women Changing Transportation” – March 30th at TransitCenter Office, NY, NY. Speakers were Inbar Kishoni (NYCDOT), Monica Tibbits-Nutt (MassDOT), Dani Simons (Motivate), Kate Fillin-Yeh (NACTO), and Shefali Ranganathan (Transportation Choices Coalition).
- Transportation Trivia – April 18th at Smithfield Hall, NY, NY, in partnership with the American Planning Association (APA) and Young Professionals’ in Transportation (YPT).
- Conference Happy Hour – May 17th at Hill Country BBQ, Brooklyn, NY. This was an informal networking happy hour for young professionals prior to the Welcome Reception.
- Recycle-a-Bicycle Volunteer Event – June 8th at Recycle-a-Bicycle, Long Island City Workshop, Queens, NY. Volunteers refurbished old bicycles which were eventually donated to Puerto Rico later in the year after Hurricane Maria.
- Cardboard Kayak Race – July 15th at Governors Island, NY, NY. The WTS team engineered and then raced a cardboard kayak as part of the City of Water Day festival. A planning happy
Eduarda Aun De Azevedo Nascimento is an urban designer from Brasilia, Brazil, who, ironically, loves to explore the city on foot. After receiving a scholarship to study at the Politecnico di Torino in Italy, she developed a passion for public spaces, transportation, urban activism and community participation. In Brasilia, Aun is recognized for the proposal for an urban regeneration project in the vicinity of the main transportation hub. She conducted stakeholder meetings emphasizing concepts ranging from participation and prototyping, to testing of long-term infrastructure and mobility projects through pilot programs. She made presentations on this effort at conferences in Brazil. In addition, Aun received an award from the International Congress of Cities and Transportation in Mexico in 2015. It was featured in Archdaily as one of the best graduation projects from Brazil and Portugal in 2016. As co-founder of Coletivo MOB (Movimente e Ocupe o seu Bairro), a civic engagement organization for urban and social transformation, she has spearheaded several initiatives to promote better mobility in Brasilia and touted urban citizenship in a hands-on approach. After working with local planning agencies, and cultural and social movements in Brasilia, she is currently pursuing a Masters in Design and Urban Ecologies at The New School. Aun also is working as an intern at the NYC Department of Transportation, with a focus on more sustainable and equitable transportation alternatives to create better and more connected cities and inhabitants.

Leonard Braun Memorial Scholarship
Trlice Encarnación is currently a Ph.D. student in Transportation Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She holds an M.E. in Industrial and Management Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and an M.S. in Scientific Computing (Statistics) from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. Her research interests are humanitarian logistics and sustainable urban freight. As a research assistant at the VREF Center of Excellence for Sustainable Urban Freight, she participated in several projects to exploit operations research and analytics to better understand freight systems and identify policy interventions that can foster efficient city logistics. In the area of humanitarian logistics, her research is multidisciplinary, integrating principles from management, economics, engineering, and social sciences. By conducting fieldwork in the aftermath of the Nepal Earthquake, Encarnación sought to better understand the performance of emerging collaborative aid networks after disasters. She has received a number of academic accolades, including the 2017 Franz Edelman Finalist Award for her work in the “Off-Hours Delivery Project in New York City,” which evaluated the environmental and economic performance of urban freight systems. She was the winner of the SAS and INFORMS Student Analytical Scholar competition, and has been selected to participate in the MIT Civil and Environmental Engineering Rising Stars Workshop. Encarnación also is a Fellow of the Eno Center for Transportation and received the Academic Excellence Award from the Capital District Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals. She is a development policy fellow of the Korea International Cooperation Agency. After graduation, Encarnación plans to pursue a career in academia, where she hopes to establish a research program that proposes solutions to transportation issues.

WTS-GNY would like to thank the University Transportation Research Center for once again making a $1,000 donation to the Leonard Braun Memorial Scholarship recipient.
Samantha LoVerme is a senior at Manhattan College studying Civil Engineering. She transferred to the school after attending two years at Dutchess Community College and receiving her associate’s degree in Engineering Science. In her first semester at Manhattan, LoVerme helped to form the student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and is currently the secretary. It is through this club that she has discovered an interest in transportation engineering and is able to spread awareness of this branch to fellow engineering classmates. Since her freshman year, LoVerme has been performing an internship with the Chazen Companies in Poughkeepsie. Her responsibilities include development of conceptual plans for commercial sites; truck movement plans; signage plans; utility profiles; and layouts of sanitary sewer, water and stormwater facilities. After graduation, LoVerme plans to work in New York in a transportation engineering-related field. She hopes to make an impact on society through the use of transportation.

Roma Parikh will receive her B.S. in Civil Engineering, with a concentration in Structural Engineering from Manhattan College in May 2018. Among all the engineering courses she has completed thus far, Parikh has found that her interests lie in both Structural and Geotechnical Engineering. She was able to more deeply explore those fields through her internship at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey at Newark International Airport in the Construction Management division during the summer of 2016. Here she marveled at watching a project evolve from concept to reality. In summer 2017, Parikh had the opportunity to do an internship for WSP / Parsons Brinckerhoff USA in the Geotechnical and Tunneling Department. This experience further cemented her passion for design and technical accuracy. In the past few years at Manhattan College, she has immersed herself in many areas of the campus. She was Student Chapter president of the American Society of Civil Engineers; a member of the construction team in Concrete Canoe; student employee for the Campus Ministry and Social Action (CMSA); and an active member in CMSA’s L.I.F.T (Lasallian’s In Faith Together) Program, where she assists in the coordination of school retreats. With the continuing full support of her family and friends, she aspires to obtain a master’s degree to tackle problems that will enhance the community around her.

Susan Miszkowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Susan M. Baer Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Min Kim is pursuing her MBA at New York University Stern School of Business. She received her Master of Public Administration in Public Policy from the University at Albany and her Bachelor of Arts from Amherst College. Kim is a project manager for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, where she develops policy and leads initiatives on ground transportation technology and innovation at the three major airports in the greater New York City metropolitan area. She cares deeply about both the natural and built environment, as well as sustainability and transportation equity. To that end, Kim hopes to continue working at the crossroads of urban planning, innovation and sustainability following the completion of her MBA program.

WTS-GNY would like to thank Arup for its $1,000 donation to the Susan M. Baer Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Susan L. Kupferman Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Gisselle Barrera is a junior studying Civil Engineering at New York University Tandon School of Engineering, with a focus on Transportation Engineering. She is part of the accelerated BS/MS program, where she aims to pursue a master’s in Transportation Engineering specializing in public transportation. Barrera has been on the dean’s list for two consecutive years. Currently, she is a National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME) scholar and a recipient of the Thompson Barlett Fellowship from NYU’s Undergraduate Summer Research Program 2017. She is conducting research with the help of a faculty mentor, Dr. Chow, on the impacts of transfers from an integrated regional transit network in New York. She has collaborated with Dr. Khani, a Civil, Environmental and Geo-Engineering assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, as well as with ReThink Studio, to evaluate the effects that a trunk line consisting of new transit hubs would have in the tri-state area. Barrera intends to pursue a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering immediately after obtaining her master’s degree.

Lucia De La Mora Colunga is pursuing a MS in City and Regional Planning at Pratt Institute. She earned a Bachelor of Architecture with Honors from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). For her undergraduate thesis, De La Mora Colunga conducted an in-depth analysis of the fourth largest transit hub in...
Mexico City. This work allowed her to better understand the complexity of metropolitan transportation networks. Determined to learn more and get involved with social impact projects, she went into the public sector in 2009. Working for the Public Space Authority (AEP) of Mexico City, she was in charge of project management, design and evaluation, as well as serving as the representative for both the AEP and the Department of Housing and Urban Development before government institutions, community organizations and the private sector. Aside from her professional career, De La Mora Colunga continued her academic studies as editor and author of publications and lectures for various institutions. In January 2017, she joined NYCDOT’s Public Space Unit. Throughout her six years in public service, her goal has been to design and participate in productive strategies to create and implement more sustainable and equitable transportation systems in growing cities.

Glass Ceiling

In 2017, WTS-GNY organized and introduced the Glass Ceiling Committee. The committee developed and distributed a survey aimed at better understanding the current state of women’s advancement in both the public and private sectors of the field of transportation throughout the New York region. The committee currently is conducting research that will culminate in a baseline benchmarking study that will enhance understanding of current circumstances; track the progress of women’s advancement in the Greater New York transportation industry; identify barriers to women’s professional advancement; identify programs that companies and agencies provide that support women’s advancement in the profession; and convey information about these programs and best practices to industry leaders. The committee is chaired by Yvonne Lopez-Diaz (HNTB), and includes as its members Patricia Lodge (NYCT), Nameca Parker (NJ Transit), Jennifer Bienemann (HDR), Nicole Hunter (HNTB), Laura Wiles (MTA), and Polina Knaster (Board Liaison).

New York Programs

The New York Programs Committee began 2017 with the 37th Annual Meeting and 20th W/M/S/DBE Expo on January 23rd, 2017 at Club 101. The event, which featured the annual awards ceremony honoring Member of the Year, Sutapa Bhattacharjee; Employer of the Year, Arup; Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership, Denise Berger; Innovative Transportation Solutions Project, NYCDOT Queens Boulevard Safety Improvement Project; and Ray LaHood Award, Patrick Nowakowski, was a great success. The keynote speaker was Stephanie Dawson, COO, PANYNJ.

Following this exciting event, New York Programs held its fourth annual “Learn from a Leader” summer roundtable series from June through August. The series featured Clarelle DeGraffe, deputy director of PATH, PANYNJ; Beth DeAngelo, deputy area manager, Infrastructure & Transportation, WSP / Parsons Brinckerhoff, USA; and Loriann Hoffman, vice president, Talent & Organization Development, MTA New York City Transit Authority. Speakers and attendees discussed a wide range of transportation and career-related topics in a less formal setting with very positive feedback on the networking and educational opportunities provided by this series.

Last, the fall dinner, held on November 15th, 2017, featured Adam Giambrone, director of the Brooklyn Queens Connector (BQX) project. Adam discussed details regarding this exciting project which is a proposed streetcar line which would operate between Brooklyn and Queens. Attendees found the program to be very insightful and informative.

2017 proved to be quite an exciting year in the world of New York Programs!

New Jersey Programs

The New Jersey Programs Committee began 2016 with a networking event in January that was free for members. At this informal event, attendees were encouraged to get to know each other at a venue in Newark.

The Spring Dinner meeting was held in March at the Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick. There was a diverse and dynamic panel discussion related to Transit Villages in New Jersey. The panel was moderated by Mary K. Murphy, executive director of North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. The panel members included Vivian Baker, assistant director, Transit Friendly Land & Use Development, NJ Transit; Annie Hindenlang, executive director, Perth Amboy Office of Economic & Community Development; and Debra Tantleff, founding principal, TANTUM Realty. Each panelist discussed transit-oriented development from the perspective of their organization.

In collaboration with the WTS Philadelphia Chapter, the NJ Programs Committee sponsored the TransConOps session at the TransAction Event in Atlantic City. This break-out session, which included speakers from all of the major NJ transportation agencies, was the most well-attended one at the conference. TransAction is the largest transportation-related conference held in the state of New Jersey.

On April 19th, a free members-only workshop was held to educate members on using social media to increase personal mobility and address transportation needs. The interactive event was held in Newark. Presenters included Rosie Ellis from
Uber; Jay Tedino from TransitScreen; Lynn LaMunyon of Maser Consultants discussing WAZE; and Ahsan Ali from NJDOT discussing NJ 511, Facebook, and Twitter. Everyone in attendance left with a better understanding of how to use these apps to assist with transportation.

The very popular Summer Solstice Celebration was held on June 23rd at Rat’s Restaurant at the Grounds for Sculpture. Although the weather did not fully allow for viewing of the gardens and grounds, this event, which was free for members, was enjoyed by all who attended. The informal atmosphere allowed for one-on-one networking opportunities.

Over the summer months, the NJ Programs Committee organized the annual Learn-from-a-Leader summer roundtable series from June through August. The series featured Lisa Navarro from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority; Dana Hecht from New Jersey Department of Transportation; and Beth DeAngelo from WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff. Speakers and attendees discussed a wide range of transportation and career-related topics in an intimate setting.

The final dinner meeting of the year was held in October at the Cranbury Inn in Cranbury. The topic was Complete Connections – Connected and Autonomous Vehicles. The keynote speaker was Bill Kingsland from NJDOT. Featured speakers included Dr. Joyoung Lee of the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Dr. Nidal Bouynaya of Rowan University; and Cathleen Lewis of New Jersey Automobile Association of America (AAA). Each speaker provided their insight and perspective on this cutting-edge topic.

In addition, the New Jersey Programs Committee coordinated the Emerging Women Leaders Webinar Series in both New York and New Jersey. This was a live webinar presented by Be Leaderly, an organization dedicated to advancing women into leadership roles. These members-only free events were hosted in Newark and Ewing, New Jersey, and in Manhattan. Attendees were encouraged to stay after the webinar’s completion to discuss it and to form a support community for those seeking to move into leadership roles. Webinars were held in February, April, August, October and December.

Communications and Social Media

The WTS-GNY Communications and Social Media Committee provides members with all of the information they need related to Chapter programming, and more broadly, the field of transportation in the New York region through a variety of channels. These include the Chapter’s website, email, and a variety of social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

In addition to its maintenance and expansion of the quality and quantity of information on the Chapter’s website, the committee also created a much more robust presence for the Chapter through the other social media and has a burgeoning group of followers:

- WTS-GNY’s Twitter account (@WTSGNY) continues to grow with 266 followers, including many transportation industry leaders. The Chapter also “live-tweeted” from a few of its large events (annual meeting, panel discussion, and Leadership Council);
- WTS-GNY’s LinkedIn Group has 447 members;
- WTS-GNY’s Facebook page has 108 followers. This has meant an increase in chapter event coverage as followers have uploaded their photos from these programs;
- Hootsuite, a software platform that facilitates management of the many facets of these social media.

Through its more traditional email communications, the Committee designed and issued e-blasts, electronic invitations, and save-the-dates for 35 Chapter events and posted them to the WTS-GNY website. To maximize the effectiveness of these communications, the committee reviewed and updated the WTS-GNY’s Constant Contact account’s database of 692 regular mailings, of which 84 go to affiliate members, 82 to to members of the Young Professionals Committee, and approximately 2,000 to general-interest email addresses.

To streamline the distribution of information, the Committee combined the WTS-GNY Chapter News (formerly the Community Buzz) and the Chapter’s quarterly newsletter. This updated publication also has provided more articles. For example, there were profiles of three female chiefs-of-staff at NYC DOT, MTA, and NYCT, and profiles of the two women who are executive vice presidents of Long Island Rail Road and Metro North Railroad, as well as an interview with a consultant on the benefits and challenges of WBE/DBE certification.

The Chapter website has seen improvements too. There have been numerous event photos posted to the photo gallery as well as the annual conference video and other conference information to the home page. And there is an updated job bank plus updates to other pages. For example, all the annual reports and newsletters are now available on the chapter website.

The Committee is also responsible for organizing and preparing the Chapter’s Annual Report. In addition to its primary mandate, the Committee also arranged two social media workshops presented by Stokes Creative Group, one for the committee and one for the Chapter’s board members and committee chairs.

WTS-GNY Communications and Social Media Committee members include: Donna Tafro, board secretary and committee chair; Adrienne Zicklin Kanter, editor of Chapter News, Newsletter and Annual Report; Stephanie Camay and Beth
DeAngelo, LinkedIn administrators; Donna Williams, Gmail Calendar; Liz Archer, Social Media chair; Jilla Moro, Website; Ani Toncheva, Yvonne Lopez-Diaz, Nicole Pace, and Lucia Accardo; other Social Media volunteers.

**Transportation YOU**

The GNY-Transportation YOU program continues to expand its programming at Science Park High School in Newark, NJ, while growing its partnership with City Polytechnic High School in Brooklyn, NY.

January marked the midpoint of the school/program year with students from both programs attending the WTS-GNY Annual Dinner at 101 Park Avenue and putting their new networking techniques to use, skills and strategies learned in previous professional development workshops. The New York program scheduled its Shadow Your Mentor day the same month, with 15 students visiting and observing eight mentors at their workplaces.

New Jersey scheduled its Shadow Your Mentor day the following month, with four students shadowing mentors in their workplaces. That month, the New York program hosted a Women in Technology site tour and panel discussion for 12 students, which featured a female software developer from Motivate’s Citi Bike group and NYC DOT Select Bus Service planner.

Following that, MTA led a tour of Grand Central Terminal for six New York mentees, while New Jersey’s program organized a safety audit of Science Park High School’s environs.

A particular highlight of this year was the WTS International Conference which was hosted in New York. Six students attended and were given much attention at the conference with a video about the program, created by MTA NYCT.

The Transportation You graduations were held in May and June, ending the 2016-2017 school/program year.

At the end of June, with the support of WTS-GNY, the Transportation YOU program was able to send a mentee and mentor from both the New York and New Jersey programs to the 5-day Transportation YOU Summit in Washington, DC. This was the first year that a mentor/mentee pair from New Jersey attended.

Over the summer, twelve New York Transportation YOU students pursued professional development opportunities in the transportation field with STEM internships at New York City Transit Authority; the New Jersey Transportation YOU program launched its inaugural internship program with one student.

The GNY Transportation YOU 2017-2018 school year programs for New York and New Jersey both kicked off in the fall with mentor-mentee introductions and ice-breaker exercises.

New York added five new mentors into the program for a total of about 11 mentors for 13 new and returning mentees. New Jersey integrated six mentors into its programming for approximately six mentees.

The New Jersey program started off the 2017-18 school year with a tour of Newark Liberty Airport, while the New York program organized a tour of the NYC Ferry system.

The following month, the New Jersey program scheduled a professional development session for mentees with Kate Consulting. The New York program led students on a tour of pedestrian safety projects recently constructed in the immediate surroundings of City Polytechnic High School in Downtown Brooklyn.

In December, Kate Consulting led a professional development workshop for 13 mentees in the New York program, while the New Jersey program hosted its Shadow Your Mentor event with six mentees.

The Transportation You programs for both New York and New Jersey look forward to continuing to flourish and growing their partnerships with City Polytechnic and Science Park High Schools.

**2016–2017 and 2017–2018 Mentoring Program**

**Mentor Participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mentor</th>
<th>New York</th>
<th>New Jersey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erica Swansen</td>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
<td>Yetunde Adelekan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura MacNeil</td>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
<td>Christine Bayley-Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Pichardo</td>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
<td>Cherise Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutapa Bandypadhyay</td>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
<td>Susan Benjamin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aimee Jefferson</td>
<td>Board Liaison</td>
<td>Deborah Hyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eunice Kim</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Glenn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pankti Mehta</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Bird</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shajira Mason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Sneed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Israe Zizaoui</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Terra Ishee</td>
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<td>Merisa Gilman</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jesse Sze</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Morgan Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Fiona Robe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Tennille Green</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carolyn Brazier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nia Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Danny Brooks</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Anne Patroni</td>
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**Student Participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adia Mashariki</td>
<td></td>
<td>Naomi Hicks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SkyLa Franklin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Meghan Alexandre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nianah Connell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ke’onna Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zashauna Kellier</td>
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<td>Destiny Jacobs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Zeng</td>
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<td>Seanniah Jouavel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tashea Nestor</td>
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<td>Summer Phillip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Le'Taya Lyons</td>
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<td>Jasmine Griffith</td>
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<td>Thomson</td>
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<td>Amber Bertrand</td>
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<td>Galina Drozdova</td>
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<td>Kayla Florian</td>
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<td>Brianna Etienne</td>
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<td>Nina Lewis</td>
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<td>Alana Williams</td>
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<td>Tatyana Hinton</td>
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<td>Naomi Jordan</td>
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<td>Paule Ndoba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isis Thomas</td>
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<td>Kaylah Morris</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bryanna Gabriel</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Alexandra Angelo</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sophia Clement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nyashia Braswell</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Adrienna Freitas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Raven Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ivy Robalino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Raina Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Halley Gonzalez</td>
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A critical financial objective of 2017 was maintaining our robust offerings for our WTS-GNY members hosting the 2017 WTS International Conference, held in Brooklyn in May, thanks largely to our dedicated corporate partners. We collected $88,000 in corporate partner funds for our current 2017-18 sponsorship period, plus an additional $13,000 from the prior sponsorship period, enabling us to cover the additional costs associated with hosting the conference. We have always leaned heavily on our corporate partners who enable us to deliver the kind of events and benefits that greatly enhance the value of a WTS-GNY membership. Please see page 2 for a list of the many dedicated companies that support WTS-GNY and the advancement of women in the transportation industry.

We also doubled the scope of our Transportation YOU program in 2017, adding a New Jersey program at Science Park High School in Newark alongside our Brooklyn program at City Polytechnic High School. And we continued to expand and diversify our program offerings.

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### 2017 Budget Summary

**Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
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<td>Bank Interest</td>
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<td>$186.95</td>
<td>$182.17</td>
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<td>Monthly Programs and Workshops</td>
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<td>Membership Events</td>
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<td>Corporate Partners</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$171,946.20</strong></td>
<td><strong>$189,623.07</strong></td>
<td><strong>$188,053.56</strong></td>
<td><strong>$189,603.68</strong></td>
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**Expenses**

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<td>President</td>
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<td>$405.80</td>
<td>$630.36</td>
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<td>Board Training</td>
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<td>Bank Fees</td>
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<td>Credit Card Processing Fees</td>
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<td>Monthly Programs and Workshops</td>
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<td>Transportation YOU</td>
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<td>Corporate Relations</td>
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<td>Board Expenses**</td>
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<td>Photography</td>
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<td>Young Professionals</td>
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<td>2017 WTS International Conference Committee</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>International Conference Attendance Scholarships</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$159,045.67</strong></td>
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<td>Money Donated to WTS Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>$21,275.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses including Deposit to Scholarship Account</strong></td>
<td><strong>$132,325.67</strong></td>
<td><strong>$166,360.54</strong></td>
<td><strong>$180,320.67</strong></td>
<td><strong>$151,977.15</strong></td>
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**Net Revenue After Distributions**

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<tr>
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<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>WTS Scholarship Account Balance (December 2016)</td>
<td>$90,962.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>WTS Scholarship Account Balance (December 2017)</td>
<td>$102,840.09</td>
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* Includes $13,000 from the 2015-16 corporate partnership program that was received in January 2017.

** Board Expenses include food at board meetings, conference call line, communications tools, professional memberships, and supplies.

*** An additional $8,290 – which includes proceeds from the March 2017 scholarship fundraiser event and 2017 Gala raffle, plus individual donations received in late 2017 – was deposited in January 2018 and will be reflected in our 2018 Annual Report.
WTS–GNY Board of Directors 2016–2018

President
Polina Knaster
HDR
polina.knaster@hdrinc.com

Vice Presidents
Colleen Connolly (NJ)  
Malick & Scherer
cconnolly@malickandscherer.com
Sandra Forte (NY)  
deceased
VHB
Julia Kerson (NY)
City of New York
jkerson@gmail.com

Treasurer
Elizabeth Hynes
Parsons
Elizabeth.Hynes@parsons.com

Secretary
Donna Tafro
MTA
wtsgny.communications@gmail.com

Directors-At-Large
Lisa DiTaranti
VHB
LDiTaranti@VHB.com
Keri Cibelli
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kcibelli@akrf.com
Ella McLeod
MTA NYCT
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