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## Annual Banquet Recognizes Transportation Leaders

The Treasure Valley Chapter of the Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) recognized leaders in the transportation industry at its annual awards banquet, held Dec. 3 at the Hampton Inn in Boise.

WTS Chapter President Lisa Vernon announced the selection of the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) as Employer of the Year. She also named Stanley Consultants, Inc., as winner of the Innovative Transportation Solutions of the Year award for its work on the new Interstate 84/Vista Interchange project.



*ITD Deputy Director L. Scott Stokes accepts the WTS Employer of the Year award from Lisa Vernon.*

ITD Deputy Director L. Scott Stokes accepted the award on behalf of ITD and its employees. WTS cited the department's outstanding leadership and its record of supporting women in the transportation industry as reasons for receiving the award.

ITD has an authorized workforce of 1,833 employees. The agency maintains six district offices and provides services that range from highway maintenance and construction to motor vehicle services, public transportation, aeronautics, planning and administration.

Bob Bruce, a Project Principal for Stanley Consultants, accepted the firm's award. The Vista Interchange project is being funded by the ITD under the GARVEE program. Stanley Consultants was selected as the prime consulting firm responsible for the project's preliminary and final designs.

Stanley completed both designs in just nine months. A more traditional schedule would have taken two years. In addition to coordinating with ITD and Connecting Idaho Partners, Stanley also worked with the Ada County Highway District, the city of Boise, Boise Airport and adjoining I-84 design teams.

Vernon, who is operations manager for WHPacific Inc.'s Boise office, was selected WTS Chapter Member of the Year. She has more than 21 years of experience managing and designing road, bridge and building projects in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Vernon, a charter member of WTS Treasure Valley, has served on its board since 2007 and as its president since January 2009.

Banquet attendees also heard Phil Eastman from Leadership Advisors talk about character and leadership.



Advancing Women in Transportation  
Treasure Valley Chapter

[www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.org)

## EVENT CALENDAR

### **MARCH**

An update on the Boise Streetcar Project  
Mayor Dave Bieter  
Wednesday,  
March 24th  
Noon-1 p.m.  
Berryhill & Co.

### **APRIL**

Parking and Transportation at Boise State University: An Overview  
Jared Everett  
Executive Director Finance Planning, and Safety  
BSU  
Wednesday, April 21  
Noon-1 p.m.  
BSU (Exact location to be announced)

### **MAY**

An update on the Downtown Boise Multimodal Transportation Center  
Kelli Fairless  
Executive Director, Valley Regional Transit  
Wednesday, May 19  
Noon-1 p.m.  
WHPacific

## Teamwork can lead to success

WTS Treasure Valley Chapter expanded their sphere of influence in a joint venture with East Junior High School on January 28.

When Boise State Football Assistant Coach Viliami Tuivai offered to speak to the WTS Chapter, the Board agreed that this was an opportunity to create some community connections. With the cooperation of East Junior High Principal David Roberts and Athletic Director Chad Chigbrow, the event began to take shape.

More than 350 people attended the noon hour event at the new East Junior High gymnasium. Coach Tuivai motivated everyone as he spoke to the group on the "Ten Characteristics of Success." Focusing on personal success through teamwork, the group learned what being on the same page as your teammates looks and feels like. The overall thought was to set goals, and work everyday to bring them about. Coach Tuivai showed us all that while there are no absolute guarantees in life, the odds of success increase dramatically by doing so.

Coach Tuivai brought along two special guests. Brandon Thompson, Defensive MVP, and Kyle Effaw, Offensive MVP, of the 2010 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Both players addressed the group and answered questions from the crowd.

Sincere thanks to Coach Tuivai for his time and to the staff of East Junior High for accommodating us all!



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Advancing Women in Transportation  
Treasure Valley Chapter

## Membership Update

WTS Treasure Valley is getting ready to celebrate the third anniversary of the creation of our chapter under WTS International. Over that period of time we have achieved a lot of exciting milestones. Our membership has increased by more than 50 percent. We held two awards banquets and have initiated our chapter's scholarship program. Finally, we have started a very successful corporate sponsor program.

The board encourages all the members to get involved in the activities of the organization. We will be holding our annual board retreat in late February so stay tuned for some fun ways to get involved.

*The Transportable Word is published four times a year by the Treasure Valley Chapter of WTS International. Please send questions and comments to Kelli Fairless at [kfairless@valleyregionaltransit.org](mailto:kfairless@valleyregionaltransit.org)*

## WTS International schedules annual conference

The 2010 WTS International Annual Conference is scheduled for May 19-21, 2010 in Washington D.C.

More details:

- The event will be held at the Capital Hilton in Washington D.C. The WTS room block rate is \$249 a night. Rooms can be reserved by visiting: [http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/DCASHHH-WTS-20100517/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/DCASHHH-WTS-20100517/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG) or by calling 1-800-HILTONS and using the code "Womens Transportation Seminar."
- For "Conference at a Glance" information: visit: [http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/DCASHHH-WTS-20100517/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/DCASHHH-WTS-20100517/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)
- To download conference registration materials, visit: [http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/DCASHHH-WTS-20100517/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/DCASHHH-WTS-20100517/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)
- The early registration deadline is April 19th. Late registration ends May 5th.

## WTS Member Profile

Amy Elliott has served on the WTS Treasure Valley Board of Directors since the chapter began in 2007. Amy held the position of secretary and is transitioning into her position as chapter secretary this year.

Amy currently works for CH2M Hill as a traffic engineer. She said she did some hopping around between majors in college, spending some time working on an accounting degree. After trying on a couple of engineering specialties in college, Amy realized helping communities fix traffic problems was her passion.

The WTS Dallas Chapter selected Amy for a scholarship her senior year at Texas A&M. This was her first contact with the organization. She then became involved with the WTS chapter in Seattle once she started working for CH2M HILL. It didn't take long for the local Treasure Valley Chapter to recruit Amy for a leadership role. "It's been fun to be involved in the formation of the chapter and seeing it grow in the Treasure Valley," Amy said.

Amy enjoys staying active and is game for trying about anything at least once. She does a lot of trail running and plays intramural volleyball and softball. She took up road biking this past summer and will do more rides when the weather improves. Amy even played roller derby for a period, but decided running and cycling were more her pace. You will see Amy also spending time on Nordic trails where she enjoys skiing and snow shoeing.

