HOTCHARDER NEUSICE

2019 VOLUME 2 July 12, 2019



Advancing Women in Transportation Heart of Texas Chapter

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Letter
- Girlstart Career Panels
- 15th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala and Winners
- Mentorship Program
- WTS Annual Conference
- UT Student Chapter Awards

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT Jackie Sartor

Senior Marketing Coordinator Freese & Nichols

VICE PRESIDENT Ashley Williams

Research Administrator Center for Transportation

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Greetings!

Wow – what an amazing spring we had! From fabulous speakers to exquisite events, it was a busy 2nd quarter here with the Heart of Texas Chapter. We continue to break records with attendance at our luncheons and other events and had 414 registrants for our 15th Annual Gala on April 26th!

May continued the excitement with the Annual Conference held in Boston May 15-18th where speakers included our very own Mike Trimble and Susan Daniels with the City of Austin and Gina Gallegos of TxDOT. We had 13 attendees representing the Heart of Texas Chapter and our chapter took home the Circle of Excellence Gold Award – the highest level of recognition a chapter can achieve for its yearly activity. You can read more about this year's conference further down in the newsletter.

Our mentoring program continues to gain momentum and it will cover an amazing slate of topics through the summer and into the fall. On June 1st we had a Bike and Brunch in conjunction with the Capital ITE Chapter that had 30 attendees and we look forward to partnering with other organizations on events in the future. Our summer Lattes and Leadership session is underway, and our Committee Chairs and Executive Board are already planning for next year's programs. So now is a great time to get more involved in the chapter! Just contact the individual committee chairs, or anyone on the Executive Board and we will get you plugged in!

Research/UT Austin

secretary <u>Tonia Norman</u>

Research Specialist TxDOT

TREASURER

Laura Friello, PE

Project Manager Garver USA

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Lindsay Wood, PE

Texas Rail and Transit Manager WSP USA



Page 1 | Vol 2

Also, be on the lookout over the next few weeks for information about our Corporate Partners and Members-only reception to be held in August as well as more information on our Professional Development Seminar (PDS) Day on Friday, September 27th.

Thank you all for everything you do daily to help us attract, sustain and advance women in the transportation industry!

President's Letter continued on the next page...

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS

Brianna Frey Associate Planner Asakura Robinson

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

<u>Caitlin D'Alton</u> Senior Planner Capital Metro

GALA CHAIR

<u>Erika Esparza</u> Management Analyst TxDOT

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Yvonne Garcia Thomas, PE

Manager of Geotechnical Engineering Raba Kistner

MENTORING CHAIR

<u>Melanie Norrell</u> Director of Business Development AECOM

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Elizabeth Welch

Freight Analyst Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

<u>Geetha Chandar</u>

Senior Bridge Engineer TxDOT

PROGRAMS CHAIR Carine Choubassi, PE

Transportation Planning Engineer Jacobs

RECOGNITIONS CHAIR Jessica Kessinger, PE

Supervising Traffic Manager WSP USA

REGIONAL COUNCIL Erin Gonzales, PE

Director of Transportation BGE, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIP CO-CHAIRS Shadi Hakimi, PE

Senior Transportation Analyst

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

I'd like to challenge each of us to do one thing every week to attract, promote, or connect women in our industry. It can be as simple as liking or sharing a LinkedIn post or introducing a female colleague to someone they don't yet know at a meeting or event. Through repetition, these acts will become second nature to us and then we will truly be able to effect change in our industry from within to provide women with not only a valued seat at the table, but an active voice in the conversation.

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

All the best,

Jackie Sartor

GIRLSTART CAREER PANELS

Lisa Loftus-Otway, WTS Regional Board Member, coordinated two career panels for young girls attending the Girlstart summer camps at Fuentes Elementary in Kyle and at Pfluger Elementary in Buda on June 13 and 20, 2019, respectively. Girlstart was very appreciative of our efforts.

Each participant addressed these questions:

1. Who are you, what were your degrees, what company/ agency you work for, and what do you do in your job?

2. Why were you drawn to transportation and what changes do you anticipate for the future?





Atkins

Adeliza Ramirez, PE Transportation Engineer TxDOT

STUDENT LIAISON CHAIR

Natalia Zuniga-Garcia

Graduate Student UT Austin

TRANSPORTATION YOU CHAIR

<u>Mary Jo Galindo</u>

Senior Archaeologist Galindo Environmental Consulting, LLC



Page 2 | Vol 2



WTS HOT Chapter President Jackie Sartor, VP Ashley Williams, Treasurer Laura Friello, Melanie Norrell, Lindsay Wood, Gian Claudia Sciara, Odette Tan, Lizzie Welch, Ashley McLain, and Nicole McGrath participated in the career panels, which were moderated by Lisa Loftus-Otway. Susanna Gallun took photos and served as timekeeper.





2019 WTS HEART OF TEXAS CHAPTER ANNUAL GALA

On Friday, April 26, 2019, the WTS Heart of Texas Chapter held its 15th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Austin. Themed as this year's Black and White Ball, with an audience of approximately 414 attendees, the evening commenced with a formal dinner and reception whereby the WTS HOT Chapter issued a total of \$35,000 in scholarships to women at the undergraduate, graduate, and high school levels, as they aspire to become professionals in transportation industry. In as much, many distinguished leaders from within the local area were also recognized for their remarkable efforts and contributions in support of WTS's goals and mission to advancing women in transportation. In celebration of all scholarship and award recipients for their accomplishments, the event then opened up to a casino night of fun and entertainment. It is with gratitude and appreciation that we thank all of our event sponsors, corporate partners, agency partners, affiliate partners, all donors and volunteers, and especially all attendees and guests for making this year's gala a huge success!

2019 WTS HOT Chapter Award Recipients

- Innovative Transportation Solutions: Austin-Bergstrom International Airport for the \$350M East Wing Terminal and Apron Expansion project
- Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award: Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Honorable Ray LaHood "Man of the Year": Will Conley, American Structurepoint
- Woman of the Year: Ms. Dee Anne Heath, Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority
- Employer of the Year: Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Member of the Year Award: Dr. Mary Jo Galindo, Galindo Environmental

2019 WTS Scholarship Award Recipients

• See summary on page 4

















Advancing Women in Transportation Heart of Texas Chapter

Page 3 | Vol 2





Helen M. Overly Memorial Scholarship

The winner of the Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 is Ms. Christine Cheng.

Christine is a Transportation Engineering Master's student at The University of Texas at Austin and previously earned her B.S. in Civil Engineering Honors there during which she also won the WTS Moltoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates. Christine is currently conducting research with the City of Austin to develop a data-centric methodology for prioritizing their annual traffic signal retiming efforts and identifying appropriate performance metrics. She currently serves as the Vice President of Graduate Affairs for UT's WTS chapter and enjoys coordinating social, professional, and outreach events for graduate and undergraduate members. In her spare time, she loves spending time with family, serving with her local church, cycling, and playing frisbee in the unpredictable Austin weather.



Maggie Walsh Leadership Legacy Scholarship

The winner of the Leadership Legacy Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 is Ms. Olivia Posner.

Olivia is a second-year graduate student in the Community and Regional Planning (CRP) department at The University of Texas's School of Architecture. After five years of political organizing and event planning for campaigns and the US Department of Transportation (US DOT), Olivia decided to attend graduate school to learn how high-level decisions she saw coming together at the US DOT affected city planners and residents at the local level. In Austin, she has supported the US DOT funded University Transportation Center (UTC), which coordinates research on regional transportation across UT and partner institutions amongst planners, architects, and engineers. She has also worked to research the future of Austin's public transportation in the Office of the Mayor. She is interested in building a career that situates her within the intersections of transportation, urban design and planning, technology, and affordability so that she can work with stakeholders that anticipate the future of our cities with forethought.



Page 4 | Vol 2

Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

The winner of the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 is Ms. Devin Wilkins.

Devin is a senior at The University of Texas pursuing simultaneous degrees in Civil Engineering (Honors) and Studio Art. She has been a part of several research projects at The University of Texas as well as at the Pontifical Catholic University in Santiago. Her career interests are in the field of public transit planning. She plans to pursue graduate studies in transportation engineering.

Scholarship Winners continued on the next page...



f in S

Scholarship Winners continued...



WTS Molitoris Leadership Scholarship Award

The winner of the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 is Ms. Mary Visconti.

Mary is a sophomore, Civil Engineering major, with a concentration in transportation. WTS was introduced to her as a junior in high school when she was brought to a Lattes & Leadership meeting by a coworker at her first civil engineering internship. She enjoyed attending these meetings so much, she now makes a great effort to be as active in WTS as possible. During school breaks, she attends WTS HOT events in her hometown of Austin, TX. She also volunteers for the annual Scholarship & Awards Gala.

Mary has interned at the City of Austin, TxDOT, and at private civil engineering firms.

WTS has been a crucial influence in how she has developed her career path. By witnessing the members achievements and leadership capabilities, she is able to envision her own, as being a future innovator in transportation.



Transportation YOU High School Scholarship

The winner of the TransportationYOU Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 is Ms. Madison Corson.

Madison has always had a passion for math and science. Through observing her mom's work on transportation projects over the past few years, she has become interested in engineering and the wide variety of projects that contribute to society. With a goal to serve others, this is something she aspires to do in her career. Madison will be attending Texas A&M University where she has been accepted into the Honors Engineering program, and plans to study civil engineering.



Page 5 | Vol 2

Friends of WTS Scholarship sponsored by WSP



The winner of the Friends of WTS Scholarship, sponsored by WSP in the amount of \$2,500 is Erin Nolan.

Erin Nolan is a senior at the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders and is an Engineering pathway student. Outside of school she participated in the ACE mentorship program for three years. This program gives teams a challenge to virtually construct a building in a different country, but they must overcome obstacles that are a part of the challenge. It was in this program that Erin found her passion for engineering and architecture. She will attend The University of Texas at Austin in the fall, pursuing a dual degree in Architecture and Architectural Engineering.

Scholarship Winners continued on the next page...



Scholarship Winners continued...



Friends of WTS Scholarship sponsored by SAM

The winner of the Friends of WTS Scholarship, sponsored by SAM in the amount of \$2,500 is Manasa Sudunagunta.



Manasa is a National Merit Finalist and an active competitor on the LASA Science Olympiad Team. She will be majoring in Earth Science at the University of Pennsylvania. She plans on working in the energy industry, which greatly affects transportation, and its effects on climate. She has previously completed research in Analytical Chemistry and Geophysics. However, she finds that her most valuable experience has been her internship at the UT Institute for Geophysics.

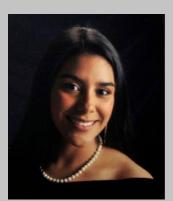


Friends of WTS Scholarship sponsored by Garver

The winner of the Friends of WTS Scholarship, sponsored by Garver in the amount of \$2,500 is Riley Bryars.



Riley will be starting her freshman year at Clemson University in the fall and majoring in engineering. Riley is proud to be the founder and president of the Women In S.T.E.M. club at her school and is also a member of the PALS mentoring and serving organization. She volunteers to serve the community in ways such as the Playground Project, a project she started with a teacher to build a playground for a local preschool or being a dance buddy to a special needs student. Riley says she is so grateful for the opportunity that the WTS Heart of Texas chapter has given her to pursue an education in an area she loves.



Page 6 | Vol 2

Friends of WTS Scholarship sponsored by Pape-Dawson

The winner of the Friends of WTS Scholarship, sponsored by Pape-Dawson in the amount of \$2,500 is Olga Hernandez.



Olga Hernandez is a current senior at the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. She is the oldest of three and is a first generation student. Her passion for engineering started at a young age as she has been raised around an environment where there were no restrictions and she could let her creativity flow. She will be attending Texas State University where she will be double majoring in Construction Science and Civil Engineering. After receiving her bachelors, she will get her certification to become a Project Manager and work for a commercial construction company. She hopes to serve as a positive figure for younger girls who are looking into majoring in the engineering field. Overall, her goal is to decrease the inequality between male and female in the engineering field and serve as a role model for everyone.





We launched the second year of our chapter's mentorship program with 22 participants, including:

MENTEES

- Andrea Bryant, Aguirre & Fields
- Julia Colman, Alliance Transportation Group
- Qichun Dai, AECOM
- Ashley Davison, Kimley-Horn
- Christina M. Edgar, EIT, Michael Baker International
- Rachel Gandy, Halff Associates
- Clare Kane, Jacobs
- Abril Matysek, CDM Smith
- Clare McKinney, Garver
- Anamaria Torres, Stantec
- Patricia Trujillo, Fugro

Page 7 | Vol 2

MENTORS

- Al Alonzi, FHWA
- Heathery Ashley-Nguyen, TxDOT
- Shari Cannon Mackey, Burns & McDonald
- Joe Cantelupo, K Friese & Associates
- Susan Fraser, TxDOT
- Scott Haywood, HNTB
- Dee Anne Heath, CTRMA
- Stephanie Messerli, Jacobs
- Jason Jon Michael, City of Austin
- Dottie Watkins, Capital Metro
- Cinde Weatherby, Weatherby Consulting

We sent out our request for applications of interest in January, mentor-mentee 'matching' occurred in February, and an informal kickoff with our program participants occurred in March at Genuine Joe's in North Austin. After providing some details around the structure of this year's program, the mentorship committee encouraged mingling of all attendees in a speed networking style of conversation (a challenge to pull off in the venue's space, but we made it work!)

In April, our program participants met at CapMetro's offices for a panel discussion on Planning and Pivoting Your Career Path. Panelists included Dottie Watkins, Vice President, Bus Operations and Maintenance at Capital Metro, and Wendy Lopez, senior vice president and regional Transportation leader at AECOM.

Dottie began her transit career in 1994 driving a UT shuttle bus part-time while in college. She was also previously interim general manager of StarTran, Inc., where she was responsible for 900 employees providing bus and paratransit services. Dottie also chaired APTA's Bus Operations Committee from October 2014 to May 2019.



March Kickoff Event



Over a 20-year span, **Wendy Lopez** founded her own engineer consulting company and saw to its successful growth and acquisition. She is a recognized leader in the Texas transportation industry and was recently inducted into her alma mater's Ragin' Cajun College of Engineering Hall of Honor.

Dottie Watkins



Wendy Lopez

Mentorship Program Update continued on the next page...



Mentorship Program continued...



Lorena Echeverria



Kristie Gonzales speaks to WTS Heart of Texas chapter mentorship participants.

Though in absentia, former TxDOT Director of Transportation Planning and Development Division and 2018 WTS Member of the Year **Lorena Echeverria** also shared written insight of her experiences as a female leader in the transportation industry.

In May, WSP hosted our mentorship group for a conversation about Networking & Business Etiquette presented by **Kristie Gonzales**, President and General Manager of KVUE and Austin Chamber of Commerce Vice Chair. Kristie manages a staff of more than 125 employees who produce 33 hours of award-winning live news and programming each week. Under her leadership, KVUE became the most-watched news station, winning five out of seven weekday news time periods among the coveted demographic of adults aged 25 to 54 in the February 2019 ratings period.

Many thanks to our mentorship committee for their continued efforts to build another successful program this year: <u>Lindsay Wood</u>, <u>Melanie Norrell</u>, and <u>Abril Matysek</u>; and executive board sponsors <u>Jackie Sartor</u> and <u>Ashley Williams</u>. If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to one of these women at their linked email addresses above.

WTS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The WTS 2019 Conference, "The Hub of Ingenuity," was held May 15-17 in Boston, MA. In total, the Heart of Texas Chapter was represented by 13 attendees and speakers.



Jackie and Ashley attended the Chapter Leader Breakfast on Wednesday morning. WTS Executive Director Sara Stickler and Membership and Chapter Relations Director April Rai discussed the many changes occurring at international, including reporting lines and responsibilities and introduced new team members. They also discussed the timeline and rollout of the new membership database and website, which are also tied into the WTS brand refresh activity. Elizabeth Faulkner of EnviroIssues provided an update on the WTS brand-refresh.

Two Professional Development Workshops were held in conjunction with this years' conference: "Mindful Leadership is at the Heart of Success" and "Turbo Boost Your Productivity and Get Focused." Ashley attended the "Get Focused" workshop.

A few takeaways from this training:

• Your brain can be re-trained.

Page 8 | Vol 2

- If you want to be more productive at work stop overthinking, create focus-change thoughts to be more productive.
- In stressful situations, try to be curious and less furious.
- Remember, if everything is important, then nothing is important.

WTS Conference Update continued on the next page...





Breakout sessions held each day of the conference were focused on the conference themes of leadership development, ingenuity in resilience, embracing innovation through policy and funding, and transformation in mobility.

Thursday kicked off with a plenary panel featuring women DOT leaders. This amazing group of women shared their thoughts ranging from the importance of mentorship and career navigation to leadership style and decision making.

Keynote speaker Katty Kay took the stage for the lunchtime session. Kay serves as lead anchor for BBC World News America. She spoke about the value of confidence in the workplace, letting go of perfection, and choosing action over rumination. "With diligent effort, we can all choose to expand our confidence. But we will get there only if we stop trying to be perfect and start being prepared to fail."

The Friday Plenary Panel, Women of the Year, was an opportunity to hear from extraordinary women from each of the regions who have been recognized by their chapter as women of the year. The Southwest region had TxDOT Construction Division Director Gina Gallegos P.E. as their representative on the panel. Gina gave an overview of her career path within TxDOT and encouraged women to consider construction as a career path within transportation.



One of Friday morning's Breakout sessions featured Director Mike Trimble and Assistant Director Susan Daniels with the City of Austin Corridor Program Implementation Office. Mike and Susan were part of a panel with Karla Avis-Birch of Metrolinx in Toronto.



Friday's lunchtime keynote speaker was Allie Kelly. She helped found The Ray in 2015; and is its Executive Director. The Ray is a "proving ground for the evolving ideas and technologies that will transform the transportation infrastructure of the future, and it starts on 18 miles of West Georgia's I-85, and the land and communities surrounding it." Kelly spoke to attendees about the innovations in transportation being introduced at The Ray. These range in scope from solar roads to smart planting; from tire safety check stations to rubber roads.

The Heart of Texas Chapter also received the Gold Level of WTS Circle of Excellence. This was revamped by the WTS International Board this past year to be more reflective of chapter activities and based on feedback received from

a committee of chapter leaders from around the country.

Mark your calendars and Save the Date for the WTS 2020 Annual Conference next year in Phoenix, May 20-22nd!



Advancing Women in Transportation Heart of Texas Chapter

Page 9 | Vol 2

PREVIOUS EVENTS





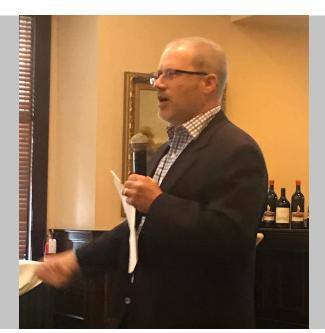
MARCH LUNCHEON

Kathleen Baireuther, Senior Manager at Ford Smart Mobility, shared her thoughts on smart cities and Ford's latest work and contributions in this domain. Kathleen gave her insight on some of the latest technologies and the importance of communication and collaboration in making sure that cities benefit from implementing these new solutions.

APRIL LUNCHEON

The WTS-HOT April luncheon featured Ashby Johnson, Director of CAMPO. Ashby provided attendees with an update on CAMPO's latest projects and upcoming work. Ashby then opened it up to the attendees to share their thoughts and ideas on what else they think CAMPO should be working on.





Page 10 | Vol 2

MAY LUNCHEON

Al Alonzi, Division Administrator at FHWA, provided attendees with insight into innovation, its definition and implications in the transportation sector. Al encouraged transportation professionals to start thinking outside the box and to incorporate innovation in all the work they do at all stages. Al also informed attendees of FHWA's latest endeavors in Texas and its efforts in promoting innovation in its work.

BIKE-N-BRUNCH

WTS-HOT, in collaboration with ITE-CAS, organized its first biken-brunch event of the year. Attendees met at Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop and went on a one-hour bike tour around the Downtown Austin neighborhoods, exploring all the new protected bike lanes and shared-use paths that the City of Austin has constructed over the past few years. The tour ended with a brunch at Polvos where members enjoyed good food and a well-deserved rest.







MEMBER UPDATE

F	in	

Member	Employer
A K M Abir	CDM Smith, Inc.
Lorena Echeverria de Misi	Not Listed
Jerry Hilbig	Surveying and Mapping, LLC
Rose Jerome	Denton County Transportation Authority
Dawn Scheel	City of Round Rock
Katie Strain	Not Listed
Brandy Waters	Sunland Group
Isis Hernandez	AECOM
Daniel Wong	Michael Baker International
Linda Huff	Freese & Nichols
Lisa Culbertson	LAN
Ken McHenry	Burns McDonald
Kelly Porter	САМРО
Greg Lancaster	САМРО
Zack Lofton	САМРО
Andres Junca	САМРО
Emily Hepworth	САМРО
Connor Dansevich	САМРО
Daniella Madubuike	CAPMETRO

Member	Employer
Adrienne Boer	TxDOT
Irma Gonzalez	MLA Geotechnical, Inc.
Mark Isaak	Isaak Advisory Group
Sarah Korpita	Gessner Engineering
Angel-Lina Soutdarany	Atkins
Jaylia Travis	O.R. Colan Associates, LLC
Zhao Huimin	Not Listed
Yarimel Ledezma	Michael Baker International
Andrea Klocinski	CP&Y
Ashley Davison	Kimley Horn
Nicole Deskus	HW Lochner
Sarah Holifield	Burns McDonald
Ryan Collins	CAMPO
Nirav Ved	CAMPO
Nick Samuel	CAMPO
Lena Reese	CAMPO
Todd Gibson	CAMPO
Jordan Smith	CAPMETRO

WTS STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE



The WTS UT Student Chapter won two awards within the Women in Engineering Program at the Cockrell School of Engineering! Congratulation students! The awards are as follows:

• Team Work Excellence Award: Awarded to an organization



who fosters cooperation, collaboration, open communication and active involvement as part of Leadership Collaborative & Women in Engineering Program.

• Support Excellence Award: Recognizes an organization that demonstrates excellence in the fulfillment of its purpose, supporting their membership & leadership development as well as campus life enhancement.

Our members had a wonderful time volunteering at the WTS Heart of Texas Chapter's 15th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala! Congratulations to our scholarship winners!

To celebrate the end of classes, our chapter hosted a joint picnic party with ITE/ITS and enjoyed delicious BBQ, board games, slacklining, frisbee, and fun!



Page 11 | Vol 2

WE HAVE TWO NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS! THANK YOU HUITT-ZOLLARS (SILVER LEVEL PARTNER) AND KCI TECHNOLOGIES (GOLD LEVEL PARTNER).



2019 CORPORATE & AGENCY PARTNERS

Platinum







Gold

ATKINS Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

H))))

GARVER



AMERICAN

JACOBS







Gorrondona & Associates, Inc.

STRUCTUREPOINT











Kimley »Horn

Expect More. Experience Better.



Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.

A LEO A DALY COMPANY





Page 12 | Vol 2



2019 CORPORATE & AGENCY PARTNERS

















Page 13 | Vol 2