

# HOT Chapter Newsletter

2019 VOLUME 1  
March 11, 2019



*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
Heart of Texas Chapter

## IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Newsletter
- Member Spotlight
- UT Girl's Day
- Annual Gala Save the Date

## BOARD MEMBERS

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**Jackie Sartor**

Senior Marketing Coordinator  
Freese & Nichols

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Research Administrator  
Center for Transportation  
Research/UT Austin

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TxDOT

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Project Manager  
Garver USA

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**Lindsay Wood, PE**

Texas Rail and Transit Manager  
WSP USA

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Greetings WTS Colleagues and friends,

I'm so excited to share with you that 2019 is off to an amazing start for our chapter!

January started off with a bang! On the 19th our committee chairs and board of directors met at the offices of Freese and Nichols, Inc. for a half-day strategic planning session.

On Tuesday the 22nd, we held our Annual Business Luncheon which brought with it a review and celebration of our success in 2018 as well as a look ahead for the coming year. We also officially transitioned from our outgoing 2018 Committee Chairs and Board of Directors to our new 2019 Committee Chairs and Board of Directors. There are several familiar faces on the board who've moved into different roles and we are excited to welcome fresh ideas and perspectives from some of our new Committee Chairs.

Capital Metro President and CEO Randy Clarke and Dean Sharon Wood of the UT Cockrell School of Engineering are our honorary members for 2019. Randy Clarke was on hand at the Annual Business Luncheon to regale us with a look at the winding career path that led him to the Live Music Capitol of the World. And we look forward to Dean Wood speaking at an event later this year.

February was full of love and big hearts across the Heart of Texas Chapter! We kicked off the month with a wildly successful Kendra Give Back fundraising event at the Domain and as a result, Kendra Scott will be contributing \$1,276 to our chapter that we can roll into scholarships and additional silent auction items for the gala.

On February 15th the winning bidder of last year's live auction item of the bird hunt converged on the Pitt Creek Ranch in Lampasas.

February 19th brought our largest luncheon to date with over 150 registrants eager to hear about Atlas 14 from Saul Nuccitelli of TxDOT and Kevin Shrunk with the City of Austin. And on Saturday the 23rd, we had a great group of volunteers on hand at the UT Austin Girl Day STEM event helping kids build and load test bridges made of marshmallows and toothpicks.

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



# COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Brianna Frey**  
Associate Planner  
Asakura Robinson

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

**Caitlin D’Alton**  
Senior Planner  
Capital Metro

## GALA CHAIR

**Erika Esparza**  
Management Analyst  
TxDOT

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

**Yvonne Garcia Thomas, PE**  
Manager of Geotechnical Engineering  
Raba Kistner

## MENTORING CHAIR

**Melanie Norrell**  
Director of Business Development  
AECOM

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Elizabeth Welch**  
Freight Analyst  
Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

**Geetha Chandar**  
Senior Bridge Engineer  
TxDOT

## PROGRAMS CHAIR

**Carine Choubassi, PE**  
Transportation Planning Engineer  
Jacobs

## RECOGNITIONS CHAIR

**Jessica Kessinger, PE**  
Supervising Traffic Manager  
WSP USA

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**Erin Gonzales, PE**  
Director of Transportation  
BGE, Inc.

## SCHOLARSHIP CO-CHAIRS

**Shadi Hakimi, PE**  
Senior Transportation Analyst  
Atkins

**Adeliza Ramirez, PE**  
Transportation Engineer  
TxDOT

## STUDENT LIAISON CHAIR

**Natalia Zuniga-Garcia**  
Graduate Student  
UT Austin

## TRANSPORTATION YOU CHAIR

**Mary Jo Galindo**  
Senior Archaeologist  
Galindo Environmental Consulting, LLC



# PRESIDENT’S LETTER CONTINUED

As we rolled into March, along came SXSW at which some of our colleagues like Lisa-Loftus Otway (current WTS International Board of Directors Member and 2013-2014 HOT Chapter President) participated in interactive panels.

With all the hustle and bustle of March in Austin, what better time for a luncheon topic on Smart Mobility? Join us March 20th to hear from Kathleen Baireuther, a Senior Manager in Ford Smart Mobility’s City Solutions practice.

And we will close out the first quarter with a March Madness Membership Recruiting and Networking event on March 28th . Be on the lookout for an announcement to come in the near future.

And as we look ahead, don’t forget to get your tickets to our 15th Annual Gala which will be at the Hyatt Regency along Lady Bird Lake on Friday, April 26th . This year’s theme is a Black and White Ball. For more information on tickets, sponsorships or to donate live or silent auction items, please contact our gala chair Erika Esparza at: [gala@wtshotchapter.org](mailto:gala@wtshotchapter.org).

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



LIZZIE WELCH

### QUICK FACTS:

- Freight Analyst at Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
- Passionate about active transportation and equitable development
- Cyclist and transit enthusiast
- Mother of two fur babies: Monty and Mr Sir

WTS HOT Chapter desires to lift strong women up, and give praise when its due! Lizzie Welch has succeeded in pursuing her passion in her career and staying true to herself. She is committed to the WTS HOT community and serves as Professional Development Co-Chair. Lizzie brings valuable insight to her team- she critically combines her engineering background with her professional planning experience. Lizzie’s ability to switch between detailed data analysis and larger systems thinking displays she’s a jack of all trades. Great job Lizzie! You inspire us.

Do you want to submit someone for Membership Spotlight? Email [communications@wtshotchapter.org](mailto:communications@wtshotchapter.org).







## JANUARY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Capital Metro President and CEO Randy Clarke and Dean Sharon Wood of the UT Cockrell School of Engineering are our honorary members for 2019. Randy Clarke discussed his winding career and highlighted his biggest takeaways from his various roles.

## FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

The February luncheon, titled “Atlas 14: Beyond the Mapping”, featured two speakers, Kevin Shunk from the City of Austin and Saul Nuccitelli from TxDOT, who discussed new changes to the floodplain regulations. The speakers shared images showing the floodplain changes based on the new Atlas 14 program and suggested the attendees watch out for changes affecting future design work.



## UT GIRLS DAY

Thanks to all the WTS HOT chapter members who volunteered at the UT Girls Day on February 23, 2019! Special thanks to Burns & McDonnell and Asakura Robinson for hosting bridge kit assembly sessions. Our annual bridge building activity was a huge success--we had the chance to meet more than 500 girls and their families.

*Back row: Shari Cannon-Mackey, Burns & McDonnell; Gemsong Ryan, Jones Carter; Jamie Byers, Alliance Transportation Group; Jamie Furney, Jacobs. Front row: Ashley Williams, Center for Transportation Research/UT Austin; Daniella Madubuike, Capital Metro; and Mary Jo Galindo, Galindo Environmental Consulting. Not pictured: Carolyn Cook, Federal Rail Administration; Leah Collier, CP&Y; Jackie Sartor, Freese & Nichols*





WTS HEART OF TEXAS CHAPTER INVITES YOU  
TO ATTEND THE 15TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS GALA

*The* **BLACK & WHITE BALL**

BENEFITTING THE HEART OF TEXAS CHAPTER FOUNDATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, EDUCATION AND  
RESEARCH, TRANSPORTATION YOU AND THE WTS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

APRIL 26 2019

SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING | HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN  
208 BARTON SPRINGS ROAD | AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704

SILENT AUCTION | CASINO GAMES | LIVE AUCTION | RAFFLE

EARLY REGISTRATION RATES MARCH 1 THRU 31  
\$75 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES/STUDENTS  
\$125 MEMBERS  
\$150 NON MEMBERS  
RATES INCREASE \$25 APRIL 1

\$1200 SPONSORED DINING TABLE FOR 8  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT: GALA@WTSHOTCHAPTER.ORG  
REGISTER AT [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/Y Y2QGWYJ](http://tinyurl.com/yy2qgwyl)  
REGISTRATION CLOSES 5PM, APRIL 12

DRESS IN YOUR FINEST BLACK & WHITE ATTIRE

WTS HOT ANNUAL GALA INVITATION

Join us for the 15th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala on April 26, 2019! Funds raised from the silent and live auctions, raffles, and casino games will benefit the annual WTS HOT Chapter scholarship fund.

SCHOLARSHIPS DUE

The Friends of WTS HOT Scholarship is due on March 22nd.


To encourage women pursuing careers in transportation, the WTS Heart of Texas (HOT) Chapter is awarding scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 to young women in their senior year of high school to be used for college or trade school. Through this scholarship, WTS aims to support young women who show a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) related fields that may lead to a future career in a transportation-related field.




2017-2018  
Winners



JOIN THE **WTS HEART OF TEXAS CHAPTER** FOR A NETWORKING  
EVENT FOR OUR MARCH MADNESS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

 **WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019**  
**5 - 7:30 P.M.**

**WHERE: MISTER TRAMPS SPORTS PUB AND CAFE** 

MARCH MADNESS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Chapter will host a happy hour this month to recruit and attract new members! We hope you will join us, bring a friend, and cheer on the March Madness South and West Regional watch party. Locations and time on flyer. Non-members will have a chance to win a free WTS membership and members who bring non-member guests will have a chance to win a gift card.



MARCH LUNCHEON

Join us for our monthly luncheon to hear from Kathleen Baireuther. As a Senior Manager in Ford Smart Mobility’s City Solutions practice, Kathleen works with cities to identify significant mobility pain points and translates those challenges into demonstration projects. Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Register [here](#).

Member	Employer
Crystal Hall	Brown & Gay Engineers
Javier A. Arguollo	Michael Baker
Caroline Bennighof	Kimley-Horn & Associates
Susnan Heap	Ferrovial Services
Melissa Shebat	Kimley Horn
Madeleine Hirsch	Big Red Dog
Shelly Law	Rifeline
Jennifer Lopez	Atkins
Courtney Chavez	TxDOT
Julia Colman	Alliance Transportation Group
Claire McKinney	Garver
Jillian Smoorenburg	Fluor
Tyler Wellik	University of Texas at Austin
Lizette Saenz	Not Listed

Member	Employer
Clarissa Bruns	Kimley Horn
Terri Asendorf Hyde	HDR
Roberta Carrier	student
Leigh Raderschadt	CP&Y
Alexandra Goff	Big Red Dog
Richard Klatt	WSP
Marie Lewis Adams	Atkins
Annie Sikes	Nancy Ledbetter & Associates
Clover Clamons	TxDOT
Alan Haywood	HNTB
Larissa Prince	Cobb Fendley
Alison Sparks	Michael Baker International
Sydney Fiocca	Alliance Transportation Group



## WTS STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE





HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY

Students from across both the WTS and ITE/ITS chapters gathered together to celebrate the holidays by enjoying great food. Hosted at a WTS Member’s home.



FAREWELL HAPPY HOUR

WTS hosted a happy hour to celebrate our graduating students. The HOT Chapter looks forward to seeing their hard work as they work across the country.



TRB MIXER

At the 2019 TRB Conference in D.C, we gathered at an evening mixer to discuss all the exciting and innovative transportation research they learned about!





Advancing Women in Transportation  
Heart of Texas Chapter

## 2019 CORPORATE & AGENCY PARTNERS

### Platinum

**AECOM**

**ATG** ALLIANCE  
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

**ATKINS**  
Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

**BGE**

**BURNS  
MCDONNELL**

**HDR**

**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL

**HNTB**

**WSP**

### Gold

**GARVER** **JACOBS**

### Silver

**AmaTerra**  
ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



AMERICAN  
**STRUCTUREPOINT**  
INC.

**CP&Y**

**FREESE  
AND  
NICHOLS**



Gorron dona &  
Associates, Inc.

**HALFF**

**JC** JONES | CARTER

**K•FRIESE**  
+ ASSOCIATES  
PUBLIC PROJECT ENGINEERING

**Kimley»Horn**  
Expect More. Experience Better.

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& Newnam, Inc.  
A LEO A DALY COMPANY

**LOCHNER**

**mwm**  
Design Group

**PAPE-DAWSON  
ENGINEERS**

**RABA**  
KISTNER

**THE RIOS GROUP**

**SAM**

**Stantec**



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## 2019 CORPORATE & AGENCY PARTNERS

### Bronze

**Blanton & Associates, Inc.**



COX | McLAIN  
Environmental Consulting



### DBE



**Baer Engineering**  
and Environmental Consulting, Inc.



*Nancy Ledbetter & Associates*  
public outreach • planning • communications

**MECA |**

Montalbano Engineering,  
Consulting & Associates, PLLC

### Agency Partners



**METRO**



CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL  
**MOBILITY AUTHORITY**



### Agency Affiliates



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
**CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH**

