

# WTS Central Region News

Issue 6



## The Sky is No Limit for WTS

### WTS Greater Chicago Chapter Transportation YOU program visits O'Hare International Airport

The Greater Chicago Chapter of Transportation YOU, Chicago Department of Aviation, Ricondo Associates and United Airlines led and sponsored a field trip for Mother McAuley High School Engineering and Physics students at the O'Hare International Airport in October 2016. The students had an exclusive tour of the airport's operation center, United's flight operations center, newly renovated inflight breakrooms, and observed an airport safety training program. Not only did this tour give students a better understanding of the extensive efforts put into operating an airport, it allowed them to meet and talk to some of Chicago's leaders in the aviation and engineering fields.

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**Welcome to the first WTS Central Region Newsletter of 2017!**

The Council has been busy planning the Central Region Conference and we hope to see you in Columbus, OH, February 2-3! The conference will feature a range of topics, including SMART City, BRT, Safety, FAST Act, and a professional development session on managing and building effective teams. The conference program includes opportunities to develop skills, hear from thought leaders on transportation issues pertinent to the region, as well as network with other industry professionals across all modes, disciplines, and from both the public and private sectors.

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the WTS organization. Stay tuned for special events and programs to commemorate this milestone year!

As you see below, we have several new chapter representatives on the Council. Thank you to the past representatives and I look forward to working with the new Council to develop regional programming these next two years. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me or your chapter representative.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Thomson*



*Feel free to contact any member of the WTS Central Region Council with any questions or to learn more.*

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# Northeast Ohio Chapter's Annual Leadership Lunch

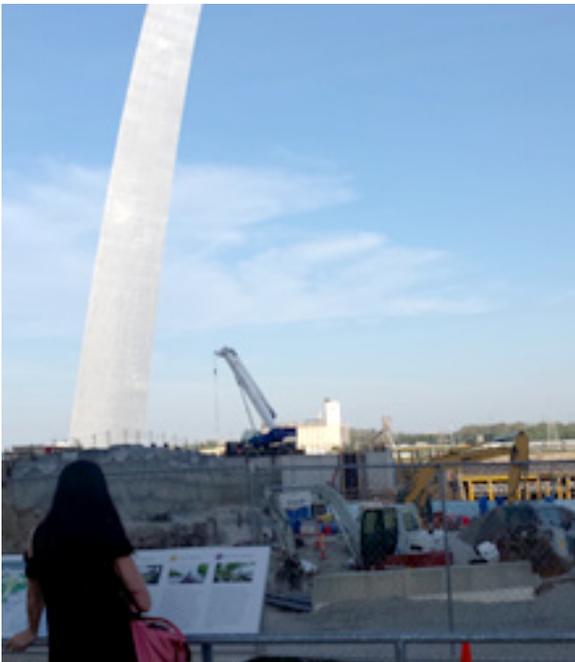


On November 3, 2016, forty people met at the City Club of Cleveland to listen to a Women in Leadership Panel. The panel consisted of the following: Evalyn Gates, Ph.D. Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Tracey Nichols, Director of Economic Development City of Cleveland; Micki Byrnes President & General Manager WKYC Media. Valarie McCall, Chief of Government & International Affairs City of Cleveland, was the panel moderator.

Many questions were prepared including the path these women had throughout their careers, successes they have had, obstacles overcome, mentors they have had along the way, and etc. One of the topics discussed was closing the gap between the generations which was enlightening to

hear everyone's perspective. A couple of take home messages were said multiple times throughout the panel; say yes-divide into new tasks-take chances, never be afraid to stand up for your voice, stand up for yourself in your career, and have a mentor/be a mentor. Valarie did a great job keeping the panel on topic and the audience intrigued. Time quickly ran out with only a few questions from the audience to be asked. The women in leadership panel was a great experience to hear everyone's journey to where they currently are and a reminder that everyone is in charge of their own future.

# WTS St. Louis Chapter Tours Gateway Arch Project



In September the WTS St. Louis Chapter hosted a walking tour of the Gateway Arch Grounds construction project. City Arch River provided WTS with an exclusive tour and updated the group on construction progress. Members and guests got a first-hand look at the new park over the highway, new ADA accessible pathways and circulation loop, Kiener Plaza improvements, riverfront renovations, museum construction, and a spectacular view of the renovations from the Eads Bridge. This event provided the perfect opportunity to invite non-members and new members to a unique event and network over refreshments following the tour.

## First WTS Greater Kansas City Chapter Transportation YOU Event a Success



On November 3, 2016, the Greater Kansas City Chapter of WTS hosted its first Transportation YOU event. The chapter partnered with Johnson County Community College National Academy of Railroad Sciences and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad to hear about railroad careers and to operate BNSF training simulators. Nine female students from the Blue Valley CAPS program and Summit Technology Academy participated in the event. A meet and greet with donuts and coffee kicked off the morning and allowed WTS-KC members to visit with the students and share about their transportation careers. Several BNSF employees shared their experiences as a Locomotive Engineer, Training Coordinator, and Systems Analyst to support the Training Center. As women in the transportation industry, each BNSF employee also shared their life experiences related to balancing work and family life, career transitions that led them to their current positions with the railroad, and how working as a team makes the BNSF a better place to work. The highlight of the day was being able to operate the training simulators and experience what a locomotive engineer's daily job would be like. The event wrapped up with a demonstration on product packaging exploring the impact shape, size and packaging material have on intermodal container shipping used by the railroad.

## WTS Wisconsin Tours MillerCoors Brewery

Members of the WTS Wisconsin Chapter took a behind-the-scenes tour of the MillerCoors Brewery in Milwaukee. The brewery was founded in 1855 at its present location, which provided easy access to raw materials produced on nearby farms. Members suited up in safety gear and toured the production lines, clean room, brew house, and shipping center. A supply chain manager was on hand to discuss operations, including how the 500 trucks that visit the facility daily utilize the local roadway network and how nearby construction projects impact truck movements. The discussion was very relevant, as many WTS members were involved in the design of current and upcoming nearby highway improvements.



# WTS Columbus Hosts Session, Lunch and Social at Ohio Transportation Conference



WTS Columbus hosted several great events during the 70th annual meeting of the Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC) in October. OTEC is a two-day event attended by over 3,750 people nationally. It is organized to provide something for everyone interested in Ohio's transportation industry. WTS Columbus lead a break-out session called "Women Leaders in Transportation - Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom". The session was moderated by Joy Lanham, Past President of WTS Columbus. Speakers included Katherine Zehnder (HNTB), Dana Hook (CDM Smith), Mary Jane O'Meara (HNTB) and Jolene Molitoris (US Railcar). Attendees learned how these women achieved success in the transportation industry by sharing their navigation through failures, embracing personal and professional networking opportunities, and maintaining a sense of work/life balance and overall happiness.

Following the session, WTS Columbus hosted a meet & greet luncheon for conference attendees, members, and the session speakers. The day ended with a Joint Association Happy Hour along with several other professional organizations including ABCD, ASCE, ASHE, and ECC.

Throughout the conference, we staffed and displayed our new WTS Columbus booth in the event exhibit hall. Our involvement with OTEC provides a unique opportunity for us to engage with transportation professionals and engineers. It is also a great marketing tool for introducing WTS to potential new members and allows us to share the benefits of the organization, and how people can become more involved.

# WTS Minnesota Hosts Transportation Trivia

Over 45 WTS MN and WTS International Board members gathered at Republic in Minneapolis for a spirited, entertaining, and educational round of multimodal transportation trivia on September 21. Local transportation celebrities Scott McBride (MnDOT) and Katie Roth (Metro Transit - BRT Project Office) emceed the event, which tested their own trivia chops and improv skills.



# WTS Greater Indianapolis Suits Up

WTS Greater Indianapolis hosted “Suit Up” in the fall. The purpose of the event was to teach women how to dress professionally but modern! Karen Boggs, a professional style coach, spoke to the group about professional style tips. Three volunteers “modeled” their favorite outfits as well as outfits they weren’t too fond of. Karen pointed out tips to improve each outfit and also showed additional examples of professional outfits. In addition, a photographer was on hand to provide complimentary headshots for anyone who needed one! The event attracted approximately 15 attendees and everyone left feeling more confident about their professional (and personal!) styles.



Photos courtesy of Karen Boggs [www.renewyoustyle.com](http://www.renewyoustyle.com)

## WTS International Conference New York City, May 17 - 19, 2017

During this interactive, three-day session, transportation leaders will exchange ideas and learn about the latest developments in transportation. More than 700 corporate and governmental industry leaders worldwide will be in attendance at the conference. A multitude of thoughtful and engaging topics will be covered, including autonomous technologies, transportation funding, shared mobility solutions, innovative data collection methods, professional development, and more! Registration opens in January.

Arianna Huffington will be the 2017 Annual Conference Keynote Speaker, sponsored by HDR, Inc. Huffington is the founder of The Huffington Post, the founder and CEO of Thrive Global, and the author of fifteen books, including, most recently, Thrive and The Sleep Revolution.

In May 2005, she launched The Huffington Post, a news and blog site that quickly became one of the most widely-read, linked to, and frequently-cited media brands on the Internet, and in 2012 won a Pulitzer Prize for national reporting. In August 2016, she launched Thrive Global, a corporate and consumer well-being and productivity platform with the mission of changing the way we work and live by ending the collective delusion that burnout is the price we must pay for success. Thrive Global provides trainings, seminars, e-courses, coaching and ongoing support based on the latest scientific findings to improve people’s health and increase productivity for both companies and individuals around the world.

[www.wtsinternational.org/networking/annual-conference/](http://www.wtsinternational.org/networking/annual-conference/)



# WTS Central Region Conference



**CENTRALREGION**

February 2 - 3, 2017

Crowne Plaza Columbus Downtown  
Columbus, Ohio

Early rates end January 9, 2017! Registration closes January 19, 2017!

[www.wtsinternational.org/2017-central-region-conference/](http://www.wtsinternational.org/2017-central-region-conference/)