

HOT Chapter Newsletter

2019 VOLUME 3

October 9, 2019



Advancing Women in Transportation
Heart of Texas Chapter

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Greetings!

What an amazing summer we've had here in the WTS HOT Chapter!

Our very own Lynn Isaak of TxDOT accompanied her mentee to the WTS International annual Transportation YOU Youth Summit in Washington D.C. at the end of June.

We had some very inspirational Lattes and Leadership sessions this summer thanks to Margaret Robinson of Asakura Robinson, Gina Gallegos of TxDOT, and Marisabel Ranthum of TxDOT.

In August we held our annual Corporate Partners and Members Only event, honoring some unsung heroes in our industry.

While you may think of summers as an "off season," our board members have been at work planning all of the upcoming fall and spring events. In fact, our Gala Committee recently reconvened with our new Gala Chair Brittani Kaim of WSP at the helm. And our Transportation YOU, Recognitions, and Scholarship Committees are all ramping up as well.

So now is a great time to get involved in any of our committees! Please contact the individual committee chairs or anyone on the Executive Board to find out more about each committee and how you can get involved. We would love to have more help!

On the WTS International front, we are in the process of doing a brand refresh and updating our logo and marketing materials. So be on the lookout for an email from WTS International over the next couple of weeks asking for your feedback.

Please be sure to join us at our next luncheon on October 16th with Williamson County Commissioner Valerie Covey as she talks about the upcoming Road and Parks Bond Referendum.

Please join us for our upcoming WTS Southwest Region Webinar titled: GREENgineering - Green Infrastructure Solutions. Guest speakers will address how their community is learning to thrive with water and build for sustainability.

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



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LLC



President’s Letter continued...

Due to availability at Maggiano’s, our November luncheon will be on Tuesday the 19th. So please mark your calendars.

In closing, as we enter fall – and hopefully some cooler temperatures – I’d like to challenge us all to do our best to be thankful for the many blessings we have and give to others who are less fortunate. Even the smallest acts of kindness can make a huge impact.

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

All the best,

Jackie Sartor

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



ASHLEY MACMILLAN, P.E.

QUICK FACTS:

- Engineering Business Manager at TenCate Geosynthetics
- WTS Member since 2009
- Recently moved to Austin, TX from Salt Lake City, UT following an internal company transfer.
- Lead vocal for a pop-punk, Spo, in Salt Lake City

Ashley MacMillan, P.E. has a decade of experience working with many aspects of geotechnical engineering with a focus in roadway and subgrade stabilization and forensic investigation of mechanically stabilized earth walls. Through work connections at her previous employer, Geocomp Corporation in Acton, MA, she met Liz Levin, one of the founding members of the WTS Boston Chapter. After developing a relationship with Liz (and reading her co-authored book “Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom”) Ashley was inspired to become more involved with WTS because she saw how Liz’s enthusiasm and commitment to WTS was intertwined with her both her career and personal happiness. Ashley has served on the Northern Utah branch on the Programs Committee, Golf Committee, Gala Committee, and has been on the elected board as Vice President and President. This year, she will be a supporting member of the 2020 Heart of Chapter Gala planning committee. Outside of WTS, she is also an active member of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Deep Foundations Institute (DFI), Transportation Research Board (TRB) and International Geosynthetics Society (IGS). Her two favorite accomplishments outside of engineering are climbing to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in 2015 and being the lead vocal for a pop-punk, Spo, in Salt Lake City. Actually, the first gig she ever played with the band was at a SXSW side show at the Aquarium on 6th in March 2018. Ashley’s excited to be in Austin, TX where she hopes challenging soil conditions around the South-Central States and an abundant music scene will be the perfect place for her.

Do you want to submit someone for Membership Spotlight? Email communications@wtshotchapter.org.



Advancing Women in Transportation
Heart of Texas Chapter



OCTOBER LUNCHEON

Join us for our first monthly luncheon of the fall season- featuring Valerie Covey. Valerie was elected to represent Williamson County Precinct Three on the Williamson County Commissioner’s Court in November 2006 and was reelected to her third full term in November 2016. She will be discussing the upcoming Williamson County Transportation and Parks Board Bond.

Covey serves the county by participating on various boards and committees, including: the Williamson County Conservation Foundation, the Williamson County Investment Committee, the CAPCOG General Assembly and much more. In August 2019, Covey was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the Governing Board of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.



SAVE THE DATE- CHAPTER RECOGNITION AWARDS

It’s that time of year again! Call for nominations will be in October- so please start thinking of deserving individuals and organizations for the following categories. Woman of the Year, Member of the Year, Man of the Year, Employer of the Year, Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership, and Innovative Transportation Solutions.



GREENgineering: Green Infrastructure Solutions



Join us for a regional webinar to learn about the *GREEN* infrastructure approach to engineering. Guest speakers will address how their community is learning to thrive with water and build for sustainability. Featuring (pictured from left to right):

- JESSICA DANDRIDGE**
Executive Director at The Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative
- ABIGAIL BUSH**
Watershed Engineering Manager at San Antonio River Authority
- ROBERT BOROWSKI**
Director of Sustainability at Capital Metro

OCTOBER 24, 2019
11:30 AM - 1 PM

REGIONAL WEBINAR

Join us for a regional webinar to learn about the GREEN infrastructure approach to engineering. Guest speakers will address how their community is learning to thrive with water and build for sustainability. Featuring:

- Jessica Dandridge, Executive Direction at The Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative
- Abigail Bush, Watershed Engineering Manager at San Antonio River Authority
- Robert Borowski, Director of Sustainability at Capital Metro

October 24, 2019 | 11:30 AM - 1 PM

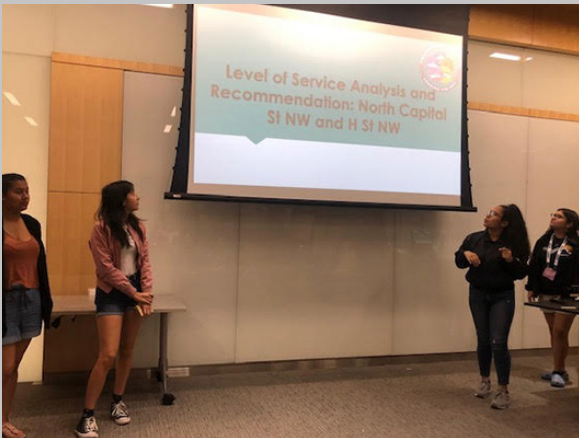
[Register now!](#)





2019 DC YOUTH SUMMIT- TRANSPORTATION YOU

Between June 26 – 30, 2019, WTS HOT Chapter member, Lynn M. Isaak, PE, PMP (TxDOT) escorted Transportation YOU member, Alexa, to Washington DC. Isaak said of the experience, “Alexa learned so much about transportation that she’s all in when it comes to pedestrian safety and intersection design. Her biggest take away is that she’ll never look at an intersection the same way again because there’s so much detail involved with the design. It was a whirlwind of activities for the 5 days and we both came home exhausted but it was very much worth it. Thank you for the opportunity for her to attend – she is grateful as well as are her parents. I got a lot out of it too – great talent coming down the line from this group of mentees and the WTS’ers and mentors are all amazing women!”



2019 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

To encourage women pursuing careers in transportation, the WTS HOT Chapter is awarding scholarships to young women in their senior year of high school to be used for college or trade school. Through these scholarships, WTS aims to support young women in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematic (STEM) related field that would contribute to the advancement of the transportation industry. The deadline for these will be announced at a later date.

WTS International Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students will be due later this year. Check out our website for more information on requirements and deadlines: <http://www.wtsinternational.org/heartoftexas//scholarships/>

One Transportation YOU scholarship for a high school student will also be due later this year.





ROSA NAVEJAR- PRESIDENT

Rosa is currently President of The Rios Group, Inc., a firm that provides Subsurface Utility Engineering, and Utility Coordination services. She manages staffing; outreach for business development, branding, and marketing; and contract implementation and timeline of projects. Headquartered in Fort Worth, in the last 6 years, TRG presence has expanded with additional office locations in Dallas, Houston (The Woodlands), Austin (Round Rock) and San Antonio. TRG was recently recognized by Oncor as the 2017 Rising Star of the Year for Diverse Suppliers, by the North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (NCTRCA) as the 2017 DBE/WBE/MBE Business of the Year and by the City of Austin - Small & Minority Business Resources as one of the 2018 Small Businesses of the Year. Rosa serves on many boards throughout the State of Texas and previously served on the board of National Freight Advisory Committee-Appointed by Secretary LaHood, America Public Transportation Association (APTA).



ALLIANCE TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Alliance Transportation Group, Inc. (ATG) headquartered in Austin, is led by CEO Gayle Heath and provides a full range of transportation engineering and planning services. ATG is a woman-owned company that leads by example with an inclusive culture, diverse leadership, and client-focused mission. In 2018 with Gayle’s guidance ATG establish an internal group called WE, Women’s Entrepreneurial Roundtable, to provide an open forum for women employees to learn and collaborate in areas of Leadership, Communication, and Professional Development.

Once a quarter the women of ATG gather with Gayle Heath, to participate in open conversations about ATG, their projects, career goals and lives. Meeting topics are selected in advance and provide a framework to lead discussions and explorations, along with interactive elements. Pictured [above] is the August 2019 gathering of WE. During this meeting, each team inquired on the success and challenges that Gayle has faced as CEO, explored future visions and learned there is much more to leadership than just the title. Gayle’s open-book approach to ATG and her role as CEO is an inspiration to ATG’s employees.

In the spirit of advancement and leadership at ATG, please celebrate Assistant Director of Traffic, Ms. Gaby Tassin, who was recently named International Young Member of the Year at the ITE National Conference in July. Gaby is actively involved in the ITE Advocacy and STEM Committees, along with the founding of Women of TexITE committee. Gaby has over 13 years of experience in traffic engineering and transportation planning and has been the recipient of the WTS Innovative Transportation Project Award in 2016. In the last five years she has led over 50 projects in Texas and Louisiana. She consistently aids her staff in completing projects under budget and on schedule. Gaby is passionate about safety, mobility and helping others advance in their careers.



2019 WTS HEART OF TEXAS CHAPTER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

As we enter into the fall months (and hopefully cooler weather!) this year's mentorship program is almost complete. Our summer sessions with this year's program participants were very productive, with engaging conversations and useful insights shared by many! We want to recognize all program participants again for their contributions:

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

Thank you again to all of our mentorship participants for taking time out of busy summer schedules to continue supporting our chapter's goals.

In June, we held a special session with an out-of-state guest presenter, **Carita Ducre**, Managing Partner from Insight Strategies. Insight Strategies is a management consulting and training company based in Torrance, CA. Insight has provided consulting, coaching, training, facilitating and speaking sessions to organizations since 1994. This particular session, held at Freese and Nichols offices, focused on negotiations skills development as a part of career advancement. We held this session in conjunction with a professional development opportunity for WTS members to take full advantage of Ms. Ducre's time in Austin.

In July, long-time friend and past president of the Heart of Texas chapter, **Mitzi Ellison** of Nancy Ledbetter & Associates covered the topic of communication—specifically, how to recognize different personality / communication preferences, and how / when one should consider adjusting communication styles to be most effective in the workplace. With over 20

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



*Tip: Don't Play Your Ace Card Too Soon – Excerpt from **Carita Ducre's** Negotiation Skills training session developed by Insight Strategies, Inc.*



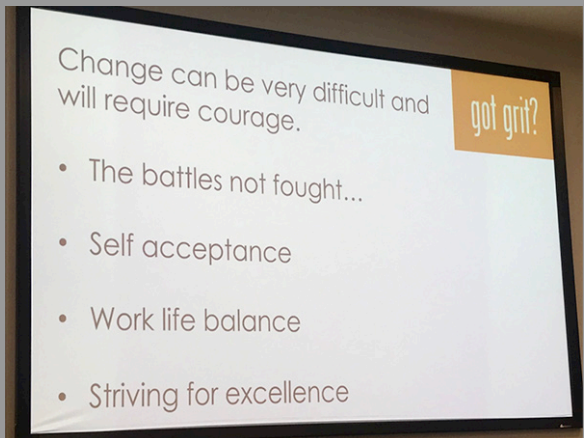
***Mitzi Ellison** of Nancy Ledbetter & Associates leading discussion on Communication in the Workforce at AECOM offices in July Mentorship Program event.*

Mentorship Program Update continued on the next page...

Mentorship Program continued...



Tip: Remember that your personal life is evolving as your career path shifts – Excerpt from *Kammy Horne’s presentation on Navigating Changes Along Your Career Path.*



Got grit? Ms. Horne reminds participants of the mentorship program about things to consider during career transitions.

years of experience and a degree in Psychology, Ms. Ellison has worked as a communications expert in a wide range of fields, from positions in social work to Pantex, the nation’s only nuclear weapons assembly / disassembly plant. An expert in the environment study process, she has managed, coordinated and authored numerous documents compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act for many high-profile transportation projects as a consultant to the Texas Department of Transportation. Ms. Ellison gave a foundational overview of communication considerations, and led an engaging discussion with our mentorship group.

The August mentoring program lunch topic was Navigating Changes Along your Career Path. This session was hosted at City of Austin’s new offices in south east Austin. The featured speaker was our very own mentoring committee founder, **Kammy Horne**, Senior Vice President of Development for VIA Metropolitan Transit. Ms. Horne has an illustrious and varied career in the transportation industry, and shared some profound advice on things to consider when contemplating career transitions. She has had considerable federal, state, and consultant experience on major transportation projects in various locations around the country over her 25-year career, and has been an active supporter of WTS at the local and national level, currently serving on WTSI’s Foundation Board.

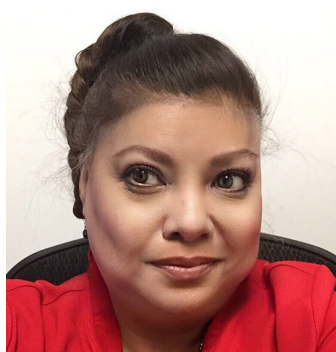
If you have any questions or feedback on this year’s mentorship program, please feel free to contact our mentorship committee: Lindsay Wood, Melanie Norrell, and Abril Matysek; or the executive board sponsors Jackie Sartor and Ashley Williams.

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHTS



YVONNE THOMAS, P.E.

Yvonne Thomas, PE, has been a WTS member since 2009. Yvonne is Vice President and the Austin Consultants Practice Leader for Raba Kistner Inc. Since joining Raba Kistner as a Graduate Engineer 15 years ago, Yvonne has served in a variety of leadership roles with the company, progressing from project engineer, to manager of geotechnical engineering services, to her current senior role where she manages and mentors staff, develops client relations, executes contracts and ensures clients are receiving excellent service. Yvonne is currently the Membership Chair of WTS and previously was the Corporate Partner Chair. She is dedicated to being involved with WTS, actively attending chapter luncheons for several years and serving on various committees.

The logo for KCI Technologies, featuring a stylized blue graphic above the text "KCI" and "TECHNOLOGIES".

In recognition of her outstanding contributions that support greater understanding of the profession and its many impacts on the world, Melinda will be honored as the first female engineer to receive the 2019 ASCE Heritage and History Award, which will be presented to her at the organization's annual conference to be held in October in Miami, Florida.

Advancing Women in Transportation
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LATTES AND LEADERSHIP- JUNE



Asakura Robinson’s founding principal, Margaret Robinson, was the featured professional at the WTS HOT Chapter’s June Lattes and Leadership. She discussed being a working mother, starting her own company, and urbanism in Austin.

LATTES AND LEADERSHIP- JULY

Marisabel Ramthun talked about her career history and how she worked towards her current role as TP&D Director in the Austin District, Texas Department of Transportation. Marisabel briefly covered the \$8 billion IH 35 expansion project within Austin. She stressed that the plan is preliminary and likely will change substantially as the agency studies the project, reaches out to the public and conducts engineering studies.



LATTES AND LEADERSHIP- AUGUST



Gina Gallegos, Construction Division Director at Texas Department of Transportation, highlighted the upcoming TxDOT educational classes for the engineering/construction community, which will cover the Construction Engineering and Inspection methods for any type of construction project. WTS HOT will provide more information to its members as we receive it.

EVERYDAY HEROES: DRIVING FORCES IN TRANSPORTATION

Around 100 chapter members and partners joined us at the Sterling Event Center to network with each other and honor seven “Everyday Heroes: Driving Forces in Transportation”. Honorees included: Doise Miers, Community Outreach Manager at CAMPO; Dawn Scheel, Staff Engineer at the City of Round Rock; Tien-Tien Chan, TDM Program Manager at the City of Austin; Katherine Gonzalez, Technical Program/Project Manager at Capital Metro; Susana Ceballos, Design Lead at the TxDOT Austin District North Area Office; Odette Tan, Senior Engineer at Travis County; and Kelly Morrelli, Senior Engineer at Williamson County. Honorees were recognized for their critical contributions to achieving major transportation initiatives in our region, and are women you should know.



LAURA CASSET, P.E., CFM, CPESC

Laura Casset currently leads the stormwater management group in the LAN Austin office which is comprised of 10 professionals including engineers and planners focused on holistically reducing flood risk for Texas. Her career has grown from summer internships with land development firms during her school years at the University of Texas at Austin through to a water resources professional engineer with a passion for stormwater management and stream restoration.



Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.
A LEO A DALY COMPANY



Over her career spanning 16 years she has touched water, wastewater, stormwater, site/civil, and utility coordination challenges but at her core, she’s a “drainage nerd.” She is driven to make a direct difference in the lives of residents by designing projects that help protect people, homes, and businesses from flooding.

For more than 10 years Laura focused on the problems, the project problems. Head down striving to be an expert in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling. Her expertise led her to join her current team of fun, talented drainage engineers and planners who have similar goals and interests. Over time she recognized that the team was stressed and needing help. She brought this to the attention of her manager and was quickly asked to step in and lead. Surprised at the offer she accepted hoping that she could help her teammates reduce their stress by managing deadlines, project budgets, and workload.

Even though it was not the role she was seeking she is loving it, being a part of her team’s day-to-day life; supporting them and their growth and helping them find a good work/life balance. She’s having the best time in her career and is so lucky and fortunate to work with such a great group of people. Moreover, she appreciates that LAN provided her the opportunity to grow and develop in a supportive work environment.

MEMBER UPDATE

Member	Employer
Stephanie Castillo	LJA Engineering
Delaney Dryden	HDR
Ellen Emeric	Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Irma Gonzalez	MLA Geotechnical, Inc.
Beatriz Hernandez	TXDOT
Jerry Hilbig	Surveying And Mapping, LLC
Sarah Korpita	Gessner Engineering

Member	Employer
Arielle Kurkin	WSP USA
Dani Madubuike	Capital Metro
Melissa Ortiz	Capital Metro
Katie Strain	Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Jaylia Travis	O.R. Colan Associates, LLC
Brandy Waters	Sunland Group



2019 CORPORATE & AGENCY PARTNERS

Platinum



Gold



Silver





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Bronze



DBE



Agency Partners



Agency Affiliates



THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING OUR CHAPTER GREAT!

