



2017-2018

A TRANSFORMATIVE TENURE

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-2018 SUCCESSES

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOCUS



- 1 Workforce Symposium
- 1 Workforce Development White Paper

EVOLUTION IN 3 COMMITTEES



- College Outreach
- Mentorship Program
- Transportation YOU

NEW SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



20 PROGRAMS



- Happy Hours
- International Tour
- Moderated Panel Discussions
- Receptions
- POLA/POLB Tour

COMMUNICATIONS



- Addition of E-news Updates
- Social Media on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn

SCHOLARSHIPS



- \$165,000 in Scholarships Distributed
- 17 Scholarships Distributed
- New Scholarship Sponsorship Program Added \$30,000 from 2017 to 2018

13 AWARDS DISTRIBUTED



274 MEMBERS



- 29 Board Members and Advisors
- 50 Volunteers

47 CORPORATE PARTNERS



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It has always been the mission of WTS-LA to build the future of transportation through the advancement of women. WTS-LA boldly took that charge and applied it to our strategies for our 2017-2018 Board. And if I didn't know better, I'd think there were a thousand more of us. From workforce development to organizational bolstering to mentorship/scholarship efforts to outstanding advancements in committees like Transportation YOU, College Outreach, and Mentorship/Professional Development, WTS-LA members outdid themselves to make this a banner two years for their transportation industry contributions. WTS-LA began the task of mapping our goals that ultimately would lead to providing the opportunities for advancement, as well as opening the doors for new talent with unparalleled access to industry and government leaders.

Through targeted leadership, vision, innovation, determination, and dedication, we delivered on all fronts and I am just bursting with pride. You not only supported the mission and goals but made me look good. So, to all of the board members and volunteers, to each and every WTS-LA member, and to our sponsors, I thank you. Thank you for your stirring, dogged, informed, passionate, and entertaining contributions to an unforgettable and positive two years. We celebrate an organization that not only strives to engage and empower through leadership today but forges a future for tomorrow.

Thank you,

Kathy Simons
2017-2018 WTS-LA President

Read the WTS-LA white paper about Workforce Development, called "Bridging LA County's Transportation Industry Workforce Gap: Where have all of the qualified people gone...and how do we get them back?" here. Click on the link or go to <http://www.wtsinternational.org/losangeles/> to read this important paper.

Workforce Development

We can never know the future. But we must prepare for it anyway. WTS-LA knows this. That's why we placed workforce development at the center of our efforts. Workforce development is the most pressing

issue we, as an industry, face. Taking that to heart, WTS-LA created a comprehensive, dynamic, and far-ranging program to address workforce development disparities and issues. It was integrated as

our central theme into nearly everything we did. WTS-LA helped make a difference in raising awareness about and creating solutions for workforce development in 2017-2018.



COMMITTEE FOCUS - DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

Transportation YOU

Sometimes a YOU turn gets you exactly where you want to go. That's what Transportation YOU co-chairs Tina Backstrom, Strategic Planning Manager for the Project Development and Coordination and Environmental Programs Group at Los Angeles World Airports, and Sharlane Bailey, Foothill Transit Director of Facilities, discovered when they integrated WTS-LA's highly successful Adopt-A-School program with WTS International's Transportation YOU program. Designed as an "interactive mentoring program that offers young girls ages 13-18 an introduction to a wide variety of transportation careers," Transportation YOU helps young women gain understanding of the depth and breadth of transportation industry careers. But it also does much more. Transportation YOU provides active mentoring. So, young girls not only learn about careers, they have industry role models helping them find their path to those careers.

Ms. Backstrom and Ms. Bailey launched more than eight successful Transportation YOU programs in 2017-2018. Programs ranged from presentations at Susan Miller Dorsey High School and Westchester High School on transportation careers, mentoring workshops, site tours, and hosting an Empowerment Day.

This Empowerment Day career awareness event featured keynote speakers and workshops with transportation professionals. Wanting the girls to truly be successful, the Transportation YOU co-chairs and mentors provided meaningful, practical guidance, such as how to dress for success and how to present themselves in an office or professional context.

Finally, WTS-LA distributed \$27,500 in academic scholarships for high school students attending the schools in the Adopt-a-School program in 2017-18. Without question, the work of the Transportation YOU Committee helped fulfill the chapter's commitment to developing the workforce of the future.



College Outreach

Under the leadership of Todd Nguyen, WSP Transportation and Environmental Planner and the 2017-2018 WTS-LA College Outreach Committee chair, the committee refocused and broadened their impact; building on the very successful Transportation Résumé Book (TRB) to create so much more. Believing the TRB committee was tied only to an annual publication, he wanted to expand and rename the committee to encompass comprehensive outreach to area colleges and young professionals. Hence, the College Outreach Committee.

Through mixers, workshops, and other interactive events, the committee cast a very wide net, drawing in numerous students and entry-level transportation professionals and connecting them to seasoned industry professionals/WTS-LA members. The College Outreach Committee developed programs that fostered meaningful lessons and skills—from résumé building to interview skills to networking. But the benefits of the College Outreach Committee were not a one-way street.

Industry professionals that participated in a College Outreach event remarked on how much they learned through teaching these young people. It also opened their eyes to the current concerns of the next generation of transportation professionals, giving them invaluable insights into everything from values to technology. In addition, these industry professionals also got a first look at rising young talent in the transportation industry.

Naturally, the new and improved College Outreach program fit perfectly with WTS-LA president Kathy Simons' overriding theme of workforce development. In fact, it addressed the issue at its core—bringing young people into the transportation industry and providing them with the skills they need to succeed. Mr. Nguyen described his committee's mandate as "providing a necessary service to college students, young professionals, and the transportation industry itself."



Wanting to ensure the committee's continued success at their new mission, Mr. Nguyen also established the necessary structure to ensure its commitment to that mandate moving forward.

Mentorship/Professional Development

Mentors are invaluable. Few would disagree. But ensuring an optimum experience for both a mentor and protégé is never simple. In 2017-2018, WTS-LA Mentorship & Professional Development chair and Port of Los Angeles Civil Engineer Mahsa Hematabadi Pan, PE, and her committee took things to a new level. Designed to help WTS-LA members advance their careers through professional development, the Mentorship program pairs established industry mentors with rising transportation protégés. By all accounts, these two years proved extremely successful. In 2017, the committee focused on mid-career professionals and partnered them with WTS-LA Directors at Large. In 2018, the committee recruited entry-level professionals and paired them with more seasoned industry leaders. The WTS-LA Mentorship Program provides exceptional benefits for both mentors and protégés.

The learning and exposure definitely goes both ways. Both mentors and protégés believed they gained tremendous knowledge and connection with everyone involved. But there was something different and special that occurred by focusing on these two cohorts - mid-career and entry-level professionals - during this period.

The Mentorship Committee hosted panels with WTS-LA Directors at Large that imparted valuable career advice for professionals who had already advanced pretty far in their careers and a mid-career professionals panel, featuring a stellar lineup of WTS-LA members. It was an overwhelming success.

Both the mid-career professionals and the young professionals felt they gained from the year-long programs. And once again, this, too, fits perfectly into the chapter's directive to focus on workforce development.



2017-2018 TWO YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS*

*Titles and agency/firm names reflect those of the date of the program.

27 JANUARY

Welcome Los Angeles County Supervisor, Kathryn Barger

22 FEBRUARY

Welcome Los Angeles County Supervisor, Janice Hahn

08 MARCH

International Women's Day Happy Hour

05 APRIL

Learning from Los Angeles World Airports featuring Cynthia Guidry, Samantha Bricker, Aura Moore, and Lydia Kennard

27 APRIL

College Outreach Networking Mixer with Corporate Sponsors

03 MAY

Office of Extraordinary Innovation with Chief Innovation Officer, Joshua Shank, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

24 MAY

Professional Development Book Club with Michelle T. Johnson, author of *The Diversity Code*

21 JUNE

State of Good Repair/Asset Management with Regional Agencies

- Fran Inman, Vice Chair, California Transportation Commission
- Roderick Diaz, Director of Planning and Development, Southern California Regional Rail Authority
- Kia Mortazavi, Executive Director of Planning, Orange County Transportation Authority
- Gregory Kildare, Chief Officer, Risk, Safety, & Asset Management, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

25 JULY

Welcome Port of Long Beach Executive Director, Mario Cordero

30 AUGUST

WTS-LA Mixes it Up Happy Hour

29 SEPTEMBER - 07 OCTOBER

WTS-LA International Tour: London-Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Lyon

05 OCTOBER

SB-1 Funding Panel Discussion:

- Fran Inman, Vice Chair, California Transportation Commission
- Carrie Bowen, District 7 Director, California Department of Transportation
- John Walker, Assistant Deputy Director, Programs Development Division, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- Patricia Chen, Senior Director, State Legislative Analysis and Discretionary Grants, Countywide Planning & Development Department, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

09 NOVEMBER

Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner. Emcees:

- Jeanet Owens, Program Management/Regional Rail, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Timothy Lindholm, Executive Officer - Program Management, Capital Projects, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

— \$71,000 in scholarships distributed!

31 JANUARY

Networking and Happy Hour

06 FEBRUARY

Rail Panel

- Moderator: Noopur Jain, PE, SE, Southern California Engineering Manager and Statewide Complex Structures Manager, California High-Speed Rail Authority
- Jeanet Owens, PE, Senior Executive Officer - Program Management/Regional Rail, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Michelle Boehm, Southern California Regional Director, California High-Speed Rail Authority
- Kimberly Yu, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Planning Project & Delivery, Southern California Regional Rail Authority

08 MARCH

International Women's Day Happy Hour

14 MARCH

Bring Your Own Resume (BYOR) Workshop - College Outreach Program

11 APRIL

Breakfast with Therese McMillan, Chief Planning Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

01 MAY

Reception for Brian Kelly, CEO of California High-Speed Rail Authority

02 MAY

College Outreach Networking Mixer with Corporate Sponsors

08 MAY

Reception for Caltrans Director, Laurie Berman

31 MAY

Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Panel

- Seleta Reynolds, General Manager, LADOT
- Alan Clelland, Senior Vice President, Intelight, Inc.
- Veronica Siranosian, Ventures Director, AECOM
- Nadia Marquez, Cruise Automation Senior Manager for U.S. Government Relations
- Moderator: Blair Schlecter, Director of Economic Development and Government Affairs, Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce

27 JULY

Bridging the Gap: Workforce Development. See box at right for more information.

13 SEPTEMBER

Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach Boat Cruise

15 SEPTEMBER

Professional Development Workshop - Negotiating for Your Life

12 OCTOBER

Transportation YOU Girls Empowerment Day

08 NOVEMBER

Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner. Emcees:

- Allison Yoh, Director of Planning, Port of Long Beach
- Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering

04 DECEMBER

Capital Program Update with Chief Program Management Officer Richard Clarke, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

A Tour de Workforce for LA County's Future

On July 27, 2018, WTS-LA hosted a panel of experts from some of Southern California's largest transportation agencies to discuss a looming crisis for our industry - the imminent retirement of a large percentage of the current workforce - especially those in leadership and management positions - and the need to develop those coming up behind them with the skills to take on their roles in the near future. Providing historical context and expert opinion, the panel dove deeply into defining the present challenge and offering innovative solutions. Comprised of professionals in the transportation trenches, and reading like a who's who in Southern California transportation, they included:

- Laura Friedman, California State Assemblywoman, District 43
- Marianne Hill, Executive Director, Propel LA-Countywide Strategic Plan, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation
- Gregg Irish, Executive Director, Workforce Investment Board, City of Los Angeles
- Rossana D'Antonio, PE, GE, EnvSP, Deputy Director for Development Services and Emergency Management, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- Miguel Cabral, Executive Officer, Diversity and Economic Opportunity, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Lou Anne Bynum, President, Board of Harbor Commissioners, City of Long Beach
- Avin Sharma, Director of Labor Relations and Workforce Investment, Port of Los Angeles
- Cynthia Guidry, PE, Director of Long Beach Airport

Without question, these women and men will help the transportation industry in Southern California address the workforce gap issue. Their experience, dexterous intelligence, and ingenuity promise to advance solutions that will serve us all for years to come. In fact, WTS-LA took the information learned during this exceptional program and through additional research and developed a white paper about the issue, called "Bridging LA County's Transportation Industry Workforce Gap: Where have all of the qualified people gone...and how do we get them back?" which is available now for your review here. Click on the link or go to <http://www.wtsinternational.org/losangeles/> to read this important paper.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



AMAZING HONOREES



2017

- Ribeka Toda, UCLA, Myra L. Frank Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$10,000)
- Vanessa Faul, CSU Northridge, Ava Doner Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$10,000)
- Hue-Tam Jamme, USC, Myra L. Frank Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$7,500)
- Camila Salomon Gnecco, USC, Ava Doner Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$7,500)
- Younsook "Audrey" Jang, Pomona College, SCAG/Arup Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Lauren Deaderick, USC, Lawrence D. Hazzard Transportation Leadership Scholarship (\$5,000)
- EliseAnne Koskelo, Pomona College, Louise K. Garside LKG-CMC Undergraduate Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Tiffany Chu, UCLA, Louise K. Garside LKG-CMC Graduate Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Ashelin Savage, University of La Verne, WTS-LA Board of Directors Scholarship (\$3,000)
- Evelyn Park, CSU Long Beach, WTS-LA Board of Directors Scholarship (\$3,000)
- Radin Rahimzadeh, USC, AECOM Richard G. Newman Scholarship (\$2,500)
- Thailiya Thomas, Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet, Joan G Wood Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500)
- Cai Ford, Westchester High School, WTS-Marilyn J. Reece Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500)
- Kimberly Navarro, Dorsey STEM Magnet, WSP Bright Futures Scholarship (\$2,500)

2018

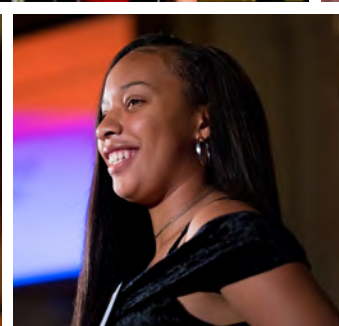
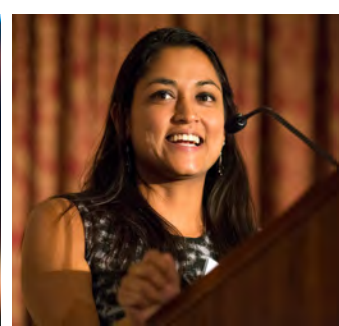
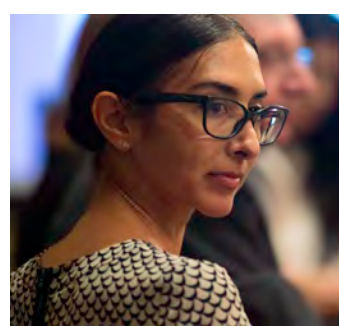
- Hannah Rae King, UCLA, Myra L. Frank Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$10,000)
- Joceline Suhaimi, UCLA, Ava Doner Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$10,000)
- Miriam Pinski, UCLA, Myra L. Frank Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$8,500)
- Emma Barker, Pitzer College, Ava Doner Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$7,500)
- Emily Ng, Pitzer College, Jacobs Undergraduate Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Clare Blackwell, Scripps College, Access Services Undergraduate Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Esther Kala, Cal Poly Pomona, BYD "Build Your Dreams WTS-LA" Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Cassie Halls, UCLA, Stantec Graduate Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Lynnete Guzman, USC, Louise K. Garside LKG-CMC Graduate Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Tina Backstrom, PE, Grand Canyon University, WTS-LA Board of Directors Graduate Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Marissa Renteria, Los Angeles Trade Tech College, SCAG Community College Scholarship (\$5,000)
- Melissa Ignacio, Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet, WTS-Marilyn J. Reece Memorial Scholarship (\$4,500)
- Kristene Loaiza, Dorsey Law & Public Service Magnet, WTS-Joan G. Wood Memorial Scholarship (\$4,500)
- Mia Ford, Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets, CM Solutions (\$2,500)
- Benedicta Huletey, Dorsey STEM Magnet, Berg & Associates, Inc. (\$2,500)
- Kala Neighbors, Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets, WSP Bright Futures Scholarship (\$2,500)
- Malia Williams, Dorsey STEM Magnet, AECOM Richard G. Newman Scholarship (\$2,500)

2017

- Emcees: Jeanet Owens, PE, Senior Executive Officer - Program Management/Regional Rail, and Timothy Lindholm, Executive Officer - Program Management, Capital Projects, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Woman of the Year - Julie Allen, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering
- Employer of the Year - Mott MacDonald
- Honorable Ray LaHood Award - Phillip Washington, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Rosa Parks Diversity Award - Los Angeles World Airports
- Member of the Year - Elizabeth Ramirez, Director of Government Affairs, Athens Services
- Innovative Transportation Solutions Award - LAX Northside Plan Update

2018

- Emcees: Allison Yoh, Director of Transportation Planning Port of Long Beach, and Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer for the City of Los Angeles
- Woman of the Year - Nadine Lee, Chief of Staff, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Employer of the Year - City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
- Honorable Ray LaHood Award - Eric Shen, Director, Mid-Pacific Gateway Office, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation
- Rosa Parks Diversity Award - Carrie Bowen, California Highway and Roads Leader, HDR
- Member of the Year - Todd Nguyen, Deputy Project Manager, WSP
- Innovative Transportation Solutions Award - TIE between the Micro Transit Pilot Project (Metro) and the Universal College Transit Pass (U-Pass) Pilot Program (Metro, Foothill Transit, Long Beach Transit, Torrance Transit, and Gardena Transit)



2017-2018

WTS-LA BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President: Kathy Simons, LKG-CMC Inc.
- Vice President, Programs & Professional Development: Lisa Karwoski, PE, Mott MacDonald
- Vice President, Membership & Communications: Elizabeth Ramirez, Athens Services
- Vice President, Recognition & Student Outreach: Noopur Jain, PE, SE, California High-Speed Rail Authority
- Secretary: Emily Freund, Flatiron
- Treasurer: Pattie Antich, PE, Antich Consulting (2017), Christi Fu, PE, CCM, Arcadis (2018)
- Immediate Past President: Amanda Heinke, Kite Gilead

- Small Business, Diversity, & TBAC: Tess de Silva, KDG Construction Consulting (2017), Robyn Coates, CM Solutions (2018)
- Transportation YOU: Tina Backstrom, PE, Los Angeles World Airports, Sharlane Bailey, Foothill Transit

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- Dina Aryan-Zahlan, PE, PMP, Port of Los Angeles
- Michelle Boehm, City of Los Angeles
- Carrie Bowen, HDR
- Cynthia Guidry, PE, Long Beach Airport
- Elissa Konove, California State Transportation Agency
- Gary Lee Moore, PE, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering
- Lisa Levy Buch, Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority
- Prof. James Moore II, University of Southern California
- Mark Pestrella, PE, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- Seleta Reynolds, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation
- Eric Shen, PE, PTP, U.S. Department of Transportation
- Stephanie Wiggins, Metrolink
- Dr. Allison Yoh, Port of Long Beach
- Yvette Zoe-Robles Rapose, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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- Stacey Jones, PE, Jacobs
- Cindy Sugimoto, PE, LTK Engineering
- Melissa de la Peña, PE, Cordoba Corporation
- Stephen Polechronis, AECOM
- Sheila Wray Given, PGH Wong Engineering
- Nancy Smith, Nossaman

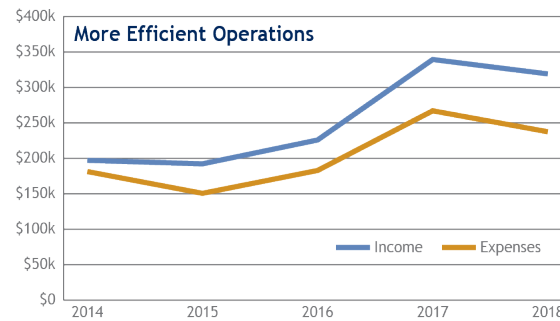
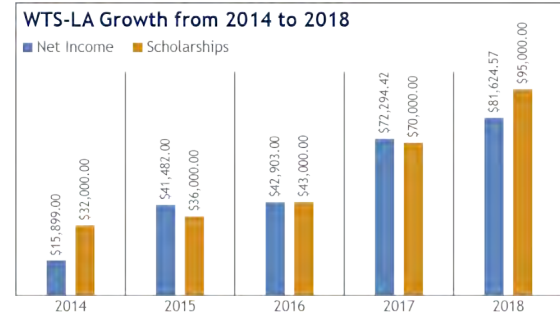
COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner: Pujal Thomas-Patel, Steer Gleaves (2017); Teri Marsh, PE, HNTB (2018)
- Awards & Recognition: Rosa Brice, PE, Los Angeles World Airports
- College Outreach: Todd Nguyen, WSP
- Communications: Eileen Ryder, Stantec; Social Media: Jennifer Lao (2017), Stephanie Blanco, RCTC (2018)
- Corporate Relations: Dan Beal, Independent Consultant
- Historian: Kyra Tao, PE, WSP
- Legislative: Liz Cousins, Nossaman (2017), Andrée Blais, Nossaman (2018)
- Professional Development: Lucy Terrell-Lewis, PE, HDR (2017)
- Membership & Volunteers: Veronica Siranosian, AECOM
- Mentorship & Professional Development: Mahsa Pan, PE, CCM, LEED GA, Port of Los Angeles
- Programs: Heather Anderson, PE, HNTB, Trisha Murakawa, Murakawa Communications, Jenelle Saunders (Berg & Associates), Kaoru McCullough, PE, Mott MacDonald
- Scholarships: Elisabeth Rosenson, Arellano Associates

Principal photography by John Livzey (livzey.com)

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The WTS-LA chapter is growing and increasing scholarships and efficiencies. Our net income has increased five-fold in about five years, and the scholarship amount has tripled.



CORPORATE SPONSORS

WTS-LA owes an enormous debt of gratitude to our corporate sponsors. Not only do they provide critical funding and sponsorship for our events and programs, they also populate the chapter with generous, caring, compassionate transportation industry professionals and just wonderful all-around people. It is through this indelible combination of giving that we can fulfill our mission to advance women in the transportation industry. And for this, we are most grateful.

PLATINUM

AECOM ARCADIS HDR HNTB MOTT MACDONALD
 Jacobs Stantec WSP

GOLD

KDG LKG-CMC LIVZEY LTK
 NOSSAMAN PARSONS RAILPROS THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES
 Port of LONG BEACH Arthur Schurr writing SENER

SILVER

access BergCM CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS HATCH
 FEHR PEERS ICF iteris KLEINFELDER
 Gannett Fleming Los Angeles World Airports METROLINK
 Metro moffatt & nichol MARK THOMAS SNC-LAVALIN ATKINS
 STV TRC VA USC Viterbi USC Price
 TYLIN INTERNATIONAL wood. METRANS

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