

WTS Houston

2018 Annual Report



Advancing Women in Transportation
Houston Chapter

Message from the President



WTS Houston has had an abundance of success in 2018. Our primary goals for 2018 were to expand our benefits offerings to our members, continue to offer new and exciting programs and make new connections within our community. I am happy to say we have done just that.

In a year of firsts for our Chapter we started a new Mentorship Program, created a new professional development series that focused on soft skills, teamed with TexITE for an exclusive Traffic Safety Panel and we extended our reach into our community by teaming with GirlStart to introduce young ladies to the world of opportunities available to them in STEM fields.

All of these things would not have been possible without the unending support from our sponsors and the tireless efforts of our volunteers.

In our inaugural annual report we will highlight the success of 2018. It is my sincere hope that you will be encouraged by the work that our Chapter is doing within our professional and local communities. We hope that you will join us in 2019 as we continue to work towards the advancement of women in the field of transportation.

- Angela McMurray, HNTB, WTS Houston President



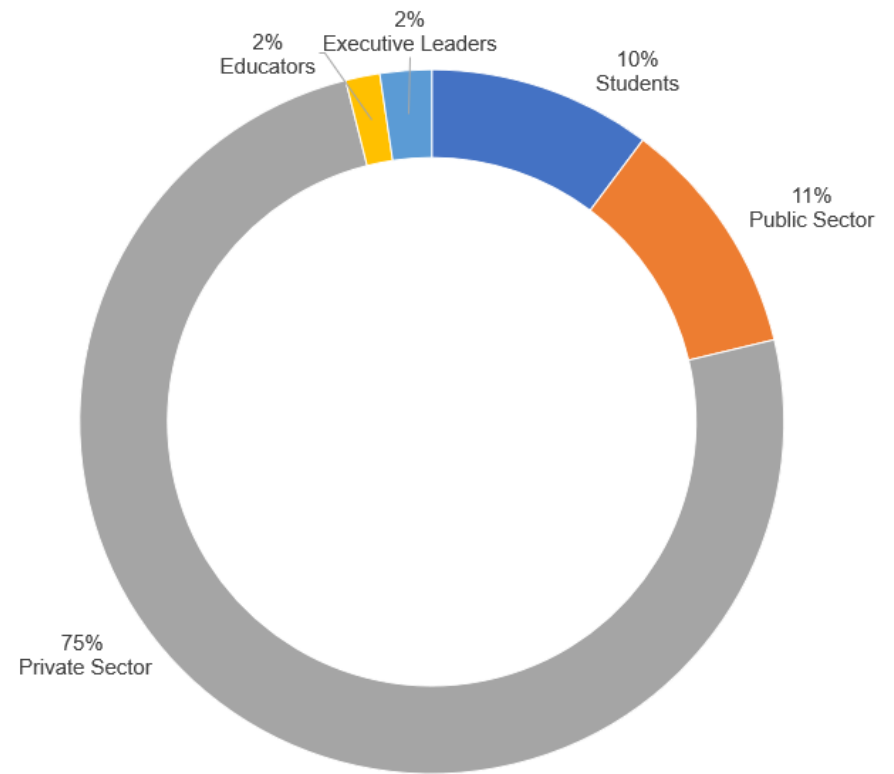
WE ARE WTS HOUSTON...



Board of Directors

<p>President Angela McMurray, AICP <i>HNTB Corporation</i></p>	<p>Immediate Past President Jeanne Bassetti Jullien <i>Gorronona Engineering Services, Inc.</i></p>	<p>Directory of Community Rhonda Arnold, JD <i>Houston Airport System, City of Houston</i></p>
<p>Vice President Stephanie Guillot, PE <i>AECOM</i></p>	<p>Director of Programs Sirisha Pillalamarri, PE, PTP <i>Transcend Engineers & Planners, LLC</i></p>	<p>Director of Student Relations Tracey Aping, MBA <i>Williams Brothers Construction Co., Inc.</i></p>
<p>Treasurer ReShane Dawn-Fowler, MBA <i>Gunda Corporation</i></p>	<p>Interim Director of Membership Lisa Garner, PE <i>Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc.</i></p>	
<p>Secretary Angie Stoddard, PE <i>HDR, Inc.</i></p>		

WTS Houston Membership Profile



**MEMBERSHIP
RETENTION**

83.5%

MISSION

To **attract, sustain, connect** and advance **women's careers** to strengthen the transportation industry.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Highlights

by Karen Coopersmith, Jacobs, Golf Committee Chair

Our 4th Annual Golf Tournament and Scholarship Fundraiser at the Woodforest Golf Club was a rousing success! The Committee Chairs, Stephanie Guillot and Karen Coopersmith, wish to thank all of our volunteers, sponsors, and players for a wonderful tournament! With a very special thank you to wonderful honorary Chairmen, Montgomery County Judge Craig Doyle and Harris County Commissioner Jack Cagle. We also wanted to thank Waller County Judge Try Duhon and City of Houston Councilmember Mike Knox, and our new Grand Classic Sponsor, Jacobs, for their support and participation! We had a record year with 18 teams participating and several new company sponsorships.



With your generosity, we were able to raise over **\$9,000** which will directly benefit our scholarship fund.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Career Panel, May 2018

Top Row (left to right): Courtney Carr, Mariana Raschke, Kimberly Williams (panelist), Inas Aweidah (panelist), Victoria Gonzalez, Suzanna Set, Courtney Blechle. Bottom Row: Roma Stevens (panelist), Yubrani Pinch, Victoria Mota



Salary Negotiation/Self-Advocacy Panel, September 2018

Left to right: Victoria Gonzalez, Monisha Khurana (Chair), Courtney Blechle, Victoria Mota, Jennifer Kirk (panelist), Yubrani Pinch, Mariana Raschke, Courtney Carr, Cynthia Walker (panelist), Suzanna Set

by Monisha Khurana, Goodman Corporation, WTS Mentorship Chair

The WTS Houston Chapter initiated a member to member Mentorship program this year. The program, modeled after the WTS DC Chapter, focuses on professional development and growth for all participants. As part of the program, mentors and mentees meet individually for one hour per month over the seven-month duration of the program, from April through November. Mentors and mentees were paired based upon professional interests and career focus areas.

The Mentorship Program hosted events for the participants each month, alternating between informal happy hours and panels focusing on specific professional development topics.

Highlights of the program included a Career Panel and a discussion regarding Salary Negotiation and Self-Advocacy. The Career Panel in May featured Inas Aweidah (Senior Manager, AECOM), Roma Stevens (President, Stevens Technical Services) and Kimberly Williams (Chief Innovation Officer, METRO). At this panel, mentees had the opportunity to learn from three leaders in the transportation industry. The panelists spoke openly about their careers in the industry, the paths they took and the lessons they have learned along the way, including the importance of skills, relationships and work-life balance.

I would strongly recommend this program to anyone looking for more guidance in their career. I have really enjoyed getting to know [my mentor]. I appreciate any advice she gives me, both professionally and personally.

Victoria Mota, Mentee

In September, program participants met with senior leaders at Occidental Petroleum, Jennifer Kirk (Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer) and Cynthia L. Walker (Senior Vice President, Marketing and Midstream Operations and Development) to discuss salary negotiation and advocating for yourself in the workplace. The panelists discussed the importance of identifying individual values and stretching and challenging yourself for growth.

Mentees had the opportunity to discuss their own experiences as well and learn from each other.

Other events to-date included a kickoff meeting in April where mentors and mentees had the opportunity to meet other program participants, the WTS Houston's Conflict Resolution Soft Skills workshop in July, an Escape Room activity in June, and a happy hour in August. The program will conclude with a graduation ceremony in November.

I really enjoy sharing what I have learned in my career to provide a platform for young women to learn more about the transportation industry. I have learned about myself through this experience.

Bonnie Moss, Mentor

ANNUAL AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Award Winners

WTS Houston honored their award and scholarship winners at the annual WTS Scholarship and Awards Gala held on Friday, March 2, 2018 at the Houston Club. The location was new this year and offered stunning views of downtown Houston, we will definitely be returning to the Houston Club in future years!

Carol E. Haddock, PE, Director of Houston Public Works, was the keynote speaker at the gala. Carol is the first woman to serve as the City of Houston's Director of Public Works.

The chapter presented five awards this year to remarkable individuals. We had record breaking attendance and the chapter was able to raise \$2,700 from the silent auction and raffle.

2018 WTS Houston Award Winners

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Commissioner Laura Ryan
Texas Transportation Commission

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Traffic Engineers, Inc.

HONORABLE RAY LAHOOD (MAN OF THE YEAR)

Thomas C. Lambert, CEO
METRO

INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION AWARD

METRO Next Regional
Transportation Plan
Priya Zachariah
METRO

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Stephanie Guillot, PE
AECOM



ANNUAL AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Scholarship Winners

2018 WTS Houston Scholarship Winners

HELENE M. OVERLY MEMORIAL

Sirajum Munira
Texas A&M University

SHARON D BANKS MEMORIAL

Jesica Rubio
Texas A&M University

TRANSPORTATION YOU

Jasmine Huang
Bellaire Senior High School



by Kathy Phillips, Contract Land Staff, Scholarship Chair

On March 2, 2018 WTS Houston awarded \$20,000 in total scholarships to Sirajum (Silvy) Munira, Jesica Rubio and Jasmine Huang. With the start of a new school year, we thought you would like to know how these awardees were impacted by their scholarship.

Silvy Munira indicates that she is truly blessed to be the recipient of the Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship. She continues working on her PH.D. degree in Transportation Engineering at Texas A&M and is expected to graduate in 2020. The scholarship helped reduce her financial stress so she can concentrate more on studying and research. It also helped her pay for courses and travel to conferences to present her work and network. She feels the scholarship boosted her confidence, highlighted her achievements and relieved financial stress. She thanks WTS Houston for the networking opportunities at the Gala and looks forward to working with WTS Houston in the future.

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Sharon D. Banks Scholarship recipient **Jesica Rubio** has graduated from Texas A&M with a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning. She is studying for her GRE test on September 28. Once she receives her GRE scores she will be able to submit to the graduate program at Texas A&M and University of Houston for a Masters in Architecture. She is interning at LAN. The scholarship helped her pay for her last semester at Texas A&M and the GRE test. She truly feels blessed to have received the scholarship and appreciates WTS Houston and its corporate sponsors.

Jasmine Huang was accepted to Harvard University and has been busy moving in and picking her classes. She doesn't have to declare a major until sophomore year, but she's still leaning towards a transportation angle. The TransportationYOU scholarship had been a huge help in meeting her financial needs so she can focus on her classes. She's excited for the multiple opportunities she has by attending Harvard and truly appreciates WTS Houston and all it has done for her.



WTS STUDENT CHAPTERS

by Fabiola Dagrín, ARUP, Student Chapter Chair

WTS Houston is dedicated to advancing women in transportation at the collegiate level. The student relations committee has the objective of starting new student chapters at all of the universities in our region in the long term plan. We have ratified two student chapters; Prairie View A&M and Texas A&M, in the past



two years and currently working on establishing a WTS student chapter at Texas Southern University this academic year. The established student chapters have been successful at recruiting and engaging the student members by holding general body meetings on campus and offering high quality professional development activities that include resume workshops, leadership workshops, mentor mixers, project site visits and participating in WTS Houston events. WTS Houston is proud of our student chapters and the high level at which they are operating. WTS Houston is committed to continuing to support the student chapters and help them make the most of their WTS membership.

by Lorenzo Jones, Prairie View A&M Student Chapter

As a proud member, WTS has provided several opportunities for both students and professionals. Beginning as students, the organization has been very supportive in preparing STEM related students for the professional world including seminars, guest speakers and social activities. Students not only are able to learn about their field, however they are informed about current events in the transportation industry and how it contributes a pivotal role in their field including architecture, construction and engineering. Although dedicated to women, the organization also welcomes men in with informative information and how their assistance is important. As an organization with diversity, WTS also helps professionals network amongst others and provides where everyone can develop.

2018 WTS Houston Committee Chairs

PROGRAMS CHAIR

Courtney Blechle - HNTB

CORPORATE PARTNERS CHAIR

Liza Amar - CDM Smith

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP EVENT CHAIR

Melissa Fontenot - Cypress Environmental Consulting

DIVERSITY CHAIR

Jessica Jia, PE, PTOE - Traffic Engineers, Inc.

STEM & TRANSPORTATION YOU

Tanya Hobson, PE - Jones|Carter

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Thalia Izela Gonzalez - Jacobs

SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIR

Kathy Phillips - Contract Land Staff

GOLF TOURNAMENT CHAIR

Karen Coopersmith - Jacobs

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRS

Aimee Trawick - Halff & Associates

Susan Patterson - Cox McLain Environmental

MENTORSHIP CHAIR

Monisha Khurana, AICP - The Goodman Corporation

HOSPITALITY CHAIR

Courtney Carr - MBCO Engineering, LLC

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Paola Betancourt - Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc.

STUDENT CHAPTER CHAIR

Fabiola Dagrín, PE - ARUP

STEM EVENTS

Girls in STEM Conference

by Angela McMurray, HNTB

WTS Houston was lucky enough to have the opportunity to team with GirlStart in the 2018 *Girls in STEM Conference*. We can thank our friends in the WTS HOT Chapter for introducing us to this amazing group.

The day started with an inspiring opening session that encouraged over 350 4th and 5th grade girls to consider the world of STEM when thinking about their future.

WTS Houston lead two classes where we taught the girls about the different types of bridges, the strength of a simple triangle, and the girls even built their own "sweet bridge" out of marshmallows, tooth picks, and pasta. Each team tested the bridge to see how many weights it could hold. Our reigning champions held 23 pennies on their truss bridge.

I will have to admit I was a bit nervous as I planned to attend my first STEM event. However, the curious nature and creativity of the students was so inspiring I cannot wait until next years conference.

I want to say a big thank you to our volunteers for the day; Suzanna Set (Midtown Engineers), Tammy Clidienst (Union Pacific Rail Road), Gwen Goodwin (TSU), and Agueda Guerra (Jacobs).



2018 WTS DC Summit

by Tammy M. Clidienst, Union Pacific Rail Road

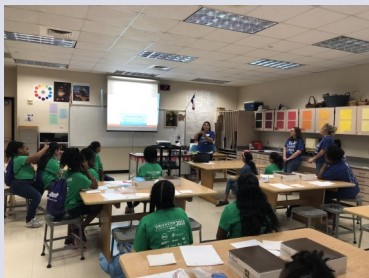


I had the honor of participating on the 7th annual DC Summit through Transportation You. My mentee, Jenny Octaviano, attends YES Prep Academy and will be a junior next year - she is currently ranked number 2 in her class and is interested in a STEM (possibly engineering) career. Together, along with the other mentees and mentors, we engaged in once in a lifetime experiences that included a behind the scenes tour of the US Department of Transportation and Reagan Airport where we heard from high ranking women officials. We were able to sit

at the Senate and hear women speak about their experiences and career paths; we did a transportation trivia scavenger hunt at the monuments; we went on a boat dinner cruise and learned about boat transportation; we went to Turner Fairbank Highway Research Center and the girls got to experience crash and weather simulations and hear about a typical employee day; and we got an insider tour

at George Washington University where the mentees heard from a college student panel. The day culminated with team presentations from the mentees trying to solve a current transportation problem. My mentee, Jenny, said "this program helped me have more contact from places like the Department of Transportation, Reagan National Airport, George Washington University, and Turner Fairbank Highway Research Center. This program gave me a lot of confidence to not give up on my passion and to never say no to any opportunity that is offered to me. Many mentors around the United States, including my own mentor, Tammy Clidienst, have offered me continued opportunities and help with outreach and scholarships." Jenny also said "we created long lasting friendships. I remember the first night, all of the girls were shy to talk to one another, but as the days passed we were all able to connect to one another and have more interesting conversations". The DC Summit was a jam packed few days with a robust agenda that left us exhilarated and inspired and we were so fortunate to attend!

This program gave me a lot of confidence to not give up on my passion and to never say no to any opportunity that is offered to me.



WTS HOUSTON 2018 EVENTS

2018 Programs

January	Luncheon	Harris County Flood Control, Alan Black, Hurricane Harvey and It's Impacts on the Transportation System
February	Luncheon	HCTRA Ship Channel Bridge Updates from John Tyler
March	Luncheon	Future Technologies Panel
April	Soft Skills Series	Leadership (DiSC Personality)
April	Luncheon	Council Member Amanda Edwards (City of Houston)
May	Luncheon	H-GAC 2045 Plan Update
July	Soft Skills Series	Conflict Resolutions
August	Luncheon	High Speed Rail - Stephanie Nellons Paige
September	Luncheon	Joint Meeting with TexITE – Panel: Safety in Transportation
October	Soft Skills Series	Learn to Refuel
October	Luncheon	Freight, Rail and Ports with Bruce Mann, Port Houston and Brenda Mainwaring, UPRR
November	Tour	AT&T Utility Tour
November	Luncheon	Annual Diversity Luncheon: Small Businesses; Big Impact

2018 WTS International Conference



The WTS Houston Chapter had eight members attend the 2018 WTS Annual Conference in San Diego, California. The conference theme was Driving the Waves of Change and many of the sessions focused on emerging and future technologies within the realm transportation.

The Houston Chapter was able to award \$4,000 in scholarships to four members for conference attendance.



CORPORATE PARTNERS

2018 WTS Houston Financial Statement January - October 2018

REVENUE	
Annual Awards Gala	\$16,676.00
Golf Tournament	\$34,640.00
Membership	\$3,810.00
Monthly Programs	\$15,801.14
Corporate Sponsorship	\$50,820.00
Other	\$247.34
Total Revenue	\$121,994.48
EXPENDITURES	
Annual Awards Gala	\$12,858.78
Operating Expenses	\$23,238.48
Golf Tournament	\$28,088.19
Membership	\$1,197.05
Mentorship Program	\$529.90
Monthly Programs	\$18,842.63
Scholarship Committee	\$5,821.15
Corporate Sponsorship	\$10,641.15
STEM Committee	\$3,479.87
Student Chapters Committee	\$927.43
Total Expenditures	\$105,624.63
NET REVENUE	\$16,369.85

TITANIUM	   
PLATINUM	    
GOLD	   
DIAMOND	  
RUBY/AFFILIATE	
SILVER	        
SMALL BUSINESS	        
IN-KIND	 

Our corporate and agency sponsors help WTS Houston underwrite programs, STEM events, scholarships and professional development opportunities. **Their generous financial support allows WTS Houston to continue to promote our mission and expand our reach in the local transportation industry.**

But gaining corporate backing is no small challenge, fortunately, WTS Houston Corporate Sponsorship Chair Liza Amar has greatly increased financial support from our annual sponsorships while also increasing the number of sponsoring firms and agencies. Liza and the 2018 WTS Houston Board of Directors wish to thank all of the corporate and agency partners who gave so generously to help our chapter further its mission.

