



Advancing Women in Transportation
Washington, DC Chapter

2019 Annual Report

WTS-DC



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Chapter Board and Advisors

Officers

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Immediate Past President
Adrienne Ameel, <i>Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.</i>	Neela Babu, <i>WSP USA</i>	Rachel Roberts, <i>British Embassy</i>	Christine Sherman, <i>Arlington County</i>	Avital Barnea, <i>AASHTO</i>

Committee Members

Communications, Newsletter and Social Media

Chair: Jennifer Heilman,
Stratacomm

Leslie Thomas, *ATCS*

Corporate Membership and Program Sponsorship

Chair: Cherie Gibson, *HNTB*

Anita Beier, *Retired*

Sarah Knox, *Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.*

Diversity

Chair: Sahar Nabaee, *STV Inc.*

Mei Feng, *Nspiregreen*

Anita Beier, *Retired*

Holiday Party

Co-Chair: Audra Bandy, *Fairfax County DOT*

Co-Chair: Danielle Berman,
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Legislative

Chair: Mariah Morales, *Amtrak*

Jennifer Covino, *Simon and Company, Inc.*

Membership

Chair: Bailey Lozner, *Kittelson and Associates*

Lezlie Rupert, *DDOT*

Mentoring

Co-Chair: Jacqueline Lavalleye,
HDR, Inc.

Co-Chair: Roxanne Feige,
Atkins Global

Sarah Henly-Thomas, *HDR, Inc.*

Professional Development

Chair: Cerasela Cristei, *T3 Design*

Khatereh Vaghefi, *WSP USA*

Program Logistics

Chair: Katie Masetti, *Sabra and Associates*

Alanna McKeeman, *Foursquare ITP*

Recognitions

Chair: Katie Kraft, *WMATA*

Haley Peckett, *DDOT*

Scholarship and Fundraising

Chair: Nancy Connor, *HDR*

Transportation YOU

Chair: Jasmy Methipara, *US DOT*

Margaret-Avis Akofio-Sowah,
WSP USA

Advisors

Margaret Ballard, <i>Retired HDR</i>	Cathy Connor, <i>WSP USA</i>	Anne Stubbs, <i>Retired Coalition of Northeast Governors</i>
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WTS-DC 2019-2020 Corporate Members

Thank you to the WTS-DC 2019-2020 Corporate Members! This support helps sustain our Chapter, including the programming and scholarships we offer!

GOLD LEVEL



SILVER LEVEL



BRONZE LEVEL



W/MDBE/SWaM



A special thank you to our Transportation Rock Star sponsors: Foursquare ITP, ITS America and T3 Design. Their scholarship donations will support young women in the Washington, DC area who are pursuing a degree in transportation.

President's Message

Dear WTS-DC Chapter members and friends,

The WTS-DC Chapter had an incredible year in 2019 and hosted an array of diverse programs to reflect the interests of our members. In total, we hosted 18 events that featured many high-level transportation leaders. We held a coffee chat with Caroline Decker, Vice President Northeast Corridor Service Line at Amtrak. We had two events with CEOs: Paul Skoutelas from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and Paul Wiedefeld from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). We were fortunate to have Nicole Nason, the newly appointed FHWA Administrator, join us for a luncheon. We also held two executive women's roundtable events that attracted many senior transportation professionals. To help attract new members, we hosted our first annual membership mixer on the rooftop of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT).

To engage our young transportation professional members, the Chapter continues to support the advancement of women in transportation by pairing 14 mentees with mentors through our mentoring program. The mentoring program continues to be strong and many pairs stay in touch after the program. I always enjoy hearing the career advice mentees receive as part of this remarkable program.

The Transportation You committee continued to partner with Dunbar High School students in 2019. To help increase student participation, the committee also hosted events at McKinley Tech High School for the first time. The committee hosts monthly meetings that include inspirational speakers, speed mentoring, and lunches that focus on professional development and college readiness.

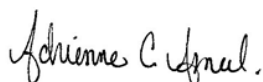
We were able to sponsor four members to attend the WTS annual conference in Boston, MA. The conference is a great event to network and includes many professional development programs. At the conference, the Washington, DC, Chapter achieved Gold Status, the highest level of WTS International's Circle of Excellence Program. Also in 2019, the Chapter was able to sponsor three members to attend the WTS Chapter Leader Training in Denver, CO, which helped our Chapter learn about the latest WTS-I initiatives. This year, WTS-I requested feedback based on rebranding the organization, a new website, and a new membership portal. It is vital that our Chapter participates in this event to understand the new tools that are available from WTS-I and also to connect with other Chapters.

The Chapter hosted a record-breaking holiday party in 2019 with more than 250 attendees. The event took place at the Hotel Monaco in downtown DC. At this event, the Chapter was able to honor five well-deserved professionals in the Washington, DC community; along with an innovative transportation solution by a female project manager, and an employer of the year. In addition, the Chapter was able to award five scholarships totaling \$10,000 to two Ph.D. candidates and three undergraduate students.

The Chapter broke another record by raising more than \$40,000 in Corporate Memberships this year! We are grateful to our corporate members for their generous support!

A big thanks to the 34 dedicated board members that made 2019 a great success!

Sincerely,



Adrienne C. Ameel
2018-2019 WTS-DC Chapter President

Treasurer's Report

Table 1 – Operations Budget as of December 31, 2019

Revenues	Actual 2019
Holiday Party Revenues	\$13,700.31
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship: Corp. Membership dues*	\$36,000.40
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship: Program Sponsorship	\$6,117.10
Diversity Committee Revenues	\$562.09
Legislative Committee Revenues	\$0.00
Membership Committee Revenues*/***	\$13,553.19
Professional Development Committee Revenues	\$2,229.78
Mentoring Committee Revenues	\$0.00
Other Programs Revenues	\$16,340.81
Total Revenue	\$88,503.68
Expenses	Actual 2019
Holiday Party Expenses	\$21,116.11
Communications/Outreach Expenses	\$636.00
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship Committee Expenses	\$202.53
Corporate Membership Expenses (to WTS International)**	\$2,760.00
Diversity Committee Expenses	\$609.58
Legislative Committee Expenses	\$0.00
Membership Committee Expenses	\$2,354.79
Professional Development Committee Expenses	\$3,214.40
Mentoring Committee Expenses	\$1,204.01
Recognitions Committee Expenses	\$944.74
Scholarship and Fundraising Committee Expenses	\$0.00
Transportation YOU Committee Expenses	\$3,358.24
Other Program Expenses	\$19,153.71
Administrative Expenses	\$1,624.78
2019 WTS International Conference(s)/Travel Expenses**	\$7,588.45
Total Expenses	\$64,767.34

* Pending accounts receivable as of 12/31/2019

** Pending accounts payable as of 12/31/2019

*** Includes \$2,340 from 2016 revenue that was not cashed until 2019

Table 2 – 2019 Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet	January 1, 2019	December 31, 2019
Cash Balance:	\$79,865.55	\$68,668.03
Other Assets:		
Cash Reserve Account	\$98,985.00	\$98,985.00
PayPal	\$5,598.52	\$19,432.68
Accounts Receivables:	\$6,800.00	\$10,410.00
Accounts Payable:	\$20,290.95	\$6,650.86
Ending Balance	\$170,958.12	\$190,844.85

Table 3 – 2019 Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Fund	Balance
Starting Balance	\$37,283.43
Total Amount Raised*	19,523.32
2019 Corporate Member 10% Allocation*	\$3,650.00
2019 Transportation Rock Stars*	\$1,500.00
2019 Sponsored Scholarships*	\$10,500.00
Complete Streets Bike Tour Fundraiser	\$675.21
Leading Across Generations Event	\$751.09
VDOT Environmental Compliance Event	\$1,009.67
2019 Holiday Party Scholarship Tree	\$1,339.85
Individual Contributions*	\$97.50
Total Amount Distributed	\$10,000.00
Ending Balance	\$46,806.75

* Pending accounts receivable as of 12/31/2019

** Pending accounts payable as of 12/31/2019

Executive Board

The WTS-DC Executive Board is comprised of five members: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President. In 2019, the officers serving on the board were:

- President: Adrienne Ameal
- Vice President: Neela Babu
- Treasurer: Rachel Roberts
- Secretary: Christine Sherman Baker
- Immediate Past President: Avital Barnea

As President, Adrienne Ameal guided and led the organization. She set goals and objectives for the organization in conjunction with the Executive Board and the members. Adrienne was also responsible for presiding at meetings and events, and for communicating with the board and the membership. In general, the president provides leadership and direction for WTS-DC and has the authority to sign official documents on behalf of the organization.

As Vice President, Neela Babu supported the President. She was also responsible for organizing meeting invitations and sending out the agenda prior to board meetings and the annual meeting. The Vice President oversees programming for the chapter, which she does by coordinating with other committees on topics, dates, times, and locations for events.

As Treasurer, Rachel Roberts had charge and custody of the WTS-DC accounts, both for the chapter and for the scholarship account. She was responsible for coordinating the budget, preparing monthly financial reports, preparing the annual financial reports, handling all donations, and maintaining financial records. In addition to the President, the Treasurer has the authority to sign contracts and invoices on behalf of the chapter.

As Secretary, Christine Sherman served as the guardian of all WTS-DC Corporate records. She was responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings and for maintaining the website. In 2019, Christine also managed the officer election process.

As Immediate Past President, Avital Barnea served as an advisor to the Executive Board and a historian of previous chapter activities. She was also the chapter representative to the WTS Northeast Region Council.

The Executive Board collectively works to make decisions pertaining to running the chapter. All five officers work together to check in with committees, recruit volunteers for the Board, engage with members, and act as ambassadors for WTS-DC.

Board Meetings

In 2019, WTS-DC board meetings were held on the following dates:

- Monday, February 4
- Monday, March 4
- Monday, April 8
- Monday, May 6
- Monday, June 3

- Monday, July 8
- Monday, August 5
- Monday, September 9
- Monday, October 7
- Monday, November 4
- Monday, December 2

The Executive Board and representatives from each committee were expected to attend at least eight of the 11 board meetings. For a quorum to be established, at least three of the five executive board members needed to be present and at least six of the committees needed to be represented (either in person or on the phone). Committees submitted monthly committee reports before each meeting. Those reports were compiled along with the board meeting agenda and distributed by email prior to the meeting.

2019 Annual Meeting

The WTS-DC 2019 annual meeting was held at the start of our August board meeting. The primary business of the annual meeting was to vote on the WTS-DC 2018 Annual Report. All members were invited to attend either in person or by phone; members also had the option to vote in advance or by proxy. Once a quorum was established, the membership voted to approve the report. Members were invited to comment on any other business and then the meeting adjourned. The WTS-DC 2018 Annual Report can be found on the website.

2020 Officer Elections

Every year, WTS-DC elects four officers for the following calendar year: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. In the fall of 2019, the Executive board presented a slate of candidates for those four positions for 2020. To facilitate anonymous voting, the election was held using an online system called Election Runner, which emailed each chapter member (who had been a member in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the election) a unique link to their ballot. The ballot listed the candidate slate and, for each position, presented the option for a write-in. Members voted for one person for each position. Per the WTS-DC bylaws, at least 10% of the membership must vote to establish a quorum. The response rate in the election exceeded that threshold, and the membership voted on the following officers to lead WTS-DC in 2020:

- President: Neela Babu
- Vice President: Katie Kraft
- Treasurer: Rachel Roberts
- Secretary: Christine Sherman Baker

Adrienne Ameal will serve as Immediate Past President in 2020.

Committee Reports

WTS-DC has 12 committees that contribute to the overall operation of the Chapter. The responsibilities of each committee are described below along with a summary of their accomplishments in 2019.

Communications, Newsletter and Social Media

In 2019, the Communications, Newsletter and Social Media Committee (from here on referred to as the Communications Committee) included Jennifer Heilman of Stratacomm as Chair and Leslie Thomas of ATCS as Deputy Chair.

The Communications Committee works with the Executive Board, the Membership Committee and various program planning committees to provide regular communications to Chapter members and friends about upcoming events and membership initiatives through the publication of a bimonthly e-newsletter, e-blasts and social media. The committee has an active presence on social media as they curate content for the Chapter's social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. The committee is also responsible for publishing a bi-monthly newsletter, which includes a President's message, summaries of recent events, corporate member spotlights, and other articles written by members.

In 2019, the Communications Committee largely continued to support ongoing e-blast and e-newsletter development. This included completing the transition/upgrade of the Chapter's Constant Contact email templates to ensure the Chapter could fully utilize Constant Contact's newest features (e.g. automated resend to non-openers within a specified timeframe and enhanced analytics). When the automated resend feature was used for final event reminders to non-openers, it increased the open rate on average 12% and increased the number of clicks by nearly a third.

The committee continued to use a free WordPress site – <http://wtsgdc.wordpress.com> – to host articles for the bimonthly e-newsletter, and in 2019, developed a content editorial calendar to track topics/themes and content draft deadlines for board members. A total of five e-newsletters were sent in 2019 and as of December 2019, the WordPress blog received 3,013 views for the year.

Lastly, the Communications Committee continued to manage and curate content for the Chapter's social media channels, including [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), ensuring more consistent use of social media best practices. In June 2019, the committee began transitioning the Chapter's LinkedIn presence from a private group to the platform's more robust company page template. Analytics for these efforts are as follows:

(as of December 31, 2019)

Emails:

- Total E-blasts sent: 39
- Total E-newsletters sent: 5
- Average open rate: 27% (industry average 21%)
- Average click-through-rate: 13% (industry average 7%)
- Opens by device: 24% mobile; 76% desktop

Social Media:

Twitter

- Total Tweets: 106
- Total impressions: 43,403
- Mentions: 27
- New followers: 60 (426 total followers)

Facebook

- Total posts: 59
- Reach (number of unique post views): 3,937
- New followers: 29 (145 total followers)

LinkedIn (company page analytics available starting June 2019)

- Total posts: 26
- Total impressions: 29,420
- Members: 88

Corporate Membership and Program Sponsorship

The Corporate Membership and Program Sponsorship Committee was led by Cherie Gibson of HNTB as Chair and Anita Beier as Deputy Chair, who were supported by volunteer Sarah Knox of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Table 4 – 2019-2020 Corporate Membership Offerings

Benefits	Gold \$3500	Silver \$2000	Bronze \$1000	W/M/DBE \$500
Complimentary ticket(s) to the Annual Holiday Party	3	2	1	1
Logo prominently displayed at all Chapter events	X	X	X	X
Logo to appear in Chapter e-blasts	X	X	X	X
Verbal recognition at all Chapter events	X	X	X	X
Acknowledgement on Chapter website	X	X	X	X
Special nametag designation at all Chapter events	X	X	X	X
WTS assigned membership	1	1	1	1
WTS floating membership	1			
Corporate spotlight article in Chapter newsletter	X			

The committee's responsibilities for corporate membership include: developing and updating the corporate membership benefits brochure; maintaining the list of corporate members; profiling corporate members in the newsletter; recruiting new corporate members; and ensuring that the corporate membership logos and banner are up to date. Additionally, the committee is responsible for managing program sponsorships, which are donations for specific programs run by WTS-DC.

Our WTS-DC 2019-2020 Corporate Membership offerings are shown in Table 4. Our 2019-2020 WTS-DC Corporate Members are listed in Table 5. In addition to corporate membership at any level, corporate members may choose to add a Transportation Rock Star designation for \$500. All funds received from these add-on Transportation Rock Star contributions support WTS-DC's 501(c)3 Scholarship Fund.

Table 5 – 2019-2020 Corporate Members (listed alphabetically)

Organization	Membership Type	Fee	Rock Star Contribution
AASHTO	GOLD	\$3,500	
AECOM	SILVER	\$2,000	
APTA	GOLD	\$3,500	
Foursquare ITP	DBE	\$500	\$500
Guidehouse	BRONZE	\$1,000	
HDR	BRONZE	\$1,000	
HNTB Corporation	GOLD	\$3,500	
ITS America	BRONZE	\$1,000	\$500
Jacobs	GOLD	\$3,500	
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.	SILVER	\$2,000	
Kittelson & Associates	SILVER	\$2,000	
Railway Supply Institute (RSI)	BRONZE	\$1,000	
RK&K	SILVER	\$2,000	
SecureInsights	W/MDBE/SWaM	\$500	
Sharp & Company	W/MDBE/SWaM	\$500	
Simon and Company	BRONZE	\$1,000	
Stratacomm	BRONZE	\$1,000	
STV, Inc.	BRONZE	\$1,000	
T3 Design Corporation	W/MDBE/SWaM	\$500	\$500
Thompson Coburn	SILVER	\$2,000	
Transurban	GOLD	\$3,500	
WRA	SILVER	\$2,000	
WSP	SILVER	\$2,000	
TOTAL Corporate Membership		\$40,500	
TOTAL Transportation Rock Stars			\$1,500

In 2019, the committee surpassed the corporate membership contributions from 2018! They secured three Transportation Rock Star sponsorships (as noted in Table 5), recruited four new corporate members (ITS America, Simon and Company, STV Inc., and SecureInsights), and upgraded one corporate member from Silver to Gold level (Transurban). The committee also contributed three articles to the Chapter newsletter, including two corporate member profiles.

In addition to funds received from corporate memberships and Rock Star contributions, the committee raised \$6,117.10 in sponsorship for the Chapter's programs. These program-specific donations help make our events possible.

Diversity

The Diversity Committee was led by Sahar Nabaee of STV Inc. as Chair; Mei Feng of Nspiregreen and Anita Beier served as Co-Deputy Chairs of the committee.

The WTS-DC Diversity Committee seeks to promote diversity and inclusion in the transportation industry for users and providers alike, regardless of age, ability, ethnicity/race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic circumstances. WTS-DC believes that every industry, including transportation, benefits from diversity. Embracing different backgrounds and points of view will guide us towards more innovative and equitable transportation solutions that work for everyone.

Throughout the year, the Diversity Committee submitted "Diversity Spotlights" to the WTS-DC newsletter and social media to celebrate and reflect on the actions of marginalized individuals and minority groups that have made significant contributions to the transportation industry. "Diversity Spotlights" were submitted in February for Black History Month, June for Pride Month, and March for International Women's Day.

On August 26th, the Diversity Committee held its annual event, in recognition of Women's Equality Day, which commemorates the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the fundamental right to vote regardless of one's gender. The event "Safety and Mobility for All – Is Transportation Gender-Neutral?"

featured four panelists from widely different professional backgrounds with the shared mission of ending gender inequality and sexual violence in transportation and public spaces. The panelists discussed the safety issues that women face when using public transportation and discussed the ongoing efforts aimed at addressing some of those issues on the international, national, and local levels. The panelists also shared various tools, resources, and tactics that could be employed by victims



Figure 1 – "Safety and Mobility for All" panelists from left to right: Tyra Redus, Natalie Draisin, Alicia Sanchez Gill, and Polly Hanson.

and bystanders for reporting and interrupting sexual harassment. The panel was attended by approximately 50 participants, and there was an extended Q&A session where some participants shared their personal experiences and approaches to addressing harassment.

In October, the Diversity Committee provided support to the Scholarship Committee in scholarship application review process. The collaboration intended to bring a diversity lens to the review process and ensure diversity amongst the scholarship recipients.

In December, Committee Chair Sahar Nabaee was honored with the Chapter's Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership award for her ongoing commitment to increasing diversity and helping others understand its importance in the transportation industry.

Holiday Party

In 2019, Audra Bandy of Fairfax County DOT and Danielle Berman of Kimley-Horn and Associates acted as Co-Chairs of the Holiday Party Committee.

The Holiday Party Committee is responsible for organizing the Chapter's largest event of the year: our Annual Holiday Party in December. They identify a venue and a caterer that can accommodate the size of the grand event. The committee coordinates with several other committees on the event: with Scholarship and Fundraising whose awardees are recognized at the event, with Recognitions whose awardees are recognized at the event, with Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship to identify potential program sponsors, with Communications to coordinate messaging about the event, and with Program Logistics on ticket sales.

In previous years, the WTS-DC Holiday Party has been a sold-out event with a long wait list. This year, the Chapter wanted to try a larger venue that would accommodate a larger number of attendees. The Holiday Party Committee was tasked specifically with finding a venue that could accommodate 250 people. Planning for the holiday party began in February, when the committee initiated their venue search, and continued through December.

The annual WTS-DC Holiday Party and Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at the Hotel Monaco in Washington, DC. There were 250 members and guests from throughout the transportation industry in attendance. The award announcers were Stephen Gardner, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Commercial Officer at Amtrak and Linda Darr, President and CEO of ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies); they are pictured in Figures 2 and 9 respectively. Additional special guests included Helen Cuervo (District Administrator of the Virginia Department of Transportation), Beverley Swaim-Staley (President and CEO of Union Station Redevelopment Corporation, and former WTS International Board Chair), John Porcari (President at WSP USA, and former US DOT Deputy Secretary), Mort Downey (President at Mort Downey Consulting LLC, former Member of the WMATA Board of Directors, and former US DOT Deputy Secretary), and Paul Wiedefeld (General Manager and CEO at Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority).

This event was an opportunity for our Chapter to recognize and honor the recipients of our Member of the Year Award, Woman of the Year Award, Employer of the Year Award, Honorable Ray LaHood Award, Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award, and Innovative Transportation Solutions Award. These awards were presented to the following recipients during the 2019 Annual Holiday Party:

- Member of the Year: Jennifer Heilman, Stratacomm
- Woman of the Year: Caroline Decker, Amtrak
- Employer of the Year: WSP, award received by Rolando Amaya
- Innovative Transportation Solutions: Integrated Corridor Management Framework – NOVA Regional Mobility Project, VDOT, award received by Amy McElwain
- Honorable Ray LaHood: Paul Skoutelas, American Public Transportation Association
- Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership: Sahar Nabaee, STV Inc.

These individuals and organizations made extraordinary contributions to the transportation industry as leaders, role models, mentors, and benefactors and they generously support WTS in a variety of ways. Our WTS-DC Recognition Award recipients are shown in Figures 3-8. (See the Recognitions Committee report for more details about our awards and our awardees.)



Figure 2 – Stephen Gardner, Chief Operating and Commercial Officer at Amtrak, presented the WTS-DC 2019 Recognition Awards.



Figure 3 –Member of the Year Award Winner Jennifer Heilman (center), with WTS-DC President Adrienne Ameel (left) and WTS-DC Recognitions Committee Chair Katie Kraft (right).



Figure 4 –Woman of the Year Award Winner Caroline Decker (center), with WTS-DC President Adrienne Ameel (left) and WTS-DC Recognitions Committee Chair Katie Kraft (right).



Figure 5 –Employer of the Year Award Winner WSP, Rolando Amaya (center), with WTS-DC President Adrienne Ameel (left) and WTS-DC Recognitions Committee Chair Katie Kraft (right).



Figure 6 – Innovative Transportation Solutions Award Winner Amy McElwain (center), with WTS-DC President Adrienne Ameel (left) and WTS-DC Recognitions Committee Chair Katie Kraft (right).



Figure 7 – Honorable Ray LaHood Award Winner Paul Skoutelas (center), with WTS-DC President Adrienne Ameel (left) and WTS-DC Recognitions Committee Chair Katie Kraft (right).



Figure 8 – Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award Winner Sahar Nabaee was unable to attend the Holiday Party and had a colleague accept the award on her behalf (center), with WTS-DC President Adrienne Ameel (left) and WTS-DC Recognitions Committee Chair Katie Kraft (right).

In addition to honoring our award winners, we also recognized five deserving students as recipients of WTS-DC Scholarship Funds. These scholarships are funded through the annual WTS-DC Scholarship Donation Tree, fundraising programs over the course of the year, and direct contributions from members and industry partners (WTS-DC Board Advisors, Dewberry, HDR, Kimley-Horn and Associates, and WSP USA). These scholarships are a way to support our industry's future. All our scholarship recipients are pictured in Figure 10. (See the Scholarship Committee report for more details on our scholarship awardees.)

The Scholarship and Fundraising committee worked with great enthusiasm to raise donations throughout the evening at the fourth annual appearance of the Scholarship Tree. (See the Scholarship

and Fundraising Committee section for more details.) A total of \$1,339.85 was raised for the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. WTS-DC would like to thank the organizations and individuals for their contributions of gifts and direct monetary donations. This support allows us to continue providing scholarships to deserving female students in transportation related disciplines at area universities and colleges.



Figure 9 – Linda Darr, President and CEO of ACEC, presented the WTS-DC 2019 Scholarship Awards.



Figure 10 – Scholarship award recipients with WTS-DC Scholarship and Fundraising Committee members Cerasela Cristei (left) and Nancy Connor (right).

Legislative

The Legislative Committee was led by Mariah Morales of Amtrak as Chair and Jennifer Covino of Simon and Company as Deputy Chair.

The committee arranges at least one program annually with a legislative or federal focus. They also prepare legislative news items for inclusion in the newsletter.

On September 13, WTS-DC welcomed Federal Highway Administrator Nicole Nason to learn about her priorities and how advances in technology may impact mobility on America's roads and bridges. Nason was sworn in as the 20th FHWA Administrator on May 2nd becoming only the second female Administrator in the agency's 53-year history. Nason discussed her plans to attract and recruit more women to FHWA. Her focus is not just on the workforce at headquarters in Washington, DC – but in the agency's offices in all 50 states. Much of the conversation focused on how technology innovations have the ability to move people in a safe and efficient manner and improve quality of life for all segments of the public. While enthusiastic about the advancements with autonomous vehicles, she noted that challenges remain, and FHWA is focused on the infrastructure part of the equation. Additionally, Nason offered advice to those in attendance who are at the early stages of their careers and encouraged them to not shy away from taking on all tasks and working hard to advance up the ranks of their organization.



Figure 11 – Legislative event with FHWA Administrator Nicole Nason, pictured on the far right in the tall chair.

Membership

The 2019 Membership Committee Chair was Bailey Lozner of Kittelson and Associates; she was supported by Deputy Chair Lezlie Rupert of DDOT and volunteer Danielle McCray of Kimley-Horn and Associates.

The committee is responsible for maintaining up-to-date membership records, preparing welcome packets for new members, sending renewal emails to Chapter members, and answering any membership-related questions. They provide additional support to the Program Logistics Committee by confirming that everyone who purchased a member ticket for one of our events is in fact a WTS member, and they support the Communications Committee to ensure that our membership email lists are up to date.

WTS-DC Chapter membership remained relatively constant throughout 2019 with the average member count hovering around 234.



Figure 12 – Membership Mixer



Figure 13 – Membership Mixer

This year, on October 3 the committee hosted a Membership Mixer to engage our current membership and bring in potential new members. Participants took in the sights and sounds of the District on a perfect fall evening from the rooftop of 55 M Street SE, the home base for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). Event attendees enjoyed getting to know one another and the benefits of WTS-DC over hors d'oeuvres and drinks through shared common interests, quality conversation, and casual participation in transportation-related quizzes and survey displays.

Mentoring

Jacqueline Lavalleye of HDR, Inc. and Roxanne Feige of Atkins Global served as Co-Chairs of the WTS-DC Mentoring Committee in 2019; they were supported by Sarah Henly-Thomas of HDR, Inc.

The WTS-DC Mentoring Committee is responsible for pairing industry leaders with young professionals in a mentor-mentee relationship in a structured one-year program. The committee encourages each pair to meet approximately monthly either in person or on the phone. In addition to the one-on-one matches, there are group events hosted by industry experts and successful professionals in various sectors of transportation to share career lessons learned. The committee facilitates learning experiences around professionalism in a friendly, interactive environment.

There were 14 mentor-mentee pairs in the 2019 program. Applicants were matched based on their work experience, interests, sector of employment, and personality/communication style. Each pair was encouraged to meet at least once monthly on their own and attend group events throughout the program. Monthly check-in surveys were completed by mentors and mentees to ensure the pairs were continuing to build their partnerships and were meeting regularly.

The kick-off meeting for the 2019 Mentoring program took place at HDR's Navy Yard, DC office on April 10th. All mentoring program participants were highly encouraged to attend the kick-off meeting, and the majority of participants attended. At the kick-off meeting, an icebreaker introduced everyone in the program, the ground rules for the program were established, and ample time was allowed for the group to mingle and meet each other. Some of the ground rules for the program include: a requirement to meet with your mentor/mentee once a month as possible with schedules, a commitment to confidentiality and professionalism, and a request to discuss any issues with the mentor/mentee pairing with the co-chairs as soon as possible to ensure an enjoyable and successful program. During the kick-off meeting, the co-chairs also explained the format of the program. The co-chairs put on one event per month, with a summer break in August. These events alternate between casual happy hours and formal panel events with experts and leaders in the industry. Towards the end of the kick-off meeting, the group voted on three topics they would like for the panel events: salary negotiations, the art of networking, and leading across generations.

The first panel event of the program was hosted at AASHTO's office near Union Station on May 29th. The mentoring program brought in Deepti Gudipati, the founder of DG Leadership Solutions, and Monique Jefferson, Head of Human Resources at the law firm Hogan Lovells. Ms. Gudipati and Ms. Jefferson discussed various salary negotiation tactics and provided tips for getting your desired salary. One big takeaway was the need to negotiate salary before starting a new position because that is the opportunity a company can typically be the most flexible. This panel was a conversation style between

the two panelists, directed by questions from the co-chairs as well as questions from the mentoring program participants in attendance.

Happy Hours events were hosted on June 11th, September 4th, and November 20th at City Tap House in Dupont Circle. The average attendance was six people. These informal events created an opportunity for socializing and networking with mentees and mentors. Based on feedback, next year's program could benefit from interactive events instead of regular happy hours, i.e., yoga, biking around the city or visiting a museum.



Figure 14 – September Happy Hour. As pictured from left to right: Jackie Lavalleye, Roxanne Feige, Colleen Fletcher, Liisa Ecola, Tabia Gamble and Neela Babu.



Figure 15 – November Happy Hour. As pictured from left to right: Jackie Lavalleye, Roxanne Feige, Prachi Ganu, Ruochang Huang, Patricia Macchi, Colleen Fletcher, Leena Silberer, and Elissa

On July 23rd there was an event on “The Art of Networking” hosted at WMATA (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority). Sharon Podobnik Peterson was the speaker; she is the founder of The Center for Conscious Leadership and The Go Love Yourself Box, a subscription box for personal growth. Sharon prepared a presentation with data on networking in 2019, book recommendations, and techniques for all personalities to network. The group then participated in an interactive speed networking exercise. Overall the event was a success and all 12 attendees felt better equipped to sell themselves at future networking opportunities. Sharon also offered a free laser coaching session for everyone who attended the event. Mentors and mentees took advantage of this generous offer and the feedback was highly praised.

The final event, Leading Across Generations, was a shared panel event with the Professional Development Committee. The panel took place on October 30th at APTA (American Public Transportation Association). Registration was open to the public. There were 19 attendees from the mentoring committee and a total of 50 attendees, which made it a sold-out event. The speakers ranged in two different generations and represented both the public and private sectors: Allison Davis, AICP Director in Strategic Planning at WMATA, Katie Frost, Senior Manager in the Office of Performance at WMATA, and Nancy Connor, PE Area Roadway Lead at HDR. The panel answered questions on how Baby Boomers spur creativity in Millennials and how Millennials spark ambition in a Gen Xer. In conclusion to the panel, the audience asked questions and networked with one another.



Figure 16 – Leading Across Generations. As pictured back row from left to right: Lindsey Robertson, Jasmine Richmond, Nancy Connor, Allison Davis, Colleen Fletcher, Melany Alliston-Brick, Rob Victor, Patricia Macchi, Tabia Gamble, Liisa Ecola, Elissa McDade and Leena Silberer. Bottom row from left to right: Ruochang Huang, Prachi Ganu, Elizabeth Lovinggood, Jackie Lavalleye, Shari Shaftlein, Sophie Guiny, Erin Donovan, Susan Howard and Roxanne Feige.

Professional Development

In 2019, Cerasela Cristei of T3 Design and Khatereh Vaghefi of WSP USA served as the Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively, of the Professional Development Committee.

The committee provides opportunities for members and non-members to advance their careers through educational, informative, and skill-developing events. They collaborate with other committees to organize joint events to support career development.

In 2019, the committee organized a total of six events: two events were organized in collaboration with the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee, one event was organized in collaboration with the Mentoring Committee, and three additional events on their own.

In January, the committee helped organize an event at TRB headquarters. A group of TRB staff members and the Executive Director hosted the “How to Successfully Navigate the TRB Annual Meeting” event. Neil Pederson, TRB’s Executive Director, opened the event by sharing his excitement: this was his 43rd Annual Meeting. He confided that it took him five years to fully understand the breadth of the meeting and shared many details with the audience. Katherine Kortum, Christine Gerencher, and Bill Anderson, all three TRB Senior Program Officers, continued the discussion by pointing out that TRB covers all modes of transportation and all disciplines through research, policy, and practice.

To continue the Committee’s effort to provide activities oriented towards career development, on April 16, the committee organized “Navigating your Career Development with Resiliency & Creativity” event developed by Deepti Gudipati. Career development, Deepti told attendees, is a process that must take place at both the personal and professional levels. As professionals thinking about leadership as part of our career development, establishing goals for the next 3–5 years is the first step. Establishing resilient behaviors is one of the most important characteristics of becoming a great leader and successfully overcome future challenges. The final activity of the workshop involved providing simple statements about the following three topics: passions, skills, and goals. Each of these topics come with their own respective internal and external impacts and associated resilient behaviors. This activity brought up

valuable key points in addressing career resiliency for attendees, and provided thought-provoking conversations.

In May, the committee organized the Annual Bike Tour: Complete Streets in Alexandria. This year, it was a joint event with APA. The event took place during a mild rain shower, but it did not deter the participants from learning about Alexandria's facilities and enjoying the ride. The event was followed by a happy hour where more information was exchanged and friendships formed.

In July, the committee organized an event titled "Maintaining Balance: An Evening of Stress Management" which was free for all attendees. Christine Sherman, WTS-DC Secretary, hosted the event where she shared her expertise on techniques to manage stress. Christine brought to the participants a wealth of knowledge about mind and body methods to maintain a healthy lifestyle while juggling work and life.

In September, the collaboration between the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the WTS-DC Chapter resulted in another successful event. This year's event focused on environmental compliance as VDOT is making environmental awareness a priority on all VDOT owned or maintained roads, whether under construction or open to traffic. Anissa Brown, VDOT District Assistant Environmental Manager and Marian Carroll, VDOT District NPDES Coordinator were the featured speakers, and presented about VDOT's Environmental Performance Program (EPP).

The last event of the year was hosted with the Mentoring Committee and was held at the APTA offices. The event titled "Leading Across Generations" brought together a panel of managers who discussed their tried and tested methods and manners on working with people from different generations.



Figure 17 – A full room attending the "Leading Across Generations" panel.

Program Logistics

The Program Logistics Committee was chaired by Katie Masetti, of Sabra and Associates, and the deputy chair was Alanna McKeeman, of Foursquare ITP.

The responsibilities of the committee include working with any Chapter committee or board member who is organizing a WTS-DC event. They support event organizers by helping with planning, and when required they provide advice on venues, caterers, and contracts. Additionally, they handle reservations and ticketing for events, and they handle on-site check-ins. The committee works with the Membership

Committee to ensure that those who purchased member tickets are in fact members of WTS. After an event, the committee reports on event metrics at the following board meeting.

In 2019, the committee supported all WTS-DC events, which are listed in Table 6 below.

Table 6 – WTS-DC 2019 Events

Date	Event Title	Description	Number of Registrants
January 9, 2019	How to Successfully Navigate the TRB Annual Meeting	Open Event, Light Dinner	34
January 27, 2019	2019 WTS-DC Strategic Planning Session	Open Event, Lunch	42
February 7, 2019	The New Mobility Paradigm: A Conversation with APTA's Paul Skoutelas	Open Event, Formal Plated Breakfast	62 (38 Member, 19 Non-Member, 3 Student, 2 Comps.)
March 1, 2019	Executive Women's Roundtable - Mar 1, 2019	Invite Only	29 (24 Member, 5 Non-Member)
March 22, 2019	Coffee Chat with Amtrak's Caroline Decker	Open Event, Coffee	19 (12 Member, 5 Non-Member, 2 Comps.)
April 16, 2019	Navigating your Career Development with Resiliency & Creativity	Open Event, Light Dinner	29 (20 Member, 6 Non-Member, 3 Comps.)
May 5, 2019	Bike Tour and Complete Streets Panel Fundraiser with APA-Virginia (2 CM)	Open Event	22 (1 Super Star Supporter, 6 Star Supporters, 6 Supporters, 1 Donation, 1 Student, 7 Comps.)
June 21, 2019	Putting Dedicated Funding to Work: A Conversation with WMATA CEO Paul Wiedefeld	Open Event, Formal Plated Lunch	117 (54 Member, 46 Non-Member, 1 Student, 16 Comps.)
July 17, 2019	Maintaining Balance: An Evening of Stress Management	Open Event, Water and Snacks	31 (18 Member, 10 Non-Member, 2 Student, 1 Comps.)
August 7, 2019	Transit Options for Improved Mobility – An Event Hosted Jointly with YPT-DC and TRF	Joint Event	60 (from all three organizations)
August 13, 2019	Interactive Workshop on Roberts Rules of Order	Open Event, Light Dinner	9 (7 Member, 1 Non-Member, 1 Comps.)
August 26, 2019	"Safety and Mobility for All" - Is Transportation Gender-Neutral?	Open Event, Light Dinner	48 (28 Member, 13 Non-Member, 2 Student, 5 Comps.)
September 13, 2019	Conversation with FHWA's Nicole R. Nason on Technology Innovations	Open Event, Formal Plated Lunch	49 (26 Member, 16 Non-Member, 7 Comps.)

Date	Event Title	Description	Number of Registrants
September 19, 2019	Environmental Compliance at VDOT	Open Event, Light Dinner	29 (3 Member, 17 Non-Member, 9 Comps.)
October 3, 2019	WTS-DC Rooftop Membership Mixer	Open Event, Appetizers and Drinks	62 (23 Member, 36 Non-Member, 3 Comps.)
October 25, 2019	Executive Women's Roundtable - Oct 25, 2019	Invite Only	33
November 21, 2019	Leading Across Generations	Open Event, Light Dinner	48 (22 Member, 2 Non-Member, 24 Comps.)
December 10, 2019	2019 WTS-DC Holiday Party	Open Event, Appetizers and Drinks	252 (76 Early Bird Member, 40 Early Bird Non-Member, 1 Early Bird Student, 38 Member, 30 Non-Member, 15 Late Registration, 52 Comps.)

Recognitions

The 2019 Recognitions Committee was led by Katie Kraft of WMATA as Chair and by Haley Peckett of DDOT as Deputy Chair. The committee solicits and reviews nominations for WTS-DC recognition awards in six categories specified by WTS International.

In 2019, the Recognitions Committee oversaw the nominations process for WTS-DC's Chapter recognition awards. The committee continued to use the streamlined nominations process developed in 2018, which includes a simpler nomination form available via an online survey. The committee solicited nominations for awards in the spring and summer through email and social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) announcements and targeted outreach with Chapter members. The committee's efforts garnered nominations for strong candidates in all award categories.

In the fall, the committee convened a group of Chapter members to review and rank all nominations received. The committee then made a recommendation to the Chapter board for those who should receive awards in each category. The board voted to make awards to well-deserving professionals in the transportation industry in six categories.

The following awards were presented during the 2019 Annual Holiday Party:

- Employer of the Year: WSP
- Innovative Transportation Solutions: Integrated Corridor Management Framework – NOVA Regional Mobility Project, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership: Sahar Nabaee, STV Inc.
- Honorable Ray LaHood: Paul Skoutelas, American Public Transportation Association
- Member of the Year: Jennifer Heilman, Stratacomm
- Woman of the Year: Caroline Decker, Amtrak

We were delighted that award winners and representatives of award winners attended the Holiday Party and accepted their awards, which were presented by Stephen Gardner, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Commercial Officer at Amtrak. The Chapter intends to nominate the award winners in each WTS International award category for WTS International's Recognition Awards for 2020. Our WTS-DC Recognition Award recipients are shown in Figures 3-8 in the Holiday Party section of this report.

Scholarship and Fundraising

In 2019, the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee was chaired by Nancy Connor of HDR, Inc, and she focused on the scholarship tasks for the committee. Cerasela Cristei worked with Nancy to support the fundraising aspect of the committee's efforts.

The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee promotes young women to advance both their educational and professional career while channeling them through the many networking and learning experiences that a one-year free memberships provides. The committee is responsible for both awarding scholarships and raising funds for scholarships. Each year the committee plans the calendar year for the annual scholarships and seeks exposure to potential applicants. The scholarship documents are updated and circulated to the growing list of college and university points of contact. Once the application period is closed, the Review Panel is formed to determine which applicants are deserving of WTS-DC scholarships. The Review Panel provides these recommended scholarship recipients to the full WTS-DC board for approval. Once the board has approved the scholarship recipients, the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee notify the recipients and they coordinate with them on the logistics of accepting the award. Simultaneously, the committee members collect information on the awardees for inclusion in the scholarship awards ceremony, which takes place during the annual Holiday Party (see the Holiday Party Committee section for more details). The committee is also responsible for coordinating complementary membership for awardees and for completing the WTS-I scholarship applications.

In addition to soliciting and awarding scholarships, the committee raises funds to give out as scholarships. The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee raised funds by soliciting named scholarships and requesting donations to the scholarship fund. The committee receives additional support from the Professional Development Committee in organizing events that raise money for the scholarship fund, and from the Corporate Membership Committee who allocates a portion of corporate membership dues to the scholarship fund and who requests that corporate members provide an additional \$500 to be Transportation Rock Stars. As per a WTS-DC policy, the committee allocates scholarship funding (other than for named scholarships) up to the limit of how much money was raised in the prior year.

In 2019, the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee raised a total of \$19,523.32; \$10,500 of this was in named scholarships and \$9,023.32 in other donations, which will be available for distribution for scholarship awards in 2020. The fundraising sources are described below and are listed in Table 7. The committee thanks all our donors and contributors for another successful year.

- **Transportation Rock Star Program:** The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee works with the Corporate Membership Committee to include a scholarship support program as part of our corporate membership package. This program allows for existing corporate members to add \$500 in scholarship donations on top of existing corporate memberships. Corporate members that participate are considered "Transportation Rock Stars" and are recognized at events and on

the sponsor banner. In 2019, our Transportation Rock Stars were Foursquare ITP, ITS America, and T3 Design. This program raised \$1,500 for scholarships in 2019.

- **Corporate Membership Dues:** Since 2016, 10% of corporate membership dues have been automatically dedicated to support the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund, unless the corporate member indicates otherwise. This enabled us to raise \$3,650 in revenue for the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund in 2019. We anticipate continuing this in future years.
- **Complete Streets Bike Tour Event:** The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee worked with the Professional Development Committee to organize our fifth annual WTS-DC Complete Streets Bike Tour in May, with all proceeds benefitting the Scholarship Fund. The route showcased as many innovative on-street bicycling facilities as possible. The event began with a panel session followed by a bicycling tour in Alexandria. The event raised close to \$675.21 for scholarships.
- **Leading Across Generations Event:** The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee partnered with the Professional Development Committee to organize the fourth annual October career panel event on career advancement in different parts of the transportation industry (government, small and large businesses, and non-profit). All proceeds were donated to the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund, and we raised \$751.09 for scholarships from this event.
- **VDOT Environmental Compliance Event:** The Professional Development Committee organized an event with VDOT in November to support awareness of environmental considerations in Virginia for VDOT related projects. All proceeds were donated to the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund and we raised \$1,009.67 for scholarships.
- **Scholarship Tree:** The Scholarship Tree has become an annual feature at the WTS-DC Holiday Party. This year through generous donations in cash, credit, and check, we raised a net total of \$1,339.85 from guests buying “ornament” tags off the tree and from other donations. The Chapter is thankful to the attendees of this year’s Holiday Party for their generous donations toward advancing the next generation of women in transportation.
- **Named Scholarship Sponsors:** This year the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee secured five named scholarship sponsors: WTS-DC Board Advisors, Dewberry, HDR, Kimley-Horn, and WSP. Each of the four companies sponsored a \$2,000 individual scholarship for a total of \$8,000. Additionally, the WTS-DC Board Advisors (Cathy Connor, Margaret Ballard, and Anne Stubbs) generously donated \$2,500. The committee hopes to retain and grow the number of named scholarships each year.

Table 7 – 2019 Scholarship Fundraising Sources

Source	Supporting Committee	Amount Raised
Transportation Rock Star	Corporate Membership	\$1,500.00
Corporate Membership Dues Allocation	Corporate Membership	\$3,650.00
Complete Streets Bike Tour Event	Professional Development	\$675.21
Leading Across Generations Event	Professional Development	\$751.09
VDOT Environmental Compliance Event	Professional Development	\$1,009.67
Scholarship Tree	Holiday Party	\$1,339.85
Named Scholarships	N/A	\$10,500.00
Other donations	N/A	\$97.50
Total		\$19,523.32

Per WTS-DC's scholarship policy, named scholarships are awarded in the year the donation is received, and all other money raised is awarded in the following year. Thus, the \$9,023.32 raised beyond named scholarships in 2019 will be available for distribution in 2020. Following the same policy, the chapter had \$11,596.72 available for distribution in 2019 that was raised in 2018.

To award this money to deserving students, the call for scholarship applications was issued to colleges and universities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area in early fall. The committee received applications, and the Board selected five qualified recipients who are pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in transportation-related disciplines. Among these five awardees, the committee gave out five \$2000 named scholarships (WTS-DC Advisors, Kimley-Horn, HDR, Dewberry, and WSP USA – raised in 2019); because of the strong support received in the form of named scholarships in 2019, the committee did not need to allocate any of the funds raised in 2018. The 2019 WTS-DC scholarship award recipients are presented below.



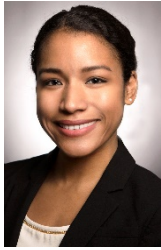
WTS-DC PhD Scholarship (\$2,000)
Sponsored by the 2019 WTS-DC Board Advisors
Yixuan Pan, PhD Candidate
University of Maryland – College Park
Transportation Engineering

Yixuan is a Ph.D. candidate in transportation engineering at the University of Maryland – College Park. She received her Bachelor's degree at Shanghai's Tongji University. Since 2015, Yixuan has been working in projects funded by NSF, US DOT, USDOE, and state and local agencies. Her research interests mainly focus on travel behavior analysis and data-driven travel demand modeling.



WTS-DC PhD Scholarship (\$2,000)
Sponsored by HDR
Binya Zhang, PhD Candidate
University of Maryland – College Park
Transportation System Engineering

Binya is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate student in transportation system engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD). Her research focuses on the application of data science in the intelligent transportation system (ITS) area. She joined this Ph.D. program in 2016 and has worked as a data science researcher at the university's Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT) since 2018. The knowledge she learned from the research work and projects makes her a better researcher in the transportation area, and she is always prepared to learn more and to apply this knowledge to the real world.



WTS-DC Undergraduate Scholarship (\$2,000)

Sponsored by Kimley-Horn

Apple Loveless

George Mason University

Civil and Infrastructure Engineering

Apple will be completing her degree in Civil and Infrastructure Engineering at George Mason University in 2020. She is an active member of several school organizations and professional associations, where she leads various committees and supports member events. When she is not at class, the library, working, or coordinating events, she enjoys trail running, watching futbol and football, and pretending to be a Chopped contestant during her free time. Upon graduation, she intends to acquire an EIT certification and move back to California to be closer to her family and beloved rescue dog. She plans to begin the next leg of her career at the intersection of transportation engineering and sustainable urban development.



WTS-DC Undergraduate Scholarship (\$2,000)

Sponsored by Dewberry

Emilda Gwerengwe

Howard University

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Emilda is a senior studying Civil and Environmental Engineering at Howard University, and she is an international student from Zimbabwe. She is interested in pursuing a career in Transportation Engineering and has been a Curbside Operations Analyst at the District Department of Transportation since June 2019. Emilda co-authored a paper on the pilot Pick-Up and Drop-Off (PUDO) zone program which was accepted to be presented at the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) 2020 annual meeting. She is a student member of ITE, ASCE and Co-Captain of the Howard University Steel Bridge Team.



WTS-DC Undergraduate Scholarship (\$2,000)

Sponsored by WSP

Christina Brown

The Catholic University of America

Civil Engineering

Christina is a sophomore studying Civil Engineering at The Catholic University of America. She is focusing her studies on Structural Engineering in hopes that upon graduation, she will work in the field of bridges structural integrity. She is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, and Cardinal Ambassadors. She works as a math tutor in the Center for Career and Academic Success.

Transportation YOU

The Transportation YOU committee was led by Jasmy Methipara of US DOT as Chair and Margaret Akofio-Sowah of WSP USA as Deputy Chair. They were supported by several volunteers: Britton Hammit, Kyla D'Sa, Arianna Koudounas, and Brandon Buckner.

The committee partners with local high schools in Washington, D.C. to provide monthly lunch events focusing on college readiness, careers in transportation, professional development, field trips and career spotlight workshops. This year, the WTS-DC Transportation YOU Committee worked with 10th -12th grade young women in three Washington, DC High Schools: Dunbar, McKinley Tech, and Cardozo. The program consisted of a monthly lunch series to provide discussion around professional development topics, and interaction with transportation professionals. Mentoring is at the heart of the Transportation YOU initiative.

Professional development activities led by the Transportation YOU Committee included a speed mentoring session and field trip to Virginia DOT Traffic Control Center. The students were also introduced to mission statements and resume writing through our spotlight speaker series. WTS volunteers across the DC Chapter have been recruited to serve as speakers and lend a hand through all our professional development activities. Field trips in 2019 included a trip to the Center for Advanced Transportation Technology at the University of Maryland and to the District Department of Transportation. Our commitment to exposing our young ladies to the transportation field is made evident by the commitment of our committee in addition to the various WTS-DC members who volunteer to speak and organize/host events for our mentees.



Figure 18 – Annual Speed Mentoring event where transportation professionals spend a few minutes talking to several students.

Other Programs

Beyond the committees, several members volunteered to organize other Chapter programs.

A Conversation about the Evolution of Mobility with APTA's Paul Skoutelas

On February 7, 2019, the WTS-DC Chapter hosted a breakfast event titled "The New Mobility Paradigm: A Conversation with APTA's Paul Skoutelas" in partnership with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). The sold-out event featured speaker Paul Skoutelas, President and CEO of APTA, and was an exciting opportunity for participants to speak directly with a national thought leader on this transportation topic of significant relevance and interest.

Neela Babu, WTS-DC Vice President, facilitated the discussion with Paul by asking him a series of questions to gather his insights on the relevance and role of public transit in the New Mobility Paradigm. The New Mobility Paradigm refers to the confluence of forces impacting traditional models of mobility. These forces include technological innovations, entrepreneurship and changing customer expectations. Neela's questions addressed the emergence of Mobility as a Service (MaaS), new opportunities related to vehicle automation, the role of various stakeholders in ensuring that public transit agencies are strongly positioned to support the transition to the new mobility paradigm, and what APTA and its members are doing to prepare for the future.



Figure 19 – Paul Skoutelas (left) explains the “New Mobility Paradigm” to the audience.

During a 30-minute Q&A session with the audience, the participants kept Paul on his toes by asking many insightful questions related to key opportunities and challenges in the rapidly-changing field of public transportation. Paul concluded the discussion by expressing optimism in the industry's professionals to push the envelope to enhance Americans' access to opportunities and improve the livability of communities through innovative, sustainable advances in public transportation.

WTS-DC would like to thank APTA for its generous support for this event!

Executive Women's Roundtables

Vice President Neela Babu organized two Executive Women's Roundtables (EWR), one in the spring and one in the fall. These invite-only events brought together top-ranking women in the transportation industry in a facilitated forum to interact, network, and discuss common issues. The group of women sat around the table to share successes and lessons learned in a confidential setting that allowed them to build camaraderie and develop their professional networks. The women who participated in these events included attendees from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

In March, WTS-DC invited Executive Leadership Coach Teri Fisher, of Insight Strategies, to discuss the topic of Strategic Thinking and Influencing Organizational Culture. Teri discussed the difference between strategic and tactical thinking and provided attendees with guidance on how to distinguish culture and customs. The attendees appreciated that the



Figure 20 – A group photo of the participants who attended the March Executive Women's Roundtable.

training session taught them valuable skills that will help them excel at their jobs.

After the event, the attendees commented on how grateful they were to have this executive leadership training, and they thanked WTS-DC for organizing the event. WTS-DC was thrilled to be able to include WTS-International Executive Director Sara Stickler in this session.

WTS-DC thanks ACEC for their in-kind sponsorship of this event!

The second EWR was held in October and focused on two topics: (1) hiring and retaining talent, and (2) delegating work. First, we know that in today's job market finding, hiring and retaining good employees is becoming more of a challenge. Erin Allen, President of Contemporaries, a local and women-owned staffing company, is an HR expert who spoke to the group and provided perspective on the best ways to hire great talent and what a company's culture can do to keep them. The second topic on delegating work was a discussion facilitated by Karyn Le Blanc, a WTS-DC member and CEO of KGL Communications. The participants reviewed their own approaches to delegating work, and they shared their experiences with the group. WTS-DC thanks WSP for their sponsorship of this event!

In general, the EWR participants continue to feel that these bi-annual sessions are valuable for the opportunity to network with one another, and they appreciate that the sessions address topics that are relevant to their work experiences.

Putting Dedicated Funding to Work: A Conversation with WMATA CEO Paul Wiedefeld

Advisor Anne Stubbs organized this annual event with the General Manager and CEO of WMATA, one of our premier events in 2019. The topic "Putting Dedicated Funding to Work" attracted many guests and sponsors to the sold-out event on June 21. WMATA General Manager/CEO, Paul Wiedefeld, updated 120 WTS-DC members and friends on how the newly available dedicated funding from the region's local governments is making a difference for WMATA, its customers, and the region. His comments touched on specific capital projects being planned; the challenge of juggling the need for both operating and capital funding; and the shift in perspective underway within WMATA regarding how the system can effectively serve the region's needs. In addition to sharing these insights, Wiedefeld thoughtfully responded to questions from the audience such as lessons learned from Safe Track and the completion of the Silver Line.

Wiedefeld gave recognition to WMATA's people – senior leadership (many of whom were at the luncheon) and the dedicated front-line staff who on a daily basis serve customers and keep the trains running safely and on-time. He also gave a "shout-out" to the new, experienced leadership of the Metro Rail Division which just happens to be an all-female team: Lisa Woodruff, Senior Vice President for Rail



Figure 21 – The conversation with Paul Wiedefeld (left) was moderated by WTS-DC Advisor Cathy Connor (right).

Services; Shanita Bowman, Managing Director for Rail Transportation; and Laura Mason, Chief of Rail Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Engineering.

WTS-DC extends its thanks to the program sponsors whose financial support helped make this event accessible to WTS-DC members. They include AECOM, HNTB, Thompson Coburn, LLP, Kittelson & Associates, and WRA.



Figure 22 – The packed room listened attentively to Paul Wiedefeld as he spoke.

Coffee Chat with Caroline Decker

On Friday, March 22, WTS-DC held a Coffee Chat with Caroline Decker of Amtrak. Caroline is currently the Vice President of the Northeast Corridor Service Line, and she was previously the Vice President of Government Affairs and Corporate Communications at Amtrak, where she worked with Congress and other stakeholders to secure funding for Amtrak. In addition to her day-to-day job, Caroline also founded Notch 8, an Amtrak-wide women's professional development group.

At this event, a small group of sixteen attendees sat around the table with Caroline Decker. This setting allowed Caroline to be introduced to each attendee and to get to know everyone by name.

Caroline described her role as the Vice President of the Northeast Corridor Service Line. She talked about the new train sets for both the Acela and the Regional trains. She also discussed the changes happening at Union Station, DC and the new Moynihan Station in New York City, which will open in 2021.

Attendees were then given the opportunity to ask questions. The first question was about career planning and where Caroline wants her career to go in the future. Caroline answered honestly saying that she takes it one day at a time. She said she is impressed by people who do have 5-year plans, but that that strategy is not her style. She knows that she loves what she is doing because it gives her joy, and that is reason enough to continue in it. Caroline reflected that previously in her career she recognized that she wanted to know more about business and finance in order to complement her

existing skill set. She decided to pursue her goal and earned her MBA at Georgetown University while simultaneously working full-time. Eventually, that MBA did prove valuable; it augmented Caroline's qualifications and credentials for the role she currently holds at Amtrak.

Attendees were grateful for this unique opportunity to sit down and chat with Caroline Decker.

WTS-DC would like to thank Kimley-Horn for their contributions to this event!



Figure 23 – The attendees had the opportunity to sit around a table to chat with Caroline Decker.

Transit Options for Improved Mobility – An Event Hosted Jointly with YPT-DC and TRF

For the 10th year in a row, the Transportation Research Forum (TRF-DC), Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS-DC) and Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT-DC) partnered to host our annual joint summer event at Reason Foundation's DC office. This year's event focused on the tradeoffs, opportunities, challenges, and future outlook of different transit modes: light rail, bus rapid transit, local bus service, and streetcars. The dynamic conversation was moderated by Art Guzzetti, Vice President of Mobility Initiatives and Public Policy at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), and the panel featured Darren Timothy, Chief Economist for the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT); Haley Peckett, Transportation Planner and Project Manager at the District Department of Transportation (DDOT); and Alice Grossman, Policy Analyst at the Eno Center for Transportation.

The panel of transit experts discussed the characteristics of the different technologies and explained the situational advantages and disadvantages of each with a focus on local projects. Haley Peckett spoke about the complexities of balancing bike and bus priority treatments in DC, a topic to which most of the audience could relate. Alice Grossman discussed the importance of mobility options and how they together can provide the mobility backbone of a city. Darren Timothy explained how US DOT compares

transit projects across different modes when determining grant funding. Altogether, the panelists engaged the crowd with their discussion, which led to an active Q&A session.



Figure 24 – The panelists included Haley Peckett, Alice Grossman, Darren Timothy, and moderator Art Guzzetti.

As in previous years, this event provided attendees with the opportunity to network with a broad cross-section of the transportation community. The 60 attendees mixed and mingled before and after the panel.

WTS-DC is grateful to the Reason Foundation for their sponsorship of this event!

Robert's Rules Event

On August 13, WTS-DC held a workshop on Robert's Rules of Order, which is a commonly-used approach for running meetings. Robert's Rules of Order ("Robert's Rules") provides a set of procedures, which even a small group can adopt, so that there are clear guidelines to conduct meetings. The fundamental tenet of Robert's Rules boils down to "fairness." Robert's Rules has been revised 11 times since it was created in the 1870s, both for substance and for technology (think quill and ink versus email). From establishing a quorum, to adopting agendas, to approving minutes, the procedures are clear and easy.

Long-time WTS-DC member and Board Advisor Margaret Ballard covered much of the history and basics of Robert's Rules, while WTS-DC Recognition Chair Katie Kraft walked through benefits of proper agendas and led the discussions on minutes and motions.

WTS-DC is grateful to the HDR for their in-kind sponsorship of this event!

WTS International Conferences

Aside from our programming, the Chapter sends board members to programs hosted by WTS International.

In support of Chapter members' continued professional development, each year WTS-DC provides an opportunity for board members to apply for funding to attend the WTS Annual Conference. This year the conference was held from May 15-18 in Boston and board members Rachel Roberts (Treasurer), Jasmy Methipara (Transportation YOU Committee Chair), Khatereh Vaghefi (Professional Development

Committee Chair), and Margaret Akofio-Sowah (Transportation YOU Committee Deputy Chair) were selected to receive Chapter funding to support their attendance.

The Chapter also sent Christine Sherman (Secretary), Jennifer Heilman (Communications Committee Chair), and Katie Masetti (Program Logistics Committee Chair) to the WTS International Chapter Leadership Training on November 15-16 in Denver, Colorado. The annual two-day event kicked off with an introduction of WTS International's newly hired staffing team. Opening workshop sessions reviewed proven best practices for successful Chapter management, including building a strong and engaged volunteer base, succession planning, and creating, executing and refining a social media strategy. Chapters were able to share in small groups as well as

in large format Q&A their own success stories and lessons learned, which proved invaluable for many smaller or newly formed Chapters and helped spark creative ideas for larger Chapters looking to reinvigorate their programming or communication channels. Special to this year's workshop, Chapter Leader Training included a substantive review of new WTS procedures, systems, and platforms coming in 2020. As WTS International sets its sights on the future of the organization, Chapter leaders were able to hear directly from the WTS International Board of Directors in a fireside panel about what they see as the greatest challenges for the next generation for women in transportation and their vision for WTS. With many exciting changes on the horizon for WTS and its Chapters in 2020, WTS-DC is looking forward to sharing more from the Chapter Leader Training in the coming months. Stay tuned!



Figure 25 – WTS-DC Board Members in attendance at the Chapter Leader Training. Pictured from left to right: Jennifer Heilman, Katie Masetti, Christine Sherman, and Katie Kraft.

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