

2020 VIRTUAL

Annual Scholarship &
AWARDS GALA

November 5, 2020

#WTSPhxGala



@WTS_Phx



@wtsmetrophoenix



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Metro Phoenix



WELCOME TO THE 20TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS CEREMONY!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am thrilled that you could join us for the 2020 Scholarships and Awards Ceremony. This ceremony is a celebration and opportunity for us to recognize many of you individually, as well as your organizations, and to celebrate your achievements from this past year.

I am incredibly proud of the Metropolitan Phoenix Chapter and what we have accomplished in 2020. When I became president in January, I could never have imagined the changes that this year would bring but, thanks to an amazing Board of Directors, the Chapter did not miss a beat. The Chapter's online presence grew dramatically through social media and virtual programs. The monthly lunch seminars seamlessly moved to an online format with a lineup of noteworthy programs. The Jane Morris Mentorship Program adapted and forged ahead with a modified program, adding "coffee chats" and other networking opportunities for mentees to learn from and interact with leaders in the transportation community. Melissa Boyles, Director of Mentorship, introduced the Moving Arizona podcast so mentees, as well as the general membership, can better get to know the "movers and shakers in the transportation industry." Transportation You kicked off the 2020/21 school year with series of monthly workshops and virtual tours geared for junior and high school girls. Not being tied to a particular school, this format opens the program to many more girls. And finally, virtual happy hours provided the continued opportunity for all to network. These are just some of the highlights of this year. There were so many and more to come. Be sure to join us in December for the Annual Golf Tournament. Thanks to all of the WTS Metro Phoenix Board of Directors and all that you do!

A big thank you also goes to the Chapter sponsors. Right as Arizona was shutting down the Chapter was asking for another year of support. Many continued their support of the Chapter and a few more joined, of which we are so grateful. The Chapter could not function without your help.

Finally, a special thanks to Vanessa Quinto, Awards Ceremony Chair, and her committee, Nicole Moon, Communications Director, and all who provided videos for the presentation tonight. You made this year one that we will not soon forget!

Our Chapter is successful because of dedicated members and sponsors like you.

Thank you for attending and I hope to see you in person next year.

Warm regards,


Anita Richardson Frijia
Chapter President

NETWORKING EVENT

5:30pm MST

Hosted by Rebekah Morris and the Arizona Builder's Exchange

PROGRAM

6:00pm MST

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2020 CORPORATE PARTNER SPONSOR RECOGNITION

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION

AWARD PRESENTATION

New Member of the Year

Member of the Year

Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award

Employer of the Year

Innovative Transportation Solutions

Honorable Ray LaHood Award

Woman of the Year

CLOSING REMARKS



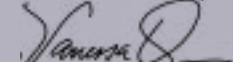
CHAIR'S MESSAGE

2020 has been an unpredictable and challenging year for all of us. While I would love to see all of you in person, the pandemic thought otherwise. This year's virtual gala will celebrate our award recipients and their dedication to the industry, the scholarship recipients and their

accomplishments, our sponsors for their continued support, and all WTS members for their dedication to advancing women in transportation.

I am thankful for the support we have received in planning this virtual event. Special thanks to my committee - Nicole Moon, Jessica Parks, Madeline Phipps, Joe Plotz, Melissa Boyles, Alex Albert, Kim Engesath, and Debbie Moffett. All of you are amazing!

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the 20th Annual Scholarship & Awards Ceremony.


Vanessa Quinto
Awards Recognition Chair

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Deborah Ostreicher
Master of Ceremonies

Deborah Ostreicher recently retired from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport after working there since 1996. Her last role was serving as the airport's Assistant Aviation Director. In this role, she oversaw the Air Service Development, Government Relations, Technology, and Public Relations and Customer Service departments.

Since retiring, Deborah has launched a new company, Distinguished Communications to empower individuals, teams and companies through effective communications.

Deborah continues to serve on a variety of community and industry boards and is an Emeritus board member of New Pathways for Youth, supporting career development for homeless children in this community. In 2016, she was recognized as one of Arizona's Most Outstanding Women, and in 2017 as one of Arizona's Most Influential Women. Prior to that she won the highly-coveted ATHENAa Award for excellence in business, mentoring and community outreach. She also received the National Child Labor Committee's Lewis Hine Award for her work with children.

In addition to aviation, she is passionate about the arts, travel and effective communication. Before joining the airport, Deborah spent a decade working in Europe and the Middle East, holding positions that included Marketing Director for MicroAge Computers Central Europe and Marketing Manager for Prince Charles in London.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Maryland and her MBA in International Business from the American University in Washington, D.C.

2019/2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Sharon D. Banks Memorial
Undergraduate Scholarship

Kristen Stevens

Helene M. Overly / Esther Kmetty
Scholarship

Denise Capaso da Silva

Molitoris Leadership Fund for
Undergraduates Scholarship

Katherine Riffle

Friends of Transit Scholarship &
Returning Student Scholarship

Vanessa Spartan

AzTA Transit Planning Scholarship

Christine Baum

Support Sky Harbor Coalition Scholarship

Megan Whittard

2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

New Member of the Year

Stephanie Stearns

Maricopa Association of Governments

Member of the Year

Heather Honsberger

HDR Inc.

Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award

**Archaeological Consulting Services,
Ltd.**

Employer of the Year

City of Phoenix Public Transit

Innovative Solutions Project of the Year

**MCDOT's Bell Road Adaptive Signal
Technology Project**

Honorable Ray LaHood Award

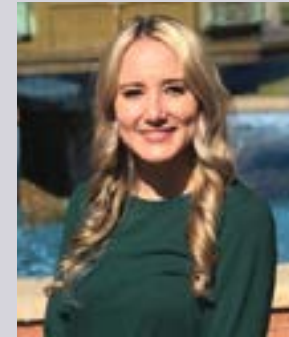
Andrew Haines

Jacobs

Woman of the Year

Jennifer Donaldson

Stacy and Witbeck



Sharon D. Banks Memorial
Undergraduate Scholarship

Kristen Stevens

Kristen Stevens is originally from Lorain, Ohio. She is a 2020 graduate with a Bachelors of Science in Engineering at Arizona State University. Her experience in transportation began when she accepted her first internship with the Arizona Department of Transportation. This internship cultivated

her passion for transportation engineering and solidified her decision to further pursue traffic engineering. Kristen now works for Lokahi, a traffic engineering firm as a Traffic Designer.

What form of transportation do you prefer and why?

I prefer traffic engineering because I enjoy working in an environment where the projects I participate in have the ability to impact the transportation system that the community interacts with daily.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment would either be passing the Fundamentals of Engineering exam or being offered a full-time position with Lokahi.

If you could choose to have lunch with anyone who would it be?

If I could have lunch with anyone, I think it would be interesting to meet with the early transportation planners of Arizona and listen to their thought processes on the best way to circulate traffic throughout the state.

What's next for you?

I plan to begin looking into the material, requirements, and training courses available for the PE exam.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship is awarded to a woman pursuing an undergraduate degree. The scholarship honors Sharon D. Banks, chief executive officer of AC Transit in AlamedaContra Costa County, California. As its CEO throughout most of the 1990's, Banks led the agency in a pioneering effort to introduce cultural and organizational changes aimed at motivating the public-transit work force.

2019/2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Helene M. Overly/
Esther Kmetty Scholarship

Denise Capaso da Silva

Denise was born and raised in Brazil, where she spent most of her life before moving to Arizona in 2017. Denise received her degree in Civil Engineering in 2015 from University of São Paulo, with a special studies certificate in Transportation Engineering. She has her master's degree in Transportation Engineering and Planning. She is a PhD student and Research Assistant at Arizona State University. Denise studies the impacts of attitudes on travel behavior.

What form of transportation do you prefer and why?

My favorite form of transportation is multimodal! I will always vouch for the mode that is safe and adequate for the particular trip. I strongly believe that using the appropriate mode to each trip is key to provide sustainable solutions that will be widely adopted.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplish is to be part of the PhD program at Arizona State University. Not only I have been able to excel and accomplish what was previously unimaginable for me, but also, I have been constantly recognized and rewarded for that.

What's next for you?

The next thing I am looking forward to now is graduation. The plan is to be as ready as I can to enter the workforce next Spring.



ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The WTS Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship was established in 1981 by WTS International to encourage women to pursue career paths in transportation. The scholarship is awarded to women pursuing graduate studies in transportation or a related field. In memory of Helene M. Overly, the first Executive Secretary of WTS, the Board of Directors voted to name the annual WTS graduate scholarship the Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship to honor Helene for her dedicated service to WTS.

2019/2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Molitoris Leadership Fund for Undergraduates Scholarship

Katherine Riffle

Katherine Riffle is a recent graduate from Northern Arizona University. She studied Mechanical Engineering as her major, with Civil Engineering and Mathematics. She earned a Transit Engineering Internship at the San Francisco MTA, which inspired her to further pursue transportation engineering. She has also worked with the Transportation Research and Education Center. She is now part of the Graduate Research Program at NAU studying Civil Engineering.

What form of transportation do you prefer and why?

I enjoy taking the bus. The buses in Portland and in San Francisco allowed me to explore the cities and I really love to drive the bus. Having a bike at home in Flagstaff, however, has been indispensable, but it is only more fun when the weather is nice.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment is completing my Mechanical Engineering undergraduate degree in four years at NAU. I am proud to be done with mechanical engineering.

If you could choose to have lunch with anyone who would it be?

I would choose to have lunch with Carrie Fisher. Her activism and acting inspired both me and my mom.

What's next for you?

I am going to be a graduate research assistant at NAU and work toward a Civil Engineering Master's degree.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The purpose of the WTS Molitoris Leadership Scholarship is to motivate and reward women who demonstrate leadership in the transportation industry. The leadership, skills, and perspectives of women are essential to assure that the transportation systems of the future respond to the needs of all. Leadership does not just happen. Leaders personally invest and risk much. They must take on struggles that many would avoid and persevere to reach successful outcomes.

Friends of Transit Scholarship & Returning Student Scholarship

Vanessa Spartan

Vanessa currently serves as a Transportation Planner for the City of Tempe. Vanessa is committed to creating a sense of place within communities. Her career has focused on program research and long-range planning with considerable experience in multimodal transportation planning, community planning, urban design, environmental planning, and public outreach and communications. Vanessa's project experience has spanned 25 states and touched all levels of government.

What form of transportation do you prefer and why?

For non-commute trips, I enjoy walking and biking; if I could walk everywhere I would. For commute trips, I enjoy the low stress of rail transit.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

I have moved three times in my adult life: Kansas City to New York City, New York City to Kansas City, and Kansas City to Phoenix. Each time I've somewhat restarted my career. Moving from one city to another means creating a whole new network of contacts, and challenges and stakeholders of each region's transportation system are so different.

What's next for you?

I'm going to keep working on this master's degree and keep doing my best for the people of Tempe.



ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

In partnership with WTS, the Friends of Transit Scholarship is awarded to an applicant pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in public transit or a transportation related field. Recognizing that public transit and transportation systems are complex and require multiple disciplines to effectively plan, build and operate, studies include public administration, architecture, engineering, construction, transportation management, logistics, , etc

WTS Metropolitan Phoenix Chapter Returning Student Scholarship is awarded to a woman, or women, currently employed in a transportation-related career and pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in a transportation-related field.



WTS Metropolitan Phoenix Chapter



AzTA Transit Planning Scholarship

Christina Baum

Christina Baum graduated in 2020 with Master of Public Health program from the University of Arizona. During her first year of the program, she became interested in urban planning and its ability to create and promote healthy communities. She has developed a passion for advancing active transportation infrastructure. She currently interns with Pima County Development Services to research barriers to using Tucson's long-distance multimodal path called The Loop. Christina also enjoys volunteering for Living Streets Alliance, Cycloviva, and Tucson's Department of Transportation.

What form of transportation do you prefer and why?

My favorite form of transportation is walking. I love the opportunity to observe small details in my surroundings. Walking in Tucson is always an adventure as there are so many interesting cacti, flowers, trees, and yards to look at!

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment is completing a 4-day, 45-mile solo backpacking trip through the Gila wilderness in New Mexico. Not seeing anyone for days, finding the trail after getting lost, and completely relying on my own hiking skills felt really empowering.

If you could choose to have lunch with anyone who would it be?

I would choose to have lunch with Leslie Knope, a character from the television series, Parks and Recreation. She is an incredibly dedicated civil servant, willing to go above and beyond to improve her community and accomplish her goals.

What's next for you?

I will be joining the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Denver, Colorado as a Remedial Project Manager.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

In partnership with WTS, the Arizona Transit Association offers the AzTA Transit Planning Scholarship to a woman pursuing graduate studies in urban planning, engineering, public health, public administration or transportation planning with an emphasis in public transportation/multi-modal. Applicants must have a major in urban planning, engineering, public health, public administration or transportation planning.



2019/2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Support Sky Harbor Coalition Scholarship

Megan Whittard

Megan Whittard fell in love with the idea of becoming a pilot in high school. She began attending the East Valley Institute of Technology during her senior year and earned over a dozen aviation college credits as well as a private pilot certificate. Megan attended Arizona State University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Management Technology. and is now completing a Masters of Science in Aviation Management and Human Factors.

What form of transportation do you prefer and why?

I prefer air transportation because the industry has made it possible to relatively quickly and comfortably travel anywhere in the world. It is the most amazing feeling to leave the ground and see the world from 30,000 feet in the air, and awe-inspiring to consider how far aviation has come in 120 years.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment was receiving my private pilot certificate in 2016. I have since earned other licenses, degrees, ratings, etc. But my private certificate was the first experience I had with aviation and so different than anything else I had ever put my mind to before.

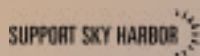
If you could choose to have lunch with anyone who would it be and why?

If I could have lunch with anyone, I would choose to have lunch with Phoebe Fairgrave Omlie. Not only did she set world records in aviation, but she held many accomplishments such as the first woman to licensed as a transport pilot and appointed to a federal aviation position under Roosevelt.



ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

In partnership with WTS, the Support Sky Harbor Coalition Graduate Scholarship is awarded to a woman, or women, pursuing studies in aviation or an aviation-related field. Recognizing that large airports like Sky Harbor are very complex in nature and require multiple professional disciplines to effectively plan, build and operate, studies include public administration, architecture, engineering, construction, transportation management, logistics, etc.



Annual Scholarship and Awards Ceremony | November 5, 2020

NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Stephanie Stearns

Maricopa Association of Governments

The New Member of the Year award recognizes the initiatives taken by a member who joined as a member of the Metropolitan Phoenix Chapter in the current calendar year. This person reinforces the goals of the association by actively participating in Chapter activities that help to assist advancing women in transportation. They also support the local Chapter through involvement in serving as a committee member or being active in various events sponsored by the Chapter and encourage others to join or support the Chapter through sponsorship, membership or participating as a volunteer.

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

Besides my cat walking across my face demanding breakfast, I am energized by the opportunity to learn something new every day. I am constantly looking for ways to optimize my work and identify efficiencies where possible. I like to say “work smarter, not harder.”

What does a typical day look like for you and what are you currently working on?

A typical day starts for me around 5:00 AM. If I am not at the gym getting in an early morning workout, I am flipping between local news programs with a cup of coffee watching the traffic, weather, and news reports. As an employee of a regional planning agency I feel that it is important to stay connected to everything going on in our booming region.

Much of my work focuses on transit programming – or the assigning of transit projects to available transit revenues in current and future years; and then making sure that federal, state, regional, and local policies are adhered to as projects are obligated and funds are spent down. We are coming into the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant season so I am currently working on making sure that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) lines up exactly with all of the projects that are going into a grant this year.

What is your biggest achievement?

I have so many accomplishments to be proud of – the WTS New Member of the Year award being one of them! Other than that, my latest and greatest achievement is that I earned my Professional Transportation Planner (PTP) certificate – an exam with less than a 50% pass rate.

What do you think is the greatest thing you’ve learned from being part of WTS?

The value of mentorship and having a well-connected network.

What would you say to someone considering joining the chapter?

Do it! You will form both professional relationships and personal friendships that will encourage you during difficult days and toast your accomplishments when you’re successful.



Listen up!

Hear Stephanie’s interview on the **Moving Arizona Podcast**

bit.ly/StephStearns

MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Heather Honsberger

HDR Inc.

The Member of the Year award acknowledges a WTS member who has made extraordinary contributions to the success of the organization. This member has shown an extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth of WTS, promoted the reputation of WTS within the transportation industry, worked effectively to strengthen communication within the chapter, and done an outstanding job of revitalizing or expanding a chapter or any of its functions.

Tell us about what you do at HDR.

I’m the Area Transportation Business Development Leader for Arizona and New Mexico, and work with our Transportation team in both states to understand our client’s projects and overall programs and goals, develop and maintain our industry and client relationships, and drive our pursuit and proposal strategy processes. Additionally, I connect our clients with the specialized experts they need to help successfully deliver their projects.

How did you first decide to get involved in the WTS Metro Phoenix Chapter?

I first started attending WTS functions around 2008 with coworkers from HDR that encouraged me attend the luncheons and the awards ceremony. At first, I didn’t know a lot of people as I primarily worked with ADOT, and a lot of the members were with other agencies, but I enjoyed meeting new people and learning more about our industry through the various programs. Fast forward over a decade, and it’s the people, the networking, the professional development, the mentorship program, the book club, golf committee and the learning opportunities (both locally and the national conferences) that keep me engaged and involved. And the best part is, I’ve made lifelong friends in the process!

What would you say to someone considering getting involved with the chapter?

I would recommend starting by attending a luncheon, which even though they are currently virtual, they still provide a great opportunity to learn about the chapter and hear from industry leaders. From there, one can learn about the other committees, future conferences, and opportunities to get further involved that align with someone’s interests. I attend a lot of conferences and organizational meetings in my current position and all have various benefits, but for me, I find WTS fulfills my professional development goals.

Who has influenced you the most in your career?

For the first 20 years of my career I worked in Strategic Communications and Public Involvement through Arizona and the Western US and was fortunate to work with a number of amazing leaders, mentors and colleagues from both the client and consultant community on some incredible projects. It’s hard to name just one person, but the teams I worked with early in my career on the SR 179 Needs Based Implementation Plan, the national opportunities through HDR, and over 12 years on South Mountain Freeway EIS and then as the GEC had a huge influence on where I am today in my career.

What would you do for a career if you weren’t doing this?

With all this time in quarantine, I think I would become a professional baker! All joking aside, my other areas of interest include travel, food and photography.?

ROSA PARKS DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd.

The Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award recognizes astute organizations, companies and innovative individuals that are broadening their multi-cultural initiatives, changing corporate cultures and philosophies. In doing so, it showcases - like Rosa Parks - that one person or one organization can make a difference. This award was conceived to honor those individuals and organizations for being bold in their support and promotion of diversity, inclusiveness, and multi-cultural awareness within their organization, the transportation industry or in a project or activity that supports the WTS Diversity goals and mission.

Tell us about your team and the kind of work you do.

Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd. is a team of about 25 professionals who cooperate in providing environmental planning, cultural resource, and GIS services to a wide array of clients from the public, tribal, and private sectors, primarily in Arizona. More specifically, ACS' capabilities include cultural resource literature reviews, surveys, monitoring, testing, and data recovery projects; historic preservation; paleoenvironmental studies; biological assessments and evaluations; floral and faunal inventories; threatened and endangered species surveys; biological research; NEPA-related documents including CEs and EAs; environmental permitting projects; Clean Water Act 401 and 404 permits; environmental site assessments and compliance assessments; hazardous materials and waste management; SWPPPs; Stormwater Annual Reports; health and safety program development and personnel training; and GIS and GPS applications. A significant portion of our work is related to transportation projects for multiple agencies across the state.

What does diversity and inclusion mean to you?

To me they mean not being purposefully excluded or overlooked in terms of career opportunities. When I was pursuing my education in Anthropology (specialty: Archaeology) in the 1970s, it was common to get advice such as 'don't waste your time applying to such and such university because they don't let women lead (or even do) fieldwork; women are expected to work in the lab there.' I received the outstanding graduating senior Anthropology award, yet my boyfriend was offered an assistantship in graduate school because it was assumed that I would get married and drop out of the profession. Once in business it took a number of years for certain clients and vendors to take me as seriously as my male business partner. Things have certainly come a long way since then, but these are the kinds of experiences that helped shape my outlook regarding giving everyone a fair shake and accepting people for jobs based on their capabilities and not a category.

Why is it important to you to promote diversity on the ACS team as well as in the transportation industry?

As a student of Anthropology you learn that when diversity is limited it decreases the potential for a population to adapt to changed circumstances. Good ideas for problem solving can come from anywhere. The more diverse the group of people proposing the ideas and the more diverse their experiences, the wider the range of ideas you're going to get. Seeking greater diversity of ideas is why graduate schools frequently will not hire their own graduates; simply put, it's easier to stagnate in the absence of diversity.



Listen up!
Hear Margerie Green's interview on the **Moving Arizona Podcast**
bit.ly/ACSWTS2020

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR



City of Phoenix Public Transit Department

The Employer of the Year Award honors businesses for their support of the goals and purpose of WTS. These organizations support WTS and enhance the transportation industry through its commitment to excellence and quality in the services it provides or products it produces, have an outstanding record of affirmative action in hiring and promoting at all employment levels, support continuing education of its employees through, and encourages women students to enter the transportation field by providing internship opportunities.

How does the City of Phoenix Public Transit Department support women looking to join or move up in the transportation industry?

The Public Transit Department offers women, and anyone else interested in the transit industry, the opportunity to shadow colleagues or management, and encourages those who want to cross-train in multiple transit areas to discuss it with their leaders and pursue appropriate opportunities.

Public Transit employees may wear several hats - which means it is easier to interact with decision makers and have more visibility. And because our staff often wears several hats, they are likely to gain knowledge, skills and insight beyond their customary roles. Collaboration opportunities are immense since staff is likely to work on a project that involves various internal divisions, other city departments, and community stakeholders.

Why is it important to not only support but also create career development paths for women in your organization?

As the largest member of the Valley Metro regional transit system, we provide commuter and local bus service as well as Dial-a-Ride service for individuals with special needs. We work together to make sure our citizens have options to get where they need to go - whether that's work or school, or any other transportation needs someone may have. Because of that, we know what a difference it can make in someone's life to have a community that supports and creates paths for success.

While we are a smaller department within the overall city of Phoenix organization, our daily work has a significant impact on the lives of our citizens and we think it's important to also have an impact in the career advancement of talented, passionate and dedicated professionals in the public transit/transportation industry.

What benefits have you seen in having your team members participate in WTS?

The department is supportive of its WTS members and allows members to participate in the Phoenix WTS chapter via various ways. When there is an event or a conference, staff communicate with each other and often offer each other assistance to give WTS members the opportunity to attend - knowing the department is covered and service to our customers won't skip a beat.

The department allows staff the flexibility to partake in WTS and other types of programs such as Emerging, Engaging and Inspiring Leader programs offered by the city's organizational development curriculum.



Listen up!
Hear Jesus Sapien's interview on the **Moving Arizona Podcast**
bit.ly/PhxPublicTransit

INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AWARD



April Wire, ITS Project Manager

Bell Road Adaptive Signal Technology Project

Maricopa Department of Transportation

Whether it is a van trip to the doctor's office for dialysis, a shared ride to third-shift jobs, senior citizen day trips or safe refugee transport, transportation organizations in our community work each day to improve the lives of citizens through better transportation. Through the Innovative Transportation Solutions Award, WTS annually salutes the creative work of an organization whose outstanding and innovative transportation project or service has improved the quality of life for its users and the community.

Give us a brief overview of the project.

The Bell Road Adaptive Signal Control Project is the largest adaptive signal control technology (ASCT) project by the number of agencies involved. It included installing the technology on 50 traffic signals, across about 16 miles in four project areas focused around Bell Road's freeway interchanges. What made this project special is that it included seven partner agencies because Bell Road runs through several jurisdictions.

What makes the project unique from other projects you've worked on?

This project was unique because we were able to work with many different partner agencies working with a variety of advanced traffic signal timing strategy solutions that local agencies traditionally don't get to work with.

How will residents and drivers benefit from the project?

Drivers may notice improved travel time and signal performance on Bell Road. They'll also experience a seamless commute crossing from agency boundary to boundary but most of all the project means less stress for drivers because it reduces the amount of stop and go traffic conditions on the corridor.

What advice would you have for other project teams considering a similar project?

ASCT can provide positive results in the appropriate traffic scenarios. It is not a signal timing strategy that should be installed at all traffic signals. Understanding your roadway network and traffic patterns is key in determining if ASCT is appropriate. Also, not all ASCT systems operate in the same way. It is important to understand the capabilities of the system you install, what its strengths and weaknesses are. Understanding the maintenance strategy of the vendor is key in maintaining the operations of your ASCT into the future.



Listen up!

Hear April Wire's interview on the **Moving Arizona Podcast**

bit.ly/BellRdASCT

HONORABLE RAY LAHOOD AWARD



Andrew Haines

Jacobs

The Honorable Ray LaHood Award recognizes the men that have been key to WTS International's effort to attract, retain, and advance women in transportation. WTS has long called for men to take an active role in bringing more women to the industry and to help women achieve the highest levels of leadership. These men lead by example, seek out opportunities to advance and advocate for women in their own organizations, and actively ensure that women are able to compete for key positions of authority within that organization, have directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field, and have made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry.

What led you to this career?

Believe it or not, my initial degree was a BA in Latin American Studies and Foreign Affairs. I was going to either be in the Diplomatic Corp, CIA, State Department, maybe get a law degree. I was working in Washington DC for a few years and felt like I was pushing paper – I had nothing tangible to show for the work I did. I am in my middle 20's and still had no idea what I wanted to do for a living. I asked my future father in law for a little advice, told him the results of my graduate school test scores and that I did really well in math and analytics. He was a college history professor and immediately stated he would wonder why I wasn't in engineering. My dad was an engineer so I, of course, had run as far from that as possible. The University of Texas at Austin was the only school that admitted me and I needed a lot of basic engineering coursework but after 4 years, I had the equivalent of an undergraduate and masters degrees in civil engineering with a focus on structures.

Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your work?

Both my mom and dad were officers in the Marine Corps and I would have to say the drive to the best you can be, the drive to do your very best each time came from them, particularly my mom. If she wanted to do something, it was as good as done.

Why do you feel it's important to support the advancement of women in the transportation industry?

Short answer, I do not see that women are still treated as fully equal to men in the transportation field. It does not occur all the time, and women have advanced quite a bit in our industry, but unequal treatment still occurs; and it shouldn't. From my own perspective, probably from having a Marine mom, I have always felt and acted without regard to gender (or race, creed, politics, etc.) and I treat people as individuals. I support the advancement of all my colleagues, all of them whether male or female.

What value do you see in mentorship throughout your career?

We have a mother and a father to teach us as children because we do not have experience in the world and we just don't know a lot of things as we mature. When we get into the workforce, once again we really do not know a lot of what we are doing but, unless you are following in the family business, mom and dad aren't typically there anymore to guide us. We need mentors to help us mature in the workforce; people we can lean on when we need workplace guidance; people with whom we can bounce ideas off; people that can help us learn from our mistakes or offer advice on mistakes they made in the hopes we won't repeat them.



Listen up!

Hear Andrew's interview on the **Moving Arizona Podcast**

bit.ly/AHainesWTS

WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Jennifer Donaldson

Stacy and Witbeck

The Woman of the Year Award honors a woman who is an outstanding role model in transportation. She is a leader in transportation and has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry, has directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field, and has, through her career achievements and support of women in the industry, advanced the reputation and credibility of women in transportation.

What does a typical day look like for you and what are you currently working on?

I am currently the Senior Project Engineer on the Brightline High Speed Rail project in Florida- from West Palm Beach to Cocoa. Typical day? My alarm goes off at 3:45am; start my day with a run, meditation, and some uninterrupted personal development time. Head to work (6am-6pm) in meetings, spreadsheets, meetings, spreadsheets; then home, dinner, a glass of wine, and catch up with the family.

How would you describe your job to a child?

I get to work on all the background stuff, planning, problem solving, money, that you don't see on the construction site.

What is your biggest achievement to date?

Personally, my kids. They are pretty amazing people, and I enjoy and appreciate their curiosity, sense of adventure, and ability to enjoy life more and more every day. Professionally, the out-of-the-blue notes of appreciation from people who have worked with me or for me in the past. I love to help people grow, if they are willing. It's rewarding to watch them succeed and know you were a small part of that.

What do you think is the greatest thing you've learned from being part of WTS?

That there are women to look up to in this industry! For many years, my path did not cross other women in the industry. It was quite refreshing to meet some extremely accomplished women, and (my favorite part) introduce girls and young women to the industry.

Who has influenced you the most in your career?

My dad. He was in the industry. Without realizing it, simply spending time with him on his projects; hearing stories; and the little tidbits of advice, I picked up more than I realized. on work ethic, how to treat people, who to reach out to for help, when something needs to be “perfect” and when “good enough” is good enough.

What is something you can't live without?

Pens and white wine. Not necessarily in that order!

WTS Metropolitan Phoenix Chapter

THANK YOU!



Jacobs



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