



Cynthia Guidry, Long Beach Airport Director, Photo © John Livzey, 2019

From LAWA to Long Beach, Cynthia Guidry is most definitely a runway model...

If you had to design the life and career for the winner of WTS-LA's Woman of the Year award, all you would need to do is look at Cynthia Guidry. Each year, WTS-LA names a woman who is a "leader in transportation and has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry." Guidry. "This woman will be someone who has directly contributed to the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field." Guidry. "Her career advancement and support for women in the industry will have advanced the reputation and credibility of women in transportation." Guidry. Guidry. Guidry. Perhaps we should just rename the award.

In July 2019, Guidry became the director of Long Beach Airport. Before that, however, she served as the Deputy Executive Director for the Planning and Development Group for Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). But that's *not* the only title she held at LAWA. Starting in 2001, as an entry-level civil/project engineer, Guidry rose through the ranks, holding such titles as Chief of Airport Planning and Deputy Executive Director, for Capital Programming & Planning. Her 26-year career for the City of Los Angeles working in Public Works, then LAWA is legendary. But her story goes way beyond LAWA.

A 16-year veteran of the WTS-LA Board, Guidry has served in numerous WTS-LA capacities including Adopt-a-School Committee/Transportation YOU Chair, member/board member/director, speaker/panelist at WTS-LA programs, and many other roles. In 2005, WTS-LA named her Member of the Year. In 2016, WTS-LA named LAWA the Employer of the Year. And in 2017, the chapter bestowed the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award on LAWA as well. Both LAWA awards were due in no small part to Guidry's contribution. But in talking to her, you would never know that.

Characteristically modest, Guidry prefers to shift accolades to others. That's part of what makes her so successful. But without question, she is unique. The first member of her family to graduate college, she earned a BS degree in civil engineering from the University of California, Irvine and an MBA from Pepperdine University. She's also a registered professional engineer. But what drives Guidry? Her answer mirrors her commitment to WTS-LA.

"WTS-LA is about the future. It provides an active way to help the next generation of transportation professionals find their way and improve the industry and our community. We get to help young people...it enables me to envision a perfect scenario where on day one of the young women that I mentor will be taking over for me and handing me my gold watch when I retire."

That, in essence, is Cynthia Guidry. For that reason and many more, WTS-LA proudly declares her the 2019 WTS-LA Woman of the Year.