

Chair Helps Students Table College Costs

COMMITTEE REPORT



Elisabeth Rosenson (Scholarship Committee Chair), Photos © John Livzey, 2015

In a perfect world, education would be free. We don't live in a perfect world. To help rectify this, WTS-LA's Scholarship Committee awards more than \$30,000 in educational scholarships to deserving young women in Los Angeles. This year, the committee is on track to do it again.

"The scholarship applications are available now and must be submitted by October 2. We will be awarding two undergraduate and two graduate scholarships, as well as several corporate and agency scholarships," explains Scholarship Committee Chair Elisabeth Rosenson. "The graduate and undergraduate applications have different GPA requirements, but for both, the applicant must be a woman studying engineering, planning, or environmental studies at a Los Angeles County school or who has LA County residency."



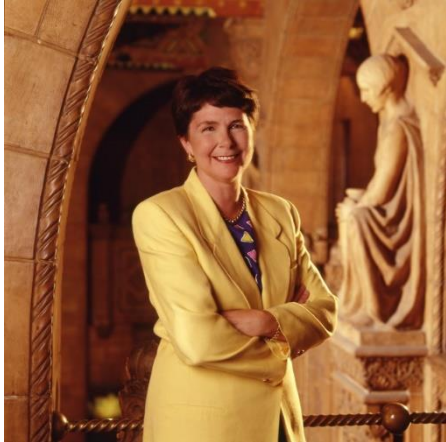
A three-year veteran of a one-person committee, Rosenson fortunately does not go it alone when the flood of applications arrives.

"I have a group of wonderful volunteers that helps me review the applications. They're very kind to do it, especially on a very short turnaround. And the caliber of applicants is quite high. The top applicant pools are UCLA and USC, as they have such strong engineering and planning programs. We also get a good number of applications from CalPoly Pomona and CalState Northridge, among other schools. But this process has proven to me that I couldn't be a college admissions director. It's really difficult. You want to give a scholarship to all of these deserving women."

WTS-LA believes strongly in education and helping students meet its ever-spiraling cost. So much so, in fact, that the board voted to increase the value of the scholarships.

"Over the last few years, we changed things a bit. We felt that given how expensive college is these days, having our recipients receive more money made sense. Having enough support is critical to helping these students succeed."

Rosenson's belief in education is equaled by a personal connection to the program.



“Two graduate scholarships are named after my mom, Myra L. Frank (left). She was one of the co-founders of the WTS-LA chapter. After she passed away in 2003, several former employees and colleagues got together to create one scholarship that later turned into two. Today, we give them out to young women who embody her commitment to planning, engineering, and transit in Los Angeles. She worked on a range of signature transportation projects in and around Los Angeles in the 80s and 90s, including the Red Line, the Blue Line, the Green Line, the Gold Line, and the 105 Freeway. It's very gratifying to me to honor my mom while providing opportunity for young women. But that is exactly what WTS-LA is all about.

“We have really great programs that cover a wide range of disciplines and needs, but at its core WTS-LA is all about helping the next generation of women succeed, and the scholarships do just that. So, we encourage all WTS-LA members and newsletter readers to share the application with their network, their colleagues, their interns, and anyone they think might be interested in applying. It might be the most important thing you do for WTS-LA and the transportation industry.”

But that's not all. Rosenson adds another benefit that many are unaware of. “We offer *all applicants* a one-year WTS-LA student membership just for applying for a scholarship. That's because we want to encourage young women to join and be involved in our chapter.”