

## **Building Your Dream for Someone Else...**



BYD President Stella Li is pictured with students and faculty at the recent "Norman Foster Foundation Urban Mobility Workshop," which was supported by BYD in Madrid, Spain, 2018.

Former general and statesman Colin Powell said, "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes hard sweat, determination, and hard work." No one knows that better than Build Your Dreams—North America (BYD). The world's largest manufacturer of electric vehicles and batteries, BYD embodies the pioneering spirit of its mission to deliver cleaner air and a better life through battery-electric vehicles, particularly buses. With its North American headquarters in downtown Los Angeles, the firm built and operates a half-million-square-foot bus manufacturing facility in Lancaster, CA. Staffed by more than 820



workers, BYD's factory boasts the only all-union workforce among U.S. electric-vehicle manufacturers. BYD has invested more than \$250 million in the region to date, with much more in the planning stages.

An industry leader in other high-tech zero-emission sectors including trucks, forklifts, and SkyRail (monorail), BYD believes its model proves that going green can be good for the economy, good for workers, and good for America. Committed to hiring locally and from underrepresented communities—among them women, veterans and second-chance employees—BYD Lancaster staff is composed of 85% minority employees. But BYD's commitment to social responsibility does not end with diversity, the environment, and equality.

BYD North America believes strongly in WTS and its mission to advance women in transportation. Two of BYD's SkyRail team members—project manager Jenny Jing and project associate Michelle Song—recently joined WTS-LA's Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner Committee. Also, BYD communications director Sheila Wray Given is a long-standing WTS-LA board member, and a former WTS-LA president. So, BYD knows WTS-LA and what it stands for. In fact, at the WTS International annual conference in San Diego this year, BYD contributed more than \$2,000 to the WTS International Foundation, the WTS entity tasked with awarding scholarships across the US, Canada, and the UK. But BYD also did something else. BYD president Stella Li committed \$5,000 to create the BYD (Build Your Dreams) WTS-LA Chapter Scholarship. And it will be presented for this November to a deserving young woman who demonstrates the dedication and ideals that BYD represents on a daily basis through its work and its workers. And the inaugural 2018 \$5,000 Build Your Dream Scholarship goes to Esther Kala.

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