

## High School Consequential: Raising Awareness and Giving Support



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The high school experience is different for everyone. Some remember it fondly. Others couldn't wait for it to end. But in certain Los Angeles high schools, WTS-LA is helping to make sure that high school is a very positive experience. Through the Transportation YOU committee, WTS-LA is exerting profound influence on some burgeoning young scholars, opening their eyes to opportunity in a profession that is often overlooked in the high school years and providing much-needed funds.

"Through our Adopt-A-School program, our committee is trying to bring excitement and awareness to high school students for careers in transportation," explains Transportation YOU co-chair Sharlane Bailey. "We hope to extend that awareness and reach out to other students because to me, transportation is exciting, challenging, cutting-edge, and meaningful work." Her co-chair, Barbara Marquez agrees. She points out that this year, WTS-LA high school scholarships focused on two schools through the WTS-LA Adopt-A-School program: Westchester and Dorsey High Schools. And this year, WTS-LA awarded nearly \$20,000 in five scholarships to deserving Westchester and Dorsey High School students.

To be held on November 7, the 2019 WTS-LA Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner welcomes all high scholarship winners to attend and speak when they receive their award. And while we can't name the specific high school winners—as they are minors—we would like to acknowledge either the scholarship sponsor or its namesake. All of the scholarships were awarded to academically successful high school seniors with supporting recommendations and completed applications. It was a highly competitive process with much-coveted financial awards. And here are this year's winners.

**AECOM Richard G. Newman Scholarship.** This year a student from the Susan Miller Dorsey High School took home the \$3,000 AECOM Richard G. Newman Scholarship. Named after AECOM's legendary chairman Richard Newman, the scholarship honors his commitment to fairness and equality throughout AECOM and the transportation industry. AECOM is a global professional services firm with 90,000 employees on nearly every continent. Also a longtime supporter of WTS-LA and WTS, AECOM is Platinum Corporate Partner of the chapter and a Trailblazer Corporate Partner at the international level.



**PGH Wong Engineering Scholarship.** The \$3,000 PGH Wong Engineering Scholarship rewards a deserving young senior at Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet School. Established in 1985, PGH Wong is a leading infrastructure engineering, project management, and construction management firm that delivers successful projects on time, within budget, and with exceptional quality. PGH Wong launched this scholarship this year, and this young woman is the inaugural winner.



**WSP Bright Futures Scholarship.** The \$3,000 WSP Bright Futures High School Scholarship recognizes a deserving young woman from Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet School. With 40,000 professionals in 500 offices in 40 countries, WSP delivers professional services around the globe. A staunch supporter of the chapter and WTS, WSP is a Platinum Corporate Partner of the chapter and a Trailblazer Corporate Partner at the international level



**WTS-LA Joan G. Wood Memorial Scholarship.** The final high school scholarship honors former Adopt-A-School co-chair Joan G. Wood, who also served as a transportation-planning manager for Metro. Believing devoutly in the power of education, Ms. Wood would have been very pleased to learn that a deserving young woman from the Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet School will be awarded this year's \$4,500 Joan G. Wood Memorial High School Scholarship. High school is different for everyone. But sometimes people can intervene to help make sure it's a very positive experience. Sharlane Bailey and Barbara Marquez and the members of their committee are doing exactly that with two schools in Los Angeles. Not only are they raising awareness about career opportunities in education, they're also providing some deserving students with funding to help them with their education along those career paths.



**WTS-LA Marilyn J. Reece Memorial Scholarship.** A Caltrans engineer, Marilyn J. Reece was the first woman in California to earn her PE license. Naturally, the \$4,500 Marilyn J. Reece High School Scholarship recognizes an outstanding student for her accomplishments and the promise she embodies to the transportation industry. The 2019 \$4,500 Marilyn J. Reece High School Scholarship goes to a deserving young woman from the Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet School.

