

Empowering Students for a Bright Future



WTS-LA Transportation YOU Committee Girls Empowerment Day, 2020

In September, the WTS-LA Transportation YOU Committee hosted the annual Girls Empowerment Day online. The event included students and staff from four high schools in the Los Angeles County area: Dorsey, Westchester, Azusa and Girls Academic Leadership Academy (GALA).

This year's event shifted to a virtual one complete with critical thinking activities (from USC student groups who led the ice breaker activity), a panel of industry leaders who shared valuable insights, breakout sessions (a quick study of designing complete streets and creating an effective elevator speech), and a short yoga session lead by professional yogi

Linda Garrison. The panel included WTS-LA Director at Large **Cynthia Guidry**, Director of Long Beach Airport; **Carrie Bowen**, California Highway and Roads Leader for HDR; and **Danielle Dirksen** an Urban Studies and Planning student at USC.

The annual event is an opportunity to present various career pathways in transportation, an industry often overlooked. Transportation YOU is a national mentoring program that offers young girls ages 13-18 an introduction to a wide variety of transportation careers. Committee members are enjoying the partnership with local educators and students and are already planning the next interaction with students.