

WTS Minnesota Chapter 2020 Annual Report

March 3, 2021



› Minnesota

Advancing women
Advancing transportation

Contents

WTS Minnesota Mission.....	ii
Message from the President.....	ii
Board of Directors	1
Board of Directors	2
2020 Advisory Board	3
Membership.....	4
Diversity and Inclusion	5
Diversity and Inclusion	6
Programs	7
Recognition Awards	10
Scholarships	14
Transportation YOU	16
Sustainability.....	19
Conferences	20
2020 Donors.....	21
Financial Report	22
Corporate Partners.....	23

WTS Minnesota Mission

Transforming the transportation industry through the advancement of women.

Message from the President

2020 has been a year unlike any other. In light of the various challenges we have all faced this past year, I want to focus on some of the positive things that have happened within our chapter and those we serve. To start with, we continue to bring quality professional development opportunities to our membership and the local transportation community. We delivered 2 in person programs and 7 virtual programs this year. Thank you to all of you that had a hand in developing and administering these events. We are already hard at work preparing programs for 2021.



The Transportation YOU program pivoted to virtual programs this fall as well. Despite the uncertain school year, we were still able to mentor girls at Blaine High School. The next generation is interested in learning more about what we do, and they are showing us that the future is bright. We were also excited to learn that an early TYOU participant has graduated from an engineering program and is working in our industry.

In September we honored several women who are making a difference. Congratulations again to our honorees and scholarship winners. We look forward to the day when we can get together (hopefully in person) to celebrate our 2021 honorees and scholarship winners. On a sad note, we lost one of our Advisory Committee members and a past President Dan Meyers this past year to cancer. Dan's commitment and contributions to WTS MN and the local transportation industry were significant, and he will be greatly missed. We have renamed our High School Scholarship to honor him and his legacy.

Our annual Holiday Party moved online as well. We were excited to try out a platform that would allow us to network almost as well as in person. After almost 8 months of working from home it was fun to be able to get together and chat with people outside of work. Look for more opportunities to network virtually in 2021. Our online silent auction raised over \$2500, thanks to the tireless work of our Special Events committee and those who donated items and money.

Our Diversity and Inclusion committee has been working hard to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in the chapter and the transportation industry. The Sustainability committee has also made great strides to increase awareness and encourage us to become better environmental stewards. The Mentoring program continues to grow and has 17 pairs this year.

The financial status of the chapter is stable thanks to our Corporate and Public Agency Partners. Your continued investment in this chapter is greatly appreciated. We have also been hard at work on a new Strategic Plan to ensure those dollars are spent in support of our mission and values.

The friendships and relationships I have developed through WTS Minnesota have been amazing. It has been such an honor to serve as the Minnesota Chapter President this past year. I hope to see you (both virtually and in person) at events in 2021. We are always looking for more volunteers, please keep this in mind as you read about all our activities in the following pages.

May 2021 be a happy, prosperous and healthy year for all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Pflaum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Pflaum
WTS Minnesota 2020 Chapter President

Board of Directors

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Membership

In 2020 our chapter welcomed 46 new members for a total of 161 active members at the end of 2020. While the Covid-19 pandemic led to much change in 2020, membership in the WTS Minnesota chapter remained strong. The chapter saw a 15% growth in new members and a 13% growth in total active members when compared to 2019. The chapter continues to focus on growing diversity in our membership and sought to provide great virtual events and programs as well as virtual volunteer opportunities to get our new members involved in WTS.

The 2020 membership goals as reported in the 2019 annual report were as follows:

- Hold a member drive to increase total membership in 2020.
- Develop and utilize a list of interested volunteers who can engage with new members in formal and informal ways, through programs like Connect with Coffee and other volunteer opportunities, to help increase the value of WTS membership.
- Continue the Connect with Coffee program in 2020 to encourage new connections through WTS and add value to WTS membership.

The Connect with Coffee program continued to be a successful tool to engage new members in 2020. We offered this program to new members and approximately one third accepted the offer to meet a WTS member over coffee. Since the creation of the Connect with Coffee program in 2015, numerous pairs were connected, and the program has continued to grow. Feedback from participants showed members really appreciated the opportunity to connect with others in the industry through this program even in a virtual environment. The committee was able to develop a list of engaged members to participate in the Connect with Coffee program and work with the volunteer coordinator to identify other volunteer opportunities within the chapter. The goal of conducting a membership drive is being deferred to 2021.

The following membership goals were established moving into 2021:

- Hold a member drive to increase total membership in 2021.
- Develop a 2021 Member Survey to help identify who our members are and how the chapter can best serve them.
- Continue the Connect with Coffee program in 2021 to encourage new connections through WTS and add value to WTS membership.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was reignited in 2020 and made contributions to WTS in the form of newsletter articles, programs and other initiatives. Throughout the year of 2020 the group has grown to over a dozen members and hopes to continue this momentum in 2021.

SPRING 2020

In March 2020, the committee planning began with an advisory meeting with past president Kristina Nesse, current president Sara Pflaum, advisor Kristin Thompson, and 2020 committee chair Liz Morice. They started by gathering a list of past committee members, visiting with the WTS board for programs ideas and reviewing the 2018 committee work plan. Kristin Thompson and Liz Morice met to plan the first committee agenda. They reached out to past members individually and found new names of people to engage.

After some weeks of planning and discussion, on May 27th the committee had the first meeting of the reactivated Diversity & Inclusion Committee for WTS, only two days after the murder of George Floyd. The group shared a thoughtful discussion of how to prioritize time for the rest of 2020 and ideas that lead to action on these values. All participants shared commitment to working on racial justice within WTS, the transportation field and beyond. Drawing from the workplan created by the original committee in 2018, the group selected the following goals as priorities for our near-term efforts:

- Increase opportunities for women of color in the transportation industry
- Create and foster an inclusive environment in WTS Minnesota and all related programs and events so all people feel welcome, included and valued
- Ensure WTS Minnesota meetings, events and materials are accessible for individuals with disabilities
- The group decided to build from the 2018 work to find strategies to advance these goals in all areas of chapter operations

JUNE TO DECEMBER 2020

In June the group gained several more members after the event “Equity Beyond Engagement: Seeking Inclusive Transportation Investments and Outcomes.” The group took on a number of initiatives at the July and August meetings.

EVENTS: The group planned and cohosted its first event themed around inclusivity & access/Mobility Management with Sheila Holbrook, Washington County (10-14). The group scheduled its next event, a talk with Kim Collins (MnDOT Deputy Commissioner) and Carolyn Flowers (former VP of Americas Transit Market Sector at AECOM and former acting administrator of the Federal Transit Administration under President Obama) for February 2021. Collins and Flowers will share with us their insight into leadership, inspiring careers, and perspectives as women of color in our field.

Diversity and Inclusion

COMMUNICATIONS: The group had an article in each newsletter themed around Diversity & Inclusion. The group has updated the Diversity & Inclusion webpage.

- The 2020 Diversity and Inclusion Committee by Liz Morice (June/July)
- Indigenous Transportation Issues by Jennifer Wiltgen (September/October)
- Inclusive Engagement During COVID by Brenda Thomas (July/August)
- Dawn Hood & the Transportation Research Board's Standing Committee on Women and Gender in Transportation by Kristin Thompson (November/December)

EDUCATION & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: Members drew from an idea about having an Anti-Racist book club to an idea that will be a multi-media workshop space. Additionally, the group is working on developing a training for WTS Members on anti-oppression, anti-racism and personal development for 2021.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION BEST PRACTICES RESEARCH: Members created a research plan that involves a survey to organizations and companies in the transportation field to learn about the initiatives and policies they do to support diversity and inclusion, with the idea of creating a list of best practices and current policies to support D&I in the transportation field.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Members updated the BIPOC vendors list (a list of restaurants, venues, vendors that are female and or BIPOC owned) for a resource to WTS and members.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION The group is supporting the Awards & Recognition committee by identifying potential honorary members that have a diverse background or are leaders in Diversity & Inclusion

Programs



JANUARY 2020 | WTS MN FIRESIDE CHAT WITH COMMISSIONER MARGARET ANDERSON KELLIHER

MnDOT Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher participated in a fireside chat Jan. 31 at MnDOT's Central Office in St. Paul. The event was moderated by Kristin

White, MnDOT's Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV-X) Office director. The discussion focused on career growth, pursuing opportunities, and lessons learned in the Commissioner's journey through politics, public service, and the transportation industry. This was WTS MN's first Public Agency Partnership program event. The Public Agency Partnership program is designed to encourage public agency employee participation at WTS events. The goal of the program is to increase accessibility for public agency women and men to the valuable educational and networking events, which WTS provides. WTS MN believes that this approach eases barriers associated with sending staff to WTS events and provides opportunities for public sector transportation professionals. MnDOT and Washington County are WTS Minnesota's first public agency partners. This event was co-hosted by MnDOT's women's employee resource group Strategic Women Advancing Transportation.

FEBRUARY 2020 | MALL OF AMERICA TRANSIT CENTER TOUR

This February Derek Berube, Principal Engineer for Metro Transit, led over 30 WTS members and friends on a walking informational tour of the new transit facilities at the Mall of America. The tour

included components related to pre-construction conditions, site access, pedestrian flow, building amenities, and police/operator facilities. After the tour, the group gathered for networking and appetizers at Cantina Laredo.



MARCH 2020 | WTS/NCITE ETHICS SEMINAR

WTS partnered with the North-Central Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (NCITE) to offer an ethics training on March 23rd. The event was originally planned to take place at Urban Growler in Saint Paul, but in response to the Covid-19 pandemic the event transitioned to an online format. The two-hour online training was hosted by Hamline University professor David Schultz discussing the topic of Making Decisions in a Morally Diverse Workplace. The presentation challenged over one hundred virtual attendees to explore how gender, culture, religion, and other factors (including job title and position) may affect our moral beliefs. This event satisfied the ethics requirement for the Professional Engineer's license and the American Institute of Certified Planners certification. WTS is grateful to everyone that was patient and supportive in making this event successful in a virtual format.

APRIL 2020 | GREENROADS WEBINAR

WTS partnered with Greenroads and hosted an informational webinar promoting sustainable practices and informing participants about the Greenroads rating system. The Greenroads Project Rating Program challenges teams to go beyond the minimum environmental, social, and economic practices by documenting performance and participating in an independent review. A Greenroads Rating can be used for sustainability tracking, internal information and performance management, public communications, and more. Attendees learned about the business case for greener streets, highways, bridges, rails and trails.

JUNE 2020 | EQUITY BEYOND ENGAGEMENT: SEEKING INCLUSIVE TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS AND OUTCOMES

As the conversation around achieving equity in transportation continues, there is a growing call for transportation professionals to do more than just seeking greater public involvement and avoiding adverse impacts. This program explored the idea that transportation projects represent opportunities - and responsibilities - beyond just solving traditional transportation problems. Presenters focused on two possibilities: 1) how can we incorporate equity not just into outreach but into the planning, function and design of transportation infrastructure? 2) how can we leverage transportation investments to address non-transportation needs in the communities where projects are located? The webinar was presented by Gloria Jeff (MnDOT), Tim Burkhardt (Alliant Engineering), Keith Baker and Marvin Anderson (Reconnect Rondo).

JULY 2020 | METRO TRANSIT'S ELECTRIC BUS PILOT PROGRAM

Metro Transit launched service of their newest ABRT line, the C-Line. As part of this new service, Metro Transit also launched their electric bus pilot including eight 60-foot articulated New Flyer Xcelsior Charge buses, manufactured in St. Cloud, Minnesota; eight Siemens Rave 150 Depot Chargers and two Siemens HPCC 300kW on route chargers. Metro Transit's electric bus charger project manager, Carrie Desmond, presented and hosted a candid discussion on lessons learned during the first year of

Programs

Programs

operations. Following the presentation, Carrie was joined by DJ Hammingh, New Flyer Regional Sales Manager; Sean Ackley, Siemens eMobility Head of Service Operations, North America; and Celia Dayagi, Siemens eMobility Head of Product Management for a panel discussion. The panel answered audience questions about project challenges, lessons learned, and strategies on leadership and project management applicable to challenging projects.

AUGUST 2020 | 100 YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Minnesota claims the first woman to vote in the nation after the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Minnesota also holds the current record for the highest voter turnout in the nation. Therefore, WTS Minnesota hosted a program celebrating the 100-year anniversary of women's right to vote. While the passage of the 19th amendment did not grant the right to vote to every woman, specifically women of color, it was an important milestone on the path to universal adult suffrage. The program included a presentation from Michelle Witte (Executive Director of League of Women Voters Minnesota) on the history of women's suffrage, WTS MN Chapter History with Connie Kozlak, Honorary Member spotlight: Jodi Teich (Stearns County Engineer and president of the Minnesota County Engineers Association) and panel Q&A.

OCTOBER 2020 | MOBILITY MANAGEMENT - CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

Focused on connecting people to their communities, Washington County Mobility Coordinator Sheila Holbrook-White discussed the framework of mobility management, its response to generational shifts in travel and mobility options, described initiatives that have removed traditional barriers to transportation, and discussed how COVID-19 has altered the context of community transportation.

NOVEMBER 2020 | TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY AND GENDER EQUITY

This presentation brought transportation technology expertise from Tammy Meehan Russell with gender equity expertise from Anya McDonnell. Tammy and Ania shared ways that planners and engineers can better understand how transportation technology should consider gender and equity to create transportation systems that work for all.

Recognition Awards



WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**Jeanne Witzig
Kimley-Horn**

For the past 33 years, Jeanne Witzig has been providing leadership in successfully advancing transportation projects through the federal and state environmental review process. Jeanne started her career working in Mayor George Latimer's office in Saint Paul. It was through that experience she learned first-hand how important it

was to have confidence and a strong voice in your own unique way. In 1989, she entered the consulting world to take on her passion of making the environmental process really work for projects. It was in the late 1980s that Jeanne was introduced to WTS, later joining the board. WTS has been a strong foundation for Jeanne throughout her career, building that ever important network of women who are long-standing friends, trusted partners, and advocates.

Most recently, while at Kimley-Horn, Jeanne has had the honor of serving as the consultant project manager for the Gateway (Gold Line) and Rush Line BRT Projects during the environmental analysis phase. In that role, she works diligently to not only provide sound and visionary guidance on projects, but to also lead by positive example that women have the talent, commitment, and compassion to be strong and effective leaders, each in our own way. At Kimley-Horn, Jeanne has served as chair of the Women's Leadership Group, championing women throughout the firm. Having grown up in the Twin Cities, Jeanne takes great pride in seeing projects she has worked on serve and strengthen our community, including the Blue Line, Green Line, Target Field Station, Northstar Corridor, and the Minnesota Vikings stadium. A huge sports fan, Jeanne works to employ the true sense of team in whatever she does, including celebrating diversity in talent and ways to approach challenges, and of course having fun along the way!

WTS Minnesota's Recognition Awards program provides an opportunity to recognize excellence in our field and raise the profile of WTS in Minnesota

Recognition Awards



WOMAN TO WATCH AWARD (NEW!) **Shannon Evans Engstrom**

Shannon Engstrom recently graduated with her master's in urban & regional planning from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. In her studies, she focused on transportation planning and policy and how it intersects with social and environmental equity issues. Her interest in renewables brought her to

Puerto Rico in January 2020 to begin her final capstone project. The capstone focused on supporting the island's first energy cooperative and it received Humphrey's 2020 Best Capstone award. While at Humphrey she was able to spend two weeks in China with Professor Yingling Fan to learn more about China's transportation and urban planning practices, participate in the Eno Transportation Center's Future Leaders Development Conference, present at TRB's Women's Issues in Transportation Conference, as well as the University's Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) annual conference. She worked as a graduate research assistant with the Accessibility Observatory at CTS, a teaching assistant for Commissioner Anderson Kelliher and an undergraduate urban studies senior capstone seminar, and a system performance analyst intern with Metro Transit.

Prior to graduate school she worked at the Center for Transportation Studies and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs for four years as a project manager and program coordinator for external university projects and programs. She spent her summer before graduate school learning how to code so she could use these skills in her research and work.

Her next step is to move to Geneva, Switzerland in early September for three years for her spouse's job relocation. She looks forward to building her next chapter there, hopefully living car-free and enjoying the benefits of their transit system.



MEMBER OF THE YEAR **Andrea Arnoldi**

Andrea has been an active member and leader in WTS Minnesota for over a decade. Beginning with a role on the programs committee, she quickly moved into a board position as membership director, promoting the organization and its mission within the community and industry.

Andrea has been a mentor for the Transportation YOU program since 2014, working with Blaine high school students to build their awareness of the benefits and diversity of careers in transportation. She knows firsthand that you don't have to be an engineer to thrive in

Recognition Awards

transportation. As a landscape architect with interests in many project types, she found the diverse design opportunities working in transportation to be challenging and rewarding.

Andrea brings a collaborative design perspective to her projects and through her work at Kimley-Horn she's developed a skillset that has allowed her to take on her current role as Architecture lead for Gold Line BRT. Andrea recently rejoined the board of directors as Vice President. She brings an experienced voice and passion for advancing the board's initiatives and promoting the organization in innovative ways in the industry. In particular, she is excited to lead this year's update to the Strategic Plan and continue to support the thriving transportation industry in Minnesota and the women who fuel it.

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR **Stantec**

Stantec is a top tier global design and delivery firm of approximately 22,000 employees working in over 400 locations across six continents – including Minnesota locations in Minneapolis, St. Cloud, and Rochester. Stantec has aligned with WTS and its mission to encourage women to build and advance their careers in the transportation industry by working toward gender equity throughout its talent pool and leadership roles and committing to rich and diverse professional development opportunities for its staff. Stantec has specifically supported WTS by funding employee memberships, sponsoring conferences, and encouraging employee involvement at both local WTS events and national conferences. Stantec proudly supports WTS events through attendance and sponsorship throughout the year, including the Annual Scholarship Lunch, the Winter Gala, and the WTS Central Regional Conference, as well as at a variety of local events. As a major transportation consulting firm in Minnesota, Stantec is proud to encourage and sustain women in the transportation field.

ROSA PARKS DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARD **Forecast Public Arts**

Forecast's new mission to activate, inspire and advocate for public art that advances justice, health and human dignity is our commitment to being a part of healing and creative solutions as we face the dual pandemic of a health and economic crisis due to the coronavirus and of systemic racism and police brutality. In fall 2018, Forecast held an intensive designed for Black, and/or Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) arts professionals who are interested in growing their practice in the field of public art consulting. The program spurred out of the need to fill existing gaps in the public art field by centering BIPOC and women professionals, providing opportunities in consulting work and preparing a more diverse network of consultants to help shape the future of public art and have seats at the decision-making tables. Following this intensive, five participants were hired as part of our Consulting Team to work with Forecast on public art consulting projects across the country. Over the past two years, these consultants have been critical to the success of a variety of Forecast projects, including facilitating RFQ and selection processes, conducting workshops, building online training platforms and curriculum, working with

Recognition Awards

transit agencies and cities, conducting arts planning activities and holding focus groups and community engagement activities. As BIPOC and women consultants and artists, these Consulting Team members bring invaluable perspective, insight, understanding, language, skill sets and expertise to our team and the communities we serve. Our have are essential partners in creating, launching and leading efforts during this challenging time and their continued work with us is crucial to maintain and build relationships with communities that are at the most risk of continued trauma, illness, isolation and economic hardship as we rebuild our communities.



INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AWARD

Shannon Foss, Transportation Asset Management Program

Shannon Foss has worked for the Minnesota Department of Transportation for 9 years, spending the past 4 as the agency's Asset Management Planning Director. She has served a variety of roles to help advance asset management at a local, state, and national scale. Her primary responsibility has been serving as project manager for MnDOT's Statewide Transportation Asset Management Plan, which is a planning tool to help MnDOT further evaluate risks, develop mitigation strategies, analyze life cycle costs, establish condition performance measures and targets, develop investment strategies, and much more. She is a proud member of WTS.



RAY LAHOOD AWARD

Kevin Western

Kevin Western is the State Bridge Engineer for the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He holds an MS degree in Structures from the University of Minnesota and a BS degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin. He has 33 years of experience in bridge design, standards, and construction. During his career with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, he has held a variety of roles including, State Bridge Design Engineer, Design Manager for the St. Croix River Crossing and TH 53 Relocation projects, and Deputy Project Manager for Design of the 35W Bridge Project. Kevin serves as chair of the AASHTO Bridge T-10 Committee on Concrete and vice-chair of AASHTO Bridge T-13 Culvert Committee.

Each year, WTS Minnesota awards scholarships to promising female students pursuing a career in transportation. Our chapter's scholarship program is central to our efforts to advancing women in transportation. In 2020, four scholarships were awarded to students in efforts to "fuel the pipeline".



**DONNA W ALLAN
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
KELLIE URMAN – UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA**

Ms. Uрман is a second year Civil Engineering undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She has been interested in transportation since 2015, where she joined Transportation You at Blaine High School and learned the importance of meeting the needs of individual communities by providing accessible and reliable transportation.

After graduation, she plans to enter the field working on transportation engineering related projects - possibly taking a job out of state! She would like to use her leadership minor to assume a leadership position as soon as she can, as she believes that good leadership provides a bridge to effectively tie diverse perspectives and ideas together towards a common goal.



**WTS MINNESOTA GRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP
LYNDA CHAO – UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA**

Lynda received a bachelor's degree in geography from Macalester College. During undergrad, she interned at the Metropolitan Council and discovered the world of urban planning. That experience that led her to where she is now; finishing her master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the

Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Currently, Linda interns with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Team at Metro Transit, where she creates preliminary station design scenarios and support the development of future BRT lines. Her career goals upon graduation are to pursue a career related to transportation, land use, design, and GIS, as well as promote diverse perspectives, experiences, and approaches in the realm of planning as transportation needs and modes evolve.

Scholarships

Scholarships

KATHERINE F. TURNBULL SCHOLARSHIP

ISABELLA LAFAVOR – UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

Isabella is a sophomore at the University of St. Thomas, majoring in civil engineering, with a minor in sustainability. Currently, she is involved in the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers chapter on campus. She is also a member of the Women's club volleyball team.



WTS MN High School Scholarship

ISABEL BERGEMANN – MINNEAPOLIS SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Isabel plans to study Civil Engineering with a focus in Water Resources at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado. She currently attends Minneapolis South High School and has been involved in Project Lead the way, an engineering initiative for middle and high school students, for the past 6 years. Her dream job would be to help create drainage systems for our roads that prevent wildlife damage and dangerous ice conditions.



Transportation YOU

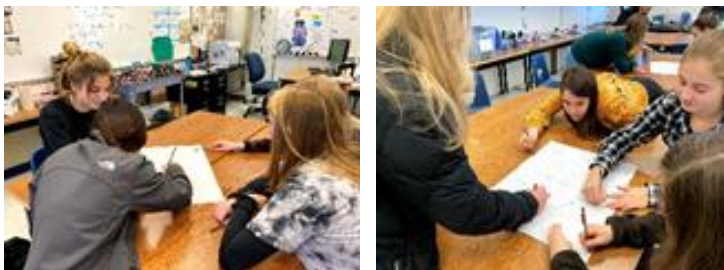
The Transportation You (TYOU) program continued its programming at Blaine High School in 2020. Unfortunately, in January Wellstone International High School's programs were canceled indefinitely for 2020. The programs run throughout the school year with the opportunity for one student to attend the DC Summit in June in Washington DC.

JANUARY 2020: Wellstone International High School's programs were canceled indefinitely given the need for a school leader for the program. A new contact for the school has not been established. The team began the new year with our third session of the 2019-2020 school year at Blaine High School on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and was led by WTS member and TYOU mentor, Katie Ellis. During the session, mentees learned about bridges and had the opportunity to build their own bridge using marshmallows and toothpicks. At the end of the session, Faith Xiong shared information about the DC summit with students.



The Chapter's Transportation YOU mentorship program is a national, hands-on, interactive program that offers young girls ages 13-18 an introduction to a wide variety of careers in the transportation field

FEBRUARY 2020: The fourth Blaine High School session for the 2019-2020 school year was held on February 26, 2020. WTS member and TYOU mentor, Laura Melcher. Students were divided into small groups and worked on contour mapping. Students enjoyed learning about typography maps and drawing their own contour map. At this session, Faith and Belick shared information about the spring field trip and distributed the DC Summit application to students. TYOU continued to look for school partnership and continued to plan for the spring field trip.



MARCH 2020: No sessions were planned in March due to Blaine High School's spring break. The 2020 TYOU DC Summit application deadline was delayed to April.

APRIL 2020: Due to COVID-19 and the university's visitation guideline, the spring field with the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) and the University of Minnesota was cancelled.

Transportation YOU

At the end of April, TYOU DC Summit was confirmed cancelled. Staff and students were notified about the cancellation of both the field trip and the 2020 TYOU DC Summit. WTS-I was considering moving the date of the 2020 TYOU DC Summit to August. This was not confirmed.

MAY 2020: TYOU's Blaine program planned for May was canceled. WTS-I canceled the 2020 TYOU DC Summit.

JUNE 2020: TYOU continued to plan for the upcoming school year with Blaine. Jenny Birkmeier could not confirm the classroom restrictions that will occur in the fall due to COVID-19. The Anoka/Hennepin school district should have a better idea by mid-August.

JULY 2020: Faith Xiong, Zan Associates, transitioned out from the role of Co-Chair to Transportation You after serving for one year. Laura Melcher, Braun Intertec, started as Co-Chair for Transportation You for the 2020-2021 school year.

AUGUST 2020: Blaine High School announced they will be having a hybrid-style of classes until the end of 2020. The class style will be revisited near the end of 2020. Because of this, TYOU will be planning virtual meetings for the school year.

SEPTEMBER 2020: TYOU Co-Chairs met virtually with Jenny Birkmeier with Blaine High School to discuss session formats and scheduling. For the 2020 school year, TYOU will continue with monthly programs but in a virtual setting, specifically Google Meets.

OCTOBER 2020: TYOU had their first virtual program with Blaine on Monday, October 19 from 12:00PM to 1:00PM. We had six mentors attend and over six students with a few more that were interested but could not attend. The program was an introductory session to inform students about the mission of TYOU and the Blaine schedule.

After the program, we had two more students commit who were not able to attend the October session.

NOVEMBER 2020: TYOU had their second session with Blaine on Monday, November 19, 2020 from 12:00PM to 1:00PM. Prior to the program, welcome bags were dropped off at the school for students. Eight students and six mentors attended the program. The students were guided through a road planning exercise utilizing Streemix.com. Students worked on the exercise in small breakout groups then presented their streets to the bigger group towards the end of the session.

DECEMBER 2020: The December group program was canceled, instead mentors will meet with their mentees one-on-one and virtually on their own time. In these sessions, they will discuss the Get-to-Know-You forms and prompts relating to career and/or higher education. Students will be given a Happy Holiday gift pack including a \$5 Caribou gift card, some candies, and a mug.

Mentors will meet at the end of December to plan for 2021 Spring programs. We anticipate monthly group spring programs will be virtual and via Google Meets.

Thank you to our Transportation YOU Mentors!

BLAINE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

- Andrea Arnoldi, Kimley-Horn
- Belick Pha, Braun Intertec
- Faith Xiong, Zan Associates
- Morgan Hoxsie, Kimley-Horn
- Laura Melcher, Braun Intertec
- Leila Bunge, Kimley Horn

WELLSTONE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

- Belick Pha, Braun Intertec
- Anna Potter, Kimley-Horn
- Faith Xiong, Zan Associates
- Melissa Duhn, University of Minnesota
- Molly Wesimantel, Stantec

BLAINE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

- Andrea Arnoldi, Kimley-Horn
- Belick Pha, Braun Intertec
- Faith Xiong, Zan Associates
- Kristi Moua, HNTB
- Laura Melcher, Braun Intertec
- Molly Weistmantel, Stantec

Transportation
YOU

Sustainability

Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee is new as of 2019. Th mission is to elevate awareness, foster conversations and take action. The committee follows best practices for WTS, in an attempt to reduce the organization's greenhouse gas footprint including:

- Participants bringing reusable bottles, WTS MN no longer offers bottled water at programs.
- Red meat is no longer offered at events.
- Reusable tableware is first choice. When unavailable, sustainably sourced compostable disposable products are used.
- Locally sourced catering, whenever possible.
- Propose sustainable transportation options to and from events.
- Talk about sustainability at events.

Annual Conference (May 15-17)

The Annual Conference was supposed to take place in Phoenix, AZ in 2020, but was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Central Region Conference

The Central Region Conference was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Chapter Leader Training

The Minnesota chapter sent seven board members to online Chapter Leader training this year, **Sara Pflaum (President), Andrea Arnoldi (Vice-President), Emily Bowen (Marketing Director), Keelee Roggenbuck (Programs Co-Director), Carrie Desmond (Membership Chair), Lindsay Sheppard (Programs Chair), and Laura Melcher (Transportation YOU Co-Chair)**. The WTS International Staff and Board of Directors led the training, focusing on governance, succession planning, marketing, membership, treasurer best practices, upcoming updates to the WTS website, and databases, and strategic planning.

There were also many opportunities to share information and find out what other chapters are doing. It was inspiring and energizing to meet with other chapter leaders and hear what is going on around the country

2020 Donors

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

(INDIVIDUAL)

- Donna Allen
- Katherine Turnbull

SILENT AUCTION DONORS

- Beth Bartz
- Braun Intertec
- Carrie Desmond
- Dangerous Man Brewing
- HNTB
- Kimley-Horn
- Michael Baker International
- Minnesota Twins
- Rush Creek Golf Club
- Sara Pflaum
- SEH Inc.
- SRF Consulting
- Stantec
- Total Wine & More
- Wheel Fun Rentals

Financial Report

INCOME	
Membership Dues	\$6,000
Monthly Programs	\$2,248
Holiday Party	\$650
Scholarships and Recognition Luncheon	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$0
Corporate Partnership	\$31,500
TOTAL 2020 INCOME	\$40,398
DONATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND	
Silent Auction/Raffle Donations	\$2,426
Scholarship Donations	\$2,500
Total 2020 Donations to Scholarship Fund	\$4,926
EXPENSES	
Monthly Programs	\$2,114
Travel/Board Member Training	\$450
TYOU DC Summit	\$0
Supplies/Communication	\$1,200
Membership Development	\$25
Professional Development Fees (AICP)	\$1,254
Insurance	\$937
Scholarship Luncheon	\$3,565
Holiday Party	\$450
Transportation YOU	\$0
Mentoring Program	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$127
Total 2020 Expenses	\$10,122

Corporate Partners

All the accomplishments in this report would not be possible without our Corporate Partners. WTS Minnesota's Corporate Partnership Program began in 2012 with just one firm. Since then that number has grown to **33 partners** who have committed a combined **\$36,000** in 2020. Those contributions have greatly advanced the chapter's educational, scholarship, and leadership programs. WTS Minnesota recognizes that financial backing is only possible with strong voices expressing why this is a valuable organization, so we thank the following organizations and their people for their support in 2020.

ADVOCATE LEVEL



SUPPORTER LEVEL

- Alliant Engineering
- American Engineering Testing, Inc.
- Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Braun Intertec
- HNTB
- KLJ
- Michael Baker
- Terracon
- TKDA
- WSB & Associated, Inc.
- WSP

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORTER LEVEL

- Isthmus Engineering
- Kaskaskia
- MN Best
- Pierce Pini & Associates, Inc.
- Professional Engineering Services, Ltd.
- Rani Engineering
- Sambatek
- Stonebrooke
- Toole Design Group
- The Transportation Alliance
- Zan Associates



Women's Transportation Seminar

Minnesota Chapter

wtsinternational.org/mn