



**Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Pittsburgh**

**PITTSBURGH CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

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2021 Corporate Sponsors

PLATINUM					
					
					
GOLD					
					
SILVER					
					
					
BRONZE					
					

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I am probably the last to wish this to you, but as this is our first newsletter of 2021, it was my first opportunity! This is also my first opportunity to greet you as the new WTS Pittsburgh Chapter President. I am excited and proud to lead this Chapter and hope that 2021 treats us well!

I want to start by saying a sincere THANK YOU to Monica O'Neil, who has moved to Immediate Past President. She has done so much to lead and grow our chapter, and I truly value her input and guidance. My favorite part of WTS is that I now know this



wonderful woman (and many others) and can also call her a friend! Thank you also to Melissa Sebastian who leaves us as Secretary but luckily still remains as co-chair for our Events and Programs of Interest Committee (EPIC).

Welcome to Jennifer McCracken and Jennifer King who now fill the Vice President and Secretary positions, respectively. We have a bright future ahead of us with your leadership. And last, but certainly not least, a Thank You to our constant, our behind-the-scenes worker, our all-knowing resource, our Treasurer, Claire McGinnis. Your help in so many areas in the Chapter is always valued and appreciated.

Thank you to all of our Committee Chairs, committee volunteers, and our Corporate

Sponsors! You are what drives this organization through your time and investment.

Thank you to those that joined us for the Membership Meeting in January. It was wonderful to see your faces even if it was virtually. I eagerly anticipate a time when I can see your beautiful faces in person! One theme of the Membership Meeting was "giving back". As a Chapter, we are focused on giving back to you - our members - this year through raffles, giveaways, low cost/free events and other special events. Our small way of saying Thank you for sticking with us through these tough times. We appreciate you and the difficult times we are all facing, and if there is anything we can do to help, please let us know! Reach out at any time at WTSPittsburghChapter@gmail.com

So I guess this was a note of Thanks, which is good because I am thankful for each of you!

Cheers to a great 2021!

~Kelly

UPCOMING EVENTS



TransportationYOU

It's been awhile since our last TransportationYOU event due to the pandemic, but we're excited to get involved again with some virtual volunteer opportunities coming up.

Here are the scheduled events we have so far as well as other opportunities that are

in the works. Please let us know if you are interested and able to volunteer for any of the upcoming events! If these events don't fit in your current schedule but you still want us to keep you in mind for future events, please send an email to transportationyoupittsburgh@gmail.com to be added to our volunteer list.

Upcoming scheduled events:**Big Brothers Big Sisters Virtual Career Panel:** 9th graders Mentor 2.0 Program

When: Wednesday, March 31

Duration: 5pm-5:30pm

Description: We need 4 volunteers to give a brief, 3-5 minutes, talk about their career and the path they took to get there. We're looking to represent a variety of careers in the Transportation Field.

STEAM Class Design Squad Program - An Engineering and Invention Club

Description: Several middle schools are working through the Design Squad program and are looking for volunteers. Here is the guide the students are working from.

The times and days vary for each school:

Roy A. Hunt Elementary School; Thursdays 9-10:30am

North Strabane Intermediate School; starting in February, more details available soon

Baldwin Whitehall Middle School; Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, Friday, 12:20-1pm or 1:50-2:30pm

Virtual Invention Building

When: Tuesday, March 30

Duration: 1:30pm-2:05pm

Description: Students will be mailed supplies to complete an engineering design challenge. Volunteers are needed to help the students work through the challenge.

Pitt SWE Elementary Engineering Extravaganza

Description: Create a video demonstrating a unique STEM experiment. Videos will be shared with students online on February 20

High School SWEtastic STEM Challenge

When: Saturday, March 20

Duration: 10am-12pm

Description: Virtually judge student's presentations in a STEM Challenge Contest

Other Opportunities:**SWENEXT Workshop Event**

When: April 10

Duration: TBA

Description: Volunteer on a panel and share your experience with SWENEXTers.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Senior Series

When: April, date TBA

Description: Workshop for important post high school skills, topic to be determined. Examples of potential topics include using technology professionally, financial aid, or interviewing. We're open to suggestions!

Save the Date

The WTS Pittsburgh Chapter is excited to announce that the 2021 Scholarship Gala will be held “**virtually**” at **4:00 PM** on **Thursday, April 8th, 2021**. Due to the incredible growth of our scholarship program over the past five years, we are pleased to be awarding three scholarships this year, each valued at \$2500. This year’s scholarships include the Molitoris Leadership Scholarship and the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship, both for Undergraduates, as well as the Leadership Legacy Scholarship for Graduates. Due to the unfortunate cancellation of last year’s Gala due to the pandemic, we will also be honoring last year’s three scholarship winners at this year’s event. In addition, the Gala will feature our very special keynote speaker, Port Authority of Allegheny County CEO, Katharine Kelleman.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2021 WTS Pittsburgh Chapter “Virtual” Scholarship Gala, one of our chapter’s flagship events. You won’t want to miss this exciting opportunity to meet our scholarship recipients and hear Katharine’s insights on her career and the future of transit in the Pittsburgh region!

Stay tuned to future newsletters and look for an official invitation with more information in the weeks ahead.

WTS Supports Local

Purchase a gift card to use at a later date	Donate to your local Food Bank	Write 3 Google reviews for local businesses	Purchase something from a Small Local Boutique	Order from a local Chinese restaurant
Recommend a local business by tagging a friend on Social Media	Order drinks from your favorite Local Bar	Tip Big - at least double your normal tip	Order from a local Pizza Shop	Write 3 Facebook reviews for local businesses
Order drinks from a local brewery, distillery or winery	Share a local business Social Media post	Buy coffee from a Local Coffee Shop	Order from a local Mexican restaurant	Buy sweets from a Local Bakery
Get a haircut or buy a gift card from your local Hairdresser	Write 3 Yelp reviews for local businesses	Order from a local Italian restaurant	Enjoy breakfast/brunch from a Local Diner	Order flowers from a local Flower Shop
Place an online order with a Small Business	Order from a new local restaurant	Buy meat from a local Butcher	Follow 3 new local businesses on Social Media	Get a manicure or buy a gift card from your local Nail Salon

Please share your Bingo Card on social media and encourage your friends and family to join in this competition! You can tag WTS Pittsburgh Chapter if you are using Facebook or LinkedIn, and can use the hashtag **#WTSupportsLocalBingo** on all social media platforms!

When you get a Bingo:

1. Send an email to wtspittsburghchapter@gmail.com with the subject "Bingo Winner".
2. Attach a picture of your bingo card and your 5 forms of proof.
3. Include your name and contact information in the email.

You can get Bingo multiple times on your card, so continue playing through the end of the event! All winning bingos must be submitted by Monday, March 15th at noon!

WTS will randomly select 5 lucky winners on the evening of Monday, March 15th. Each winner will receive a \$50 gift card to a local business of their choice! Winners will be announced on our Facebook page and will also be contacted by email.

GOOD LUCK and THANK YOU for supporting local business!

Rules:

1. You must show proof of purchase (i.e. a copy of receipt)
2. Bingo must be 5 in a row either vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.
3. No franchised businesses allowed.

4. Food and drink orders can be for dine in or take out.
5. You may only win one prize.
6. One bingo per household.

CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WTS Pittsburgh Chapter Announces 2021 Scholarship Recipients

The WTS Pittsburgh Chapter is pleased to introduce the winners of our undergraduate and graduate scholarships for the 2020-2021 scholarship cycle. We are excited to have received a total of twelve applications from three local colleges and universities for three scholarships, each in the amount of \$2500. In addition to receiving scholarships from our WTS Pittsburgh Chapter, each of our recipients' winning applications has been submitted into the competition for international-level scholarships of \$5000. Learn more about our winners below and join us in honoring them at our 2021 Scholarship Gala to be held virtually this year on April 8th.



Kaitlin Hudak, University of Pittsburgh

Recipient of the 2021 WTS Pittsburgh Chapter Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates is Kaitlin Hudak, a senior at the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Transportation. Throughout her college career Kaitlin has been involved with Air Force ROTC, Society of Women Engineers (SWE), ASCE, Water Polo and the Newman Club, where she mentors underclass women. Her summers have been spent interning at the PennDOT District 11 office where she worked in the maintenance and construction divisions. When not telling her friends how interesting bridges are, you can find her climbing, writing a newsletter or hiking.

Crystal Daughtry, The Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics

Recipient of the 2021 WTS Pittsburgh Chapter Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship is Crystal Daughtry, who will be receiving a degree from The Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics in June, 2021. Crystal began her education journey at Eastern University. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, she began her professional career in the transportation field with Delta Air Lines in 2011.



Crystal's time with Delta had been quite rewarding with many opportunities to witness the innovative ways aviation has enhanced transportation over the years. She spent two years working at the LaGuardia Airport in New York City, where she watched a

massive growth in Delta Airlines as they expanded their services. Though this was a time of maturation, Crystal had a desire to do more within the company. She began to pursue a new career in becoming an aircraft mechanic and to accomplish that goal, a move back to Pittsburgh was required. Upon her return to Pittsburgh, she began taking courses at the Community College of Allegheny County to gain a basic understanding of mechanical concepts. Her time there was completed with an Associate of Science in Mechatronics, which truly created a great foundation for the final step in becoming a certified aviation mechanic. In the fall of 2019 she began studying at The Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics to obtain an Associate's degree in Specialized Aviation Technology and an Airframe and Powerplant Certificate.

Taraneh (Tara) Ardalan, University of Pittsburgh



Recipient of the 2021 WTS Pittsburgh Chapter Leadership Legacy Scholarship for Graduates is Taraneh (Tara) Ardalan. With an M.Sc. in Civil Engineering focusing on Traffic and Transportation Engineering from Florida Atlantic University, Taraneh is pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh. During her master's, she has contributed to many research projects sponsored by local, state, and federal transportation agencies. Her research interests include Simulation Modeling, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Traffic Operations, and Traffic Data Analysis.

Taraneh has received several prestigious awards including the Best Master Poster Award, the First

Place of Three Minute Thesis Award, and now the WTS Pittsburgh Chapter Leadership Legacy Scholarship for Graduates. She has published and presented in several conferences including the TRB Annual Meeting.

Taraneh is also interested in working actively in different student organizations. She is the founder and the former president of the WTS FAU Student Chapter and the vice-president of the ITE FAU Student Chapter. After a semester at the University of Pittsburgh as a PhD student, she is now

working on establishing the Pittsburgh WTS Student Chapter to provide more opportunities for students interested in the field of transportation engineering.

SPONSOR PROFILE



For more than 105 years, **Gannett Fleming** has partnered with clients to shape the infrastructure that connects people and communities. Our 2,500+ talented professionals, located in more than 60 offices worldwide, are dedicated to delivering excellence to every client, every day, by providing innovative solutions to the most pressing transportation challenges.

We understand that mobility solutions implemented today must also deliver safe, efficient, and reliable functionality in the transportation ecosystem of the future. Gannett Fleming is a driving force in improving our communities and sustaining our world through an uncompromising commitment to growth, innovation, ethics, and technical excellence. Learn more about our transportation services [here](#).

To shape the next era of transportation, we actively support the advancement of women in our industry and at our firm. Internal programs, such as *Connected Women*, *Future Generations of Gannett Fleming*, *LGBTQ+ of Gannett Fleming*, and *Military Veterans at Gannett Fleming*, enhance personal growth and encourage thought leadership.

Since 2000, Gannett Fleming has proudly supported WTS International and local chapters in over 10 states, with a commitment to encourage discovery, innovation, and a common vision of quality in multigenerational professionals from diverse backgrounds. As a Platinum Sponsor of WTS Pittsburgh, Gannett Fleming is dedicated to furthering female transportation professionals across western Pennsylvania. If you would like to #JoinOurJourney, please click [here](#) to view our available job openings.

Gannett Fleming's *Connected Women* employee resource group strives to empower and enable women to advance in leadership.

WTS Pittsburgh Chapter

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