



2021 VOLUME 1

March 30, 2021

HOT Chapter Newsletter



> Heart of Texas

Advancing women
Advancing transportation

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Letter
- Girl Day at UT Austin
- Upcoming Events

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Ashley Williams

Research Administrator
Center for Transportation
Research/UT Austin

VICE PRESIDENT

Tonia Norman

Research Specialist
TxDOT

SECRETARY

Laura Friello, PE

Project Manager
Garver USA

TREASURER

Hong-Ting Chen

Tolls Project Analyst
Atkins

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jackie Sartor

Senior Marketing Coordinator
Freese & Nichols



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear WTS Members, Supporters and Friends,

As I begin my term as WTS HOT Chapter President, I would like to thank our Immediate Past President, Jackie Sartor, for an awesome job these last two years, and especially for getting us through 2020. This was uncharted territory and I am happy to say that the

resiliency of the HOT Chapter kept us moving forward, even when it looked like there wasn't a path. As we continue down this path, I plan to build upon all that hard work and dedication in furthering our chapter's mission of excellence.

As I look back on 2020, I would also like to thank everyone in the Chapter who helped us make our year the success that it was. From our monthly program meetings to our annual Gala, from our Corporate Partner Event to our Professional Development Seminar and everything in between, we could not have done it without our amazing members who volunteered their time and expertise to help make our events a success.

So far 2021 has not gotten off to the start we were hoping for. There's no way around it - this year has been a rough one so far.

Before the rough start, we were able to get a few events under our belt. We kicked off the year with our Annual Business Meeting and introduced our two Honorary Members, Austin City Council member Ann Kitchens and Sereniah Breland, City Manager, City of Pflugerville. These individuals were selected by our Board of Directors as this year's Honorary Members due to their exceptional leadership in our transportation community and their outstanding support of the WTS mission. We welcome them to our WTS membership!

We also held our first member networking event, a virtual cheese tasting hosted by Antonelli's Cheese Shop. Please keep an eye on your emails for more events like this in the future (at least until we can all be in person again.) We will continue to monitor the situation and move back to in-person events as soon as we are able to do so safely.



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS

Brianna Frey

Senior Planner

Asakura Robinson

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Janelle Carey

Transportation Planner

HNTB

GALA CHAIR

Brittani Kaim

Communications Marketing

Manager, WSP USA

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Yvonne Garcia Thomas, PE

Manager of Geotechnical

Engineering, Raba Kistner

MENTORING CHAIR

Sylvia Shelton

Communications Manager

CTRMA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Heidi Corcoran

Mobility and Innovation Strategist

Milligan Partners LLC

PROGRAMS CHAIR

Patty Trujillo, P.E., MCE

Transportation Engineer

Atkins

RECOGNITIONS CHAIR

Kat Streff

Assistant Project Manager

Kleinfelder

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Lisa Loftus-Otway

Research Scientist

Center for Transportation Research

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Adeliza Ramirez, PE

Engineer

Volkert, Inc

STUDENT LIAISON CHAIR

Jamie Byers

Graduate Student

UT Austin, Civil Engineering

TRANSPORTATION YOU CHAIR

Mary Jo Galindo

Senior Archaeologist

Galindo Environmental Consulting, LLC

President's Letter continued...

As you read through this newsletter, keep an eye out for the recap of **Girl Day at UT Austin**, this annual event went online this year. Our Transportation YOU committee ran a virtual booth on March 6th. We have also opened up the application requests for our **Friends of WTS Scholarships**. We will be awarding three (3) scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each to young women in their senior year of high school to be used for college or trade school.

Looking ahead to the next quarter, I would like to mention a couple of events. We will be starting our **Lattes & Leadership** earlier this year, they will run from April until August. Also, the **WTS Annual Conference** will be held virtually from May 10-14. For more information and to register, please visit the [event website](#).

I would like to encourage all of you who are not involved yet to take a look at our many different committees, reach out, and get involved. Don't be shy our committees are always looking for new members and innovative ideas.

As always if you have any questions about WTS or the HOT chapter, please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone else on our board. I look forward to the end of this pandemic and being able to see everyone in person again, until then, I wish everyone a continued happy, healthy, and safe 2021!

All the best!



Ashley Williams





at UT Austin

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day
& the Girl Day STEM Festival

TRANSPORTATION YOU

Thank you to all the women who volunteered at our WTS HOT Chapter Girl Day Booth, on Saturday, February 19, 2021. Students and their parents or educators were invited to join 10+ days of virtual FREE hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fun.

Mary Jo Galindo, Archaeologist and Entrepreneur	Galindo Environmental Consulting
Janelle Carey, Transit and Rail Planner	HNTB
Michelle Dippel, Sr Vice President, Office Lead	HNTB
Caroline LaFollette, P.E., Technical Writer	K Friese + Associates
Charlotte Gilpin, P.E., CFM, Vice President	K Friese + Associates
Anamaria Torres, PE, PTOE, Project Engineer (Traffic, ITS, Illumination)	Stantec
Susanna Gallun, Attorney, Research Engineer, Scientist Assistant, UTCTR	UT Center for Transportation Research

We look forward to seeing these young women pursue their interests!

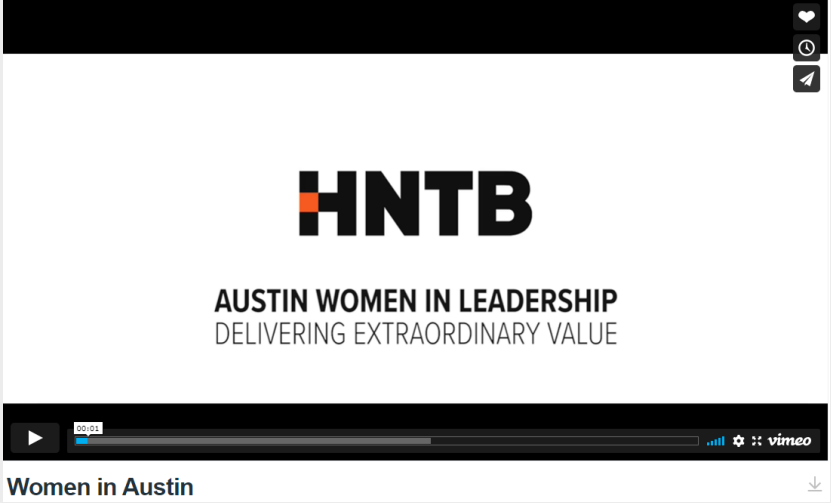
CHECK OUT THESE AMAZING GIRL DAY VIDEOS!

EngineerGirl - Try This! Build a Bridge

TRY THIS!

BUILD A BRIDGE

Check out this video from EngineerGirl. The EngineerGirl Design Challenge asks girls to design a bridge out of a limited number of toothpicks and marshmallows that is strong enough to support at least 10 pennies in a small cup.



Lattes & Leadership

Lattes and Leadership will start in April 2021 and go through August 2021.
This start time is one-month earlier than in recent years.

As we finalize our guest speakers for the year’s program, we would love insight from our Membership. Please reach out to Heidi Corcoran, Professional Development Chair, at profdev@wtshotchapter.org.



DETAILS COMING SOON!

14TH ANNUAL
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
SEMINAR

SEPTEMBER 2021
VIRTUAL

SHARE THE NEWS!
APPLY [HERE!](#)

**2021 PROGRAMS
SCHEDULE**



WTS
Heart of Texas
Advancing women
Advancing transportation

Apply for WTS
scholarships by
April 25, 2021.

Scholarship information will be posted online in March
www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/heart-texas/scholarships

Until it is safe to return to in-person events, the WTS HOT Chapter monthly luncheons will remain virtual.

• 1/20/2021	• 7/21/2021
• 2/17/2021	• 8/18/2021
• 3/17/2021	• 9/15/2021
• 4/21/2021	• 10/20/2021
• 5/19/2021	• 11/17/2021
• 6/16/2021	

Thank you for your dedication and feedback as we continue to enhance our luncheon schedule, speakers, and topics.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

WTS Heart of Texas Chapter

Our board provided a presentation on our Year in Review for 2020, as well as a look ahead into 2021. We honored and heard from our 2021 Honorary Members, Sereniah Breland, City Manager of Pflugerville, and Councilmember Ann Kitchen, City of Austin.



MARCH LUNCHEON

Tucker Ferguson, TXDOT Austin District DE

For our March virtual event luncheon we had Tucker Ferguson, P.E., from the TXDOT Austin District. Tucker gave an update for the district and provided great information about the Mobility35 Program, I-35 Capital Express Program, Oak Hill Parkway project, Loop 360, SH-71 Corridor, and other projects in the Austin area. Our audience were very engaged and had the opportunity to ask questions regarding electrical vehicles, ITS innovation, landscape crossings, and other topics.



María Medina Milner

APRIL’S LUNCHEON SAVE THE DATE

Featuring: Austin Area League of Women Voters

Please join us to hear about the history of Women’s Voting Rights and the important women and men who paved the road.

María Medina Milner is a notable and accomplished voter engagement and community outreach leader in Central Texas. As the VP of Community Relations and Equity & Inclusion for the League of Women Voters Austin Area, Ms. Milner leads and develops nonpartisan and comprehensive community partnership programs for the continued purpose of voter engagement outreach. Prior to taking on the VP role at the LWV-AA, she was the founding Director of Equity and Inclusion at the League of Women Voters Austin Area. She is a consultant to area Leagues and the Texas League.

She is a regular spokesperson in the Austin Spanish language media for the Austin Area League and has been a guest speaker on the subjects of voter engagement and suffrage history. Ms. Milner has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Texas State University.

2020 CORPORATE & AGENCY PARTNERS

Platinum

AECOM

ATG ALLIANCE
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

ATKINS
Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

BGE

**BURNS
MCDONNELL**

HDR

HNTB

LJA
LJA ENGINEERING

WSP

Gold

LOCHNER

GARVER

Jacobs

SAM

Silver

AmaTerra
ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



AMERICAN
STRUCTUREPOINT
INC.

**CDM
Smith**

CP&Y

**FREESE
AND
NICHOLS**

HALFF

HVJ
ASSOCIATES

**K·FRIESE
+ ASSOCIATES**
PUBLIC PROJECT ENGINEERING

Kimley»Horn
Expect More. Experience Better.

KLEINFELDER
Bright People. Right Solutions.

mwm
DesignGroup

**PAPE-DAWSON
ENGINEERS**

**RABA
KISTNER**

THE RIOS GROUP

Ulteig We listen. We solve.®

Stantec

Bronze

Blanton & Associates, Inc.

CAMBRIDGE
SYSTEMATICS

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

DKS

G&A Gorronzona &
Associates, Inc.

**NELSON
NYGAARD**

RPS

RS&H

TENCATE
GEOSYNTHETICS

Terracon

DBE



FORESIGHT
PLANNING & ENGINEERING SERVICES, LLC

**Galindo
Environmental
Consulting**

Nancy Ledbetter & Associates
public outreach • planning • communications

Agency Partners



METRO

CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL
MOBILITY AUTHORITY

COMPO
CAPITAL AREA METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CENTRAL TEXAS



Agency Affiliates

CTR THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

**Texas
Department
of Transportation**

**WILLIAMSON
COUNTY**
1848

