



Advancing women
Advancing transportation

Quarterly Newsletter

Q4 2020

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OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I, like many of us, have used the first few months of 2021 as a period of reflection. 2020 was arguably one of the most difficult years many of us have faced in our lifetimes. I've imagined what could have been and probably spent too much energy second guessing my decisions. But above all, I'm left with a sense of accomplishment, pride, and optimism for our WTS Chapter and our greater industry.

From board meetings to book clubs, the WTS San Diego County chapter pivoted remarkably well to new virtual formats. Our 2020 gala was extraordinary, and I am incredibly proud that we awarded our largest scholarship amount ever. When I first joined the WTS San Diego Board of Directors in 2014, I knew that this was the network that would propel me to be my best professional self. What I know now is that this group of women and men have propelled me to be my best personal self as well. To those who have served, particularly during this challenging past year, I offer my sincere admiration and gratitude for your

dedication, passion, and exceptional creativity. I am continually amazed at the energy of the board, the diverse opinions, skill sets, and ability to handle unique challenges while developing a sense of deep camaraderie and respect for one another.

I am excited for the future, under the leadership of Lima Saft, our newly elected President, and our 2021 Board of Directors. I am especially looking forward to our newly reinvigorated Diversity committee, our small-business executive mentorship program, and our outstanding monthly programs that continue to offer professional development and technical training opportunities to our membership. I'd also like to acknowledge the efforts made by WTS International to connect and engage with our local chapters and reinforce our core pillars to attract, sustain, connect and advance women in transportation. These values have served us well and will continue to reflect who we are as an organization.

I sincerely thank the board of directors, our partners and sponsors, and you all, the membership of WTS, the heart and soul of this organization. My call to action for anyone reading this is to get involved in the organization and stay engaged. Give us your ideas, time, and expertise! As an organization, WTS will only be as strong as the talents and contributions of its collective membership. Thank you for your trust and support over the past few years. I look forward to seeing you all at future meetings and events.

Very sincerely yours,



Brianna Pilkinton
Immediate Past President
WTS San Diego County

2020 WTS San Diego Chapter Board

President Brianna Pilkinton
Vice President Lima Saft
Secretary Bethany Dawa
Treasurer Cecily Taylor
Immediate Past President Mary Holland
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Les Hopper (Co-Chair)

Recognition Julie Froelich
Scholarship Mimi Morisaki
Marissa Thomas (co-chair)
Transportation You Jim Starling
Corporate Sponsorship Chris Wahl
Membership Amy Jackson
Professional Development Lisa Madsen
Communications Precious Nicanor
Regional Council Vice Chair Nensi Lakrori

Student Scholarship Fundraiser

By: Marissa Thomas
Scholarship Chair
TYLin International

The Scholarship Committee held a socially distanced, donation-based yoga fundraiser on November 21, 2020 at Presidio Park. Yoga practice was led by Debbie Leung, former WTS board member and owner of Yoga Citie. The Scholarship Committee raised \$140 for the WTS San Diego Scholarship Foundation.

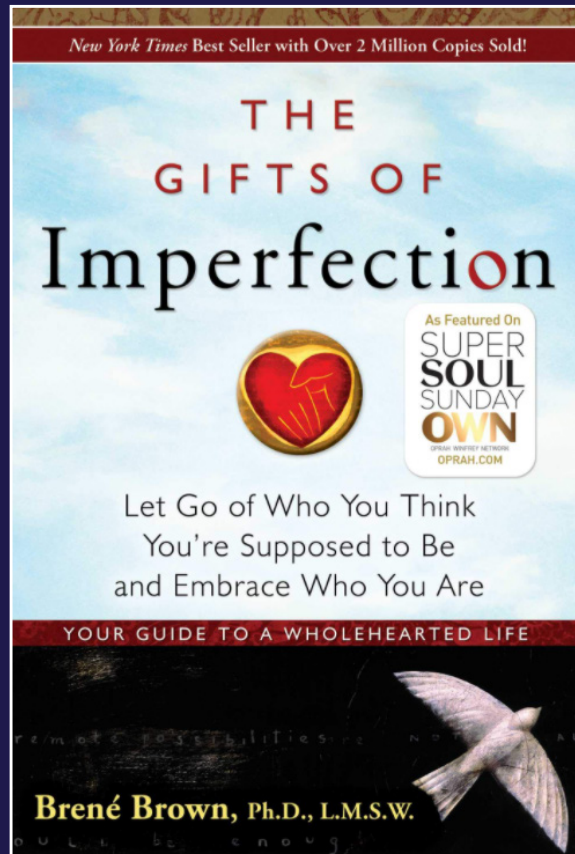


Winter Virtual Book Club

By: Ellen Ryan
WTS Volunteer
Burns & McDonnell

The Winter Virtual Book Club came together to discuss Brene Brown's *The Gifts of Imperfection*. A lively chat with professionals and students from all levels and backgrounds to discuss how to bring our authentic selves to the workplace and live a more wholehearted life.

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." -Brene Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection*



SUBMIT A WOW!

Know an amazing woman co-worker, industry friend, or WTS member and think she deserves recognition? Well we do too!

- 1 Download our brief WOW nomination form at http://bit.ly/WTSSD_WOW
- 2 Fill out the nomination form
- 3 Email the form to wtssd.communications@gmail.com

WTS Lunch and Learn

By: Mary E. Westrum
WTS Volunteer
Dokken Engineering

The second WTS Lunch & Learn program of 2020 was held VIRTUALLY on Thursday, December 17th. The Lunch & Learn series offers public sector employees and students with opportunities to learn about best practices in the field from WTS San Diego's Corporate Sponsors. The December 2020 Lunch & Learn was extended to all WTS members! Attendees were treated to presentations from Moshik Mah from HDR who presented "Station Planning to Benefit Our Communities" and Lauren Grubbs from Burns & McDonnell who discussed "Managing Stormwater Risk - A Layered Approach to Stormwater Management."

Moshik "Mo" Mah is a Design Principal at HDR. Mo described his involvement on the Link Union Station (Link US) for Los Angeles, which will begin construction on the rail structure this year. As part of his presentation, he discussed the purpose of the station and benefits to the community and riders. A station can provide basic services, but it can also provide quality amenities, enhance economic growth, and promote a state of well-being. By integrating these key components, the Link US can create an inviting, appealing, active, and vibrant community. Link US will appeal to station commuters by providing quick and efficient service, tourists by creating a cultural landmark with food and beverage, and community members by offering art, business, and playgrounds. For example, the rail bridge will provide a platform for art, and a canopy for food trucks and live music. In addition to highlighting the key components of Link US, Mo discussed the impact of COVID-19 on transit ridership. Finally, Mo noted that the L.A. Metro released input from the public to improve the county's quality of life post-pandemic. These recommendations included accelerating networks of complete streets, offering incentives to reduce car ownership, improving station amenities, and expanding the regions infrastructure. Mo looks forward to his next project, the Central Mobility Hub for San Diego.



Lauren Grubbs is a civil engineer for Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City. Her background is in stormwater management and green infrastructure. During her presentation, she noted a shift in perspective regarding stormwater. Typically, stormwater management is looked at on a project-by-project basis, without much regard for the effect downstream or potential improvements upstream. She urges designers and local agencies to consider a more holistic approach to how systems work and to analyze projects post-construction in order to determine if it's operating as designed. Lauren provided case examples of differences between existing criteria and actual observed rainfall related to stormwater management. She noted that one way to address stormwater is by distributing risk throughout the watershed through developing realistic hydrologic assumptions, providing on-site retention/detention, optimizing collection, and sizing affordable and maintainable stormwater systems. In addition, she highlighted ways to capture, store, and infiltrate stormwater within the project limits. For example, a project can restore natural drainage paths and store stormwater on-site through neighborhood beautification and walkable/enhanced green space. Lauren concluded her presentation by reviewing the stormwater criteria goals: to provide similar or between stormwater level of service, to give stormwater a place to go, to maximize stormwater investment without causing problems downstream, to consider how our systems really work, and to develop a more holistic approach to stormwater management.

Thank you to our speakers! The Lunch and Learn program will continue in 2021.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

HOW ARE YOU WORKING FROM HOME?



HOW ARE YOU SOCIAL DISTANCING?



1

On your Instagram or Facebook account, **post a picture** of how you are working from home or social distancing yourself!

2

Tag **@wts_sandiego!**
Use the hashtags **#wtssdwfh** and **#wtssdsocialdistancing**

OR

Submit a picture and caption to **@wts_sandiego** and we will post it for you!



JOIN WTS TODAY!



What is WTS?

Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) is an international organization dedicated to building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women. With nearly 6,000 members, including both women and men, WTS is turning the glass ceiling into a career portal through its professional programs, networking opportunities, and unparalleled access to industry the government leaders.

Sign up [here](#) or download [flier](#) for more details!

Why join WTS?

- Excellent networking opportunities during our programs at lower rates than non-members
- "Members Only" social events throughout the year at no cost
- Access to WTS International's members directory
- Professional development through our programs offered only to members
- Exclusive access to the online WTS Knowledge Lab*
- Become a mentor and/or mentee through our Mentorship Program
- Raffle drawings for members throughout the year

Progress with resiliency in mind.

Safe, reliable and environmentally sustainable infrastructure is a must for organizations in California and around the globe. See how we're making resiliency a reality at burnsmcd.com/WTSSanDiego20.

We're proud to support WTS San Diego's mission of advancing women in the transportation industry.

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Offices Worldwide



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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!



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For more information, contact Chris Wahl at 619-758-3007 or C.Wahl@fehrrandpeers.com.