

2014 ANNUAL REPORT
WTS Los Angeles Area Chapter



Opening Statement

Like many years of late, 2014 was, well, complicated. From smart watches to landing a probe on a comet to an Ebola outbreak, from the rise of Uber to the fall of oil prices, from religious and racial conflicts around the world to religious and racial conflicts at home, 2014 was anything but simple. And the same holds true, of course, for the transportation industry. While funding issues seem perennial, the United States also witnessed the introduction of driverless cars, high-speed rail, pay-per-mile user fees, and a host of other initiatives. It was a complex year of advancements and conflicting agendas. But there is value in review, as we define ourselves by that record. Through this annual report, we endeavor to provide that lens by which we can examine our chapter's past year. So, please enjoy the *2014 WTS-LA Annual Report*, our year in review.

**“AN OPTIMIST STAYS UP
UNTIL MIDNIGHT
TO SEE THE NEW YEAR IN.
A PESSIMIST STAYS UP
TO MAKE SURE
THE OLD YEAR LEAVES.”**

WILLIAM VAUGHAN



**“THE GOLDEN AGE IS BEFORE US,
NOT BEHIND US.”**

SALLUS (ROMAN HISTORIAN)

President's Letter

When it comes to transportation initiatives, we are living in a golden age and the perfect location. Public transit expansion, highway improvements, twin-port expansion, airport modernizations, sustainability mandates—there is not a more active and dynamic transportation hub in the United States, and possibly the world. It is a virtual cornucopia of opportunity for transportation professionals. And WTS-LA is right in the middle of it all.

Providing unprecedented access to agency and industry leaders through numerous outstanding programs and events, WTS-LA informs and prepares its members to take full advantage of this unique situation to benefit their careers and the transportation industry. Earning respect throughout the region, WTS-LA programs engage leaders, mentor professionals and students, and provide the transportation industry with the most informed and qualified transportation experts in the nation. And our reach does not stop with current professionals. At our 2014 Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner, WTS-LA presented \$32,000 in scholarships to deserving, outstanding students to support their entry into the transportation industry. And that is exactly how it should be.

During this dynamic time in transportation, WTS-LA is doing what it is designed to do, advance women in transportation. But we are not doing it alone. In fact, we have some of the greatest help an organization could hope for. WTS-LA is a volunteer organization. And many members have stepped up and lent their skills, experience, and a significant amount of time to make our chapter one of the leading transportation organizations in the country. Volunteers fulfill key chapter functions. We could not accomplish what we do without them. By the same token, those volunteers also receive an unparalleled education. It is this win-win scenario that contributes greatly to our chapter's success.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge another critical element of our continued efficacy—our partners. WTS-LA would be a pale comparison of its current strength without the support provided by our corporate partners. Their contribution to the advancement of women in transportation is indelible. In return, we provide them with a host of benefits, from employee leadership training to national visibility. With their help, our partnership will remain strong and continue to facilitate our ability to be a force in the transportation industry by investing together in the support of women in transportation. I appreciate, deeply, their commitment and generosity.

We are living in a golden age of transportation in the perfect location. And it has been my honor to serve at the nexus of that movement as WTS-LA President in 2014.

Thank you all very much.

Lynda Bybee
2014 WTS-LA Chapter President

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Transportation Résumé Book

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Photo courtesy of Melanie Nelson

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Principal photography by John Livzey (JohnLivzey.com and Livzey.com)



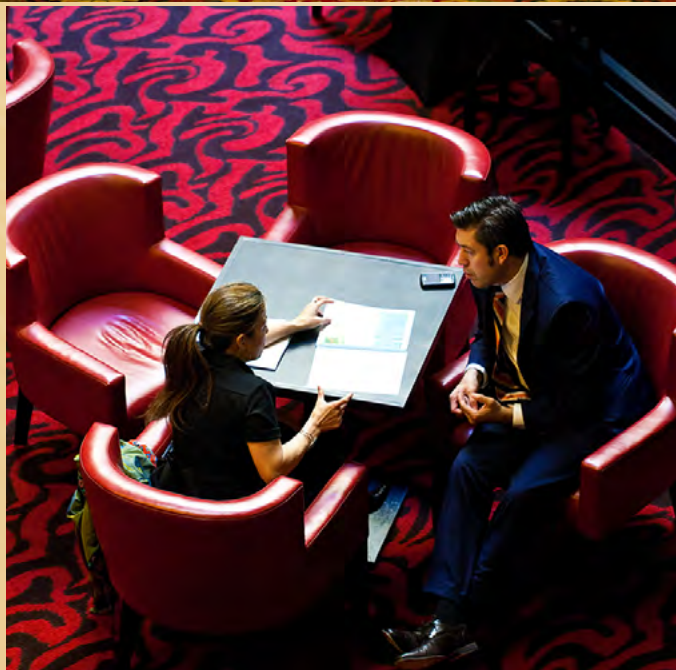
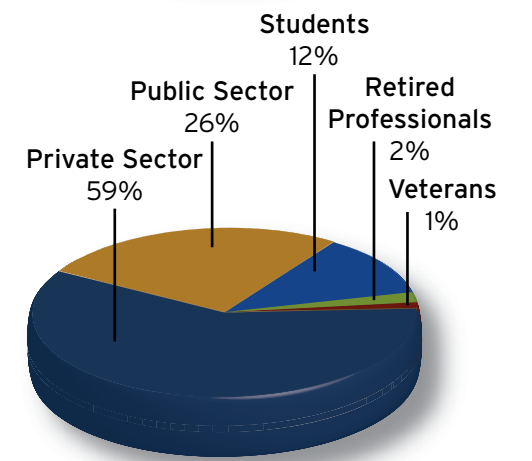
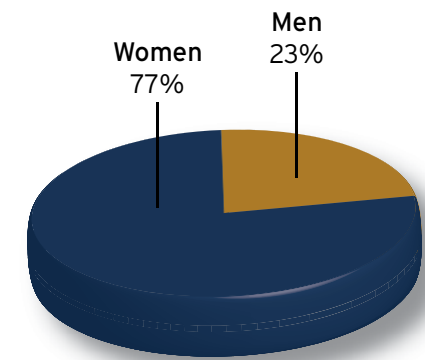
Membership

Many factors drive membership, from the quality and diversity of programs to member benefits to organizational rule changes. In 2014, according to Membership Chair and AECOM Sales Manager Eileen Ryder, two factors proved most prominent: the significant member discounts offered for all chapter programs and members-only programs. But the chapter also suffered a “loss” of approximately 50 memberships as a result of the 2013 WTS International membership rule changes, regarding affiliate memberships. At present, our membership hovers around 300, making us one of the largest WTS chapters. More specifically, on January 8, 2014, WTS-LA had 285 members. By December 15, 2014, WTS-LA grew to 356 members. And the membership breakdown for the chapter at that time is represented in the two accompanying pie charts.

Naturally, our goal for the coming year is to increase membership. We have several strategies in that regard. But again, two factors were most effective in increasing membership: member discounts and members-only programs. When WTS International offered reduced membership rates for public sector employees and students, public sector membership increased from 59 in 2013 to 96 in 2014. Student membership increased from 12 in 2013 to 42 in 2014. WTS-LA also offered free memberships for all students who applied for scholastic scholarships in 2014. In addition, WTS-LA gained 50 new members in April 2014 from a single reception featuring new executives at Metro. Other members-only programs included two professional development workshops.

Given the success of both efforts, the Membership Committee will continue to work closely with the Programs and Professional Development Committees, among others, to convert non-members—many of whom regularly attend programs—to members. We’ll also seek to expand awareness of WTS-LA programs to potential new members, increase the number of members-only programs, increase the diversity of programs, and continue to increase the variety of the source pool of new members targeting equally the public and private sectors.



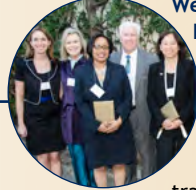





WTS-LA Membership Breakdown
(as of December 15, 2014)



Programs

In many ways, programs are the face of WTS-LA. They are, for many, an introduction to the chapter. They are also a promise to members and to potential members that the chapter will provide vital, dynamic, meaningful, and timely events that will fulfill the WTS-LA's objective to advance women in transportation, while conveying essential information for transportation professionals from the highest levels. And in 2014, the Programs Committee Co-Chairs Hatch Mott MacDonald Civil Engineer Lisa Karwoski and Parsons Brinckerhoff Senior Planner Rebecca Kalaskas delivered on that promise. Here's how.



JANUARY		Economic Growth in Los Angeles and What It Means for Transportation On February 5, WTS-LA welcomed former City Councilwoman and LA Economic and Workforce Development Department General Manager Jan Perry to present her vision on how to spur business activity, create jobs, and develop a strong tax base for Los Angeles. Her presentation focused on the impact of economic growth on public transportation and transit-oriented development. <i>Photo courtesy of Melanie Nelson</i>
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		Fixing Ground Transportation: A Rail Active Approach Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin joined WTS-LA on March 17 to present his multimodal transportation vision for Los Angeles. He covered a wide variety of rail topics including LAX rail plans, the Expo Line anticipated opening, and a new era of mobility (bicycling and walking) in Los Angeles. <i>Photo courtesy of Koop Films</i>
APRIL		Welcome Aboard! Reception for Metro's New Executives In a highly successful members-only event on April 9, WTS-LA introduced Metro's new executive team. A sold-out, rapt audience listened as these executives described their plan to keep the nation's second largest public transportation agency at the forefront, covering everything from construction to communications to contracts to safety. <i>Photo courtesy of Melanie Nelson</i>
MAY		Lunch and Learn: Moving Beyond Point A to Point B Thinking This is not yesterday's transit. And on April 29, AECOM Transportation Planner Nancy Michali and Landscape Architect Esther Margulies presented their vision on how transit planning will revolutionize the urban landscape and change our collective lives.
JUNE		There's More to LAWA than Meets the Sky Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is an essential facility for Southern California for many reasons. And on May 8, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Interim Deputy Executive Director of Capital Programming and Planning Cynthia Guidry and Director of Environmental and Land Use Planning Lisa Trifletti presented both airside and landside plans for LAX's future.
JULY		Breakfast with Caltrans District 7 Director Carrie Bowen In a June 3 program initiated by LA City Councilmember Tom Labonge, WTS-LA welcomed Caltrans District 7 Director Carrie Bowen, a 30-year transportation veteran. Bowen discussed what innovation and sustainability issues will mean for District 7 and beyond.
AUGUST		Getting on the Right Track for the Future of Rail in Southern California On June 30, WTS-LA presented an expert panel including Michael DePallo, Metrolink; Yvonne Burke, AMTRAK Board of Directors; Don Sepulveda, Metro; Jennifer Bergener, OCTA/LOSSAN; and Michelle Boehm, CHSRA. City Planning Commissioner Richard Katz moderated the panel.
SEPTEMBER		Lunch and Learn: CEQA/NEPA Workshop In a special August 7, Lunch and Learn program, ICF International Technical Director, author, and CEQA expert Terry Rivasplata updated WTS-LA members on CEQA and NEPA regulations and discussed how lead agencies like the FTA and FHWA are approaching them. <i>Photo courtesy of ICF International</i>
OCTOBER		Boat Tour with Jon Slangerup WTS-LA took to the sea for a special boat tour on August 14 with newly appointed Port of Long Beach Executive Director Jon Slangerup. WTS-LA members learned exclusively of his vision for this vital, cutting-edge port. <i>Photo courtesy of Melanie Nelson</i>
NOVEMBER		Boardroom Insights Panel: Leading Transportation Across Land, Sea, and Air Moderated by SBCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach, this September 3 program featured an expert panel including Lou Anne Bynum, Port of Long Beach Harbor Commission; Jackie Dupont-Walker, Metro Board of Directors; Katherine Perez-Estolano, CHSRA Board of Directors; and Valeria Velasco, LAWA Board of Airport Commissioners.
DECEMBER		WTS-LA Welcomes LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds On October 15, WTS-LA breakfasted with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation's (LADOT) new General Manager Seleta Reynolds. The former Liveable Streets Section Leader for San Francisco's MUNI, Reynolds presented her blueprint for LADOT's future.



Mentorship

Mentoring is one of the most profound and individual ways to guide the next generation of transportation professionals. After a several year hiatus, WTS-LA revived its Mentorship Program with an official re-launch in April 2014. But first, some groundwork had to be done.

Mentorship Committee Co-Chairs Metro Community Relations Manager Lilian De Loza-Gutierrez and AECOM Transportation and Land Use Planning Manager Veronica Siranosian conducted a member survey to identify needs, interests, and preferences for both potential mentors and mentees. As a result, the new program reflected member wants and needs, featuring a combination of group and one-on-one events, informational lectures, interactive workshops, and other activities. De Loza-Gutierrez and Siranosian also developed a welcome packet for all participants that included guidelines for successful mentor-mentee relationships and relevant articles on optimizing the program for participants.

In May 2014, they began the proceedings with a high-energy, fast-paced mentor-mentee speed-matching event. After quick, one-on-one conversations, mentors were matched with mentees based on their survey response answers and their preferences from speed matching.

By all accounts, it was a most successful re-launch. De Loza-Gutierrez and Siranosian followed this event with group events held every other month. They included:

Life-Work Balance

On June 18, past WTS-LA Board Member Life-Coach Allison Kim gave mentor program participants “life-work” balance insights.

Sharing her personal experience, Coach Allison provided professional guidance on preventing burnout, improving productivity, and reducing healthcare costs.

Insights from Senior Leaders

Senior leaders instructed mentees with personal experiences on career development, negotiating and overcoming challenges, and enhancing personal/professional life in an August 20 program. Featured speakers included Englander, Knabe and Allen Senior Vice President Jaime de la Vega, URS Vice President Steve Ortmann, retired URS Business Development Professional Kathy Ryder, Lea+Elliott Associate Principal Cindy Sugimoto, and STV Vice President Mark Peterson.

Résumé Building Workshop

In an October 29 meeting, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning Regional Planner Emma Howard presented *résumé do's and don'ts*. In the workshop, mentees brought their *résumés* for a participatory review with their mentors.

During months when no group activity took place, mentor/mentee pairs met on a one-on-one basis. In total, 44 members took part in the program with slightly more mentees than mentors participating. The 2014 Mentorship Program culminated with a graduation ceremony on January 15, where each participant received a certificate of participation and a copy of Ariana Huffington's latest book, *Thrive*. Each mentor and mentee also shared their program insights and thoughts with a focus on improving and growing the program in 2015.

Adopt-A-School/Career Day

Education should never be limited to the classroom. And sometimes the real world must be delivered to the classroom to further learning and expand student horizons. WTS-LA Adopt-A-School/Career Day Co-Chairs RS&H Aviation Planner Delia Chi and Parsons Brinckerhoff Senior Engineer Silvia Aldrete did exactly that in 2014 through several different initiatives.

After completing initial research Chi and Aldrete determined which science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) schools to target for participation in the Adopt-A-School program, as well as for potential scholarship award participants. Later in the year, in September and October, they visited target schools to meet with students and establish relationships with teachers. Those schools included Banning High School, Schurr High School, Montebello High School, and the Applied Technology Center. Chi and Aldrete helped students discover transportation career possibilities, encouraging those with an interest to apply for WTS-LA scholarships.

Career Day provided another major focus for the co-chairs. After holding several “mini-career days” at several schools to “educate students about transportation careers and spark their interest in transportation,” Chi and Aldrete planned and held the main event on October 17 at Caltrans. Career Day brought together 123 students from Montebello and Banning High Schools as well as 35 speakers from companies and public agencies. Caltrans District 7 Chief Deputy District Director Shirley Choate served as keynote speaker and Arup Bridges and Civil Structures Skills Leader Derya Thompson presented a case study to the group.

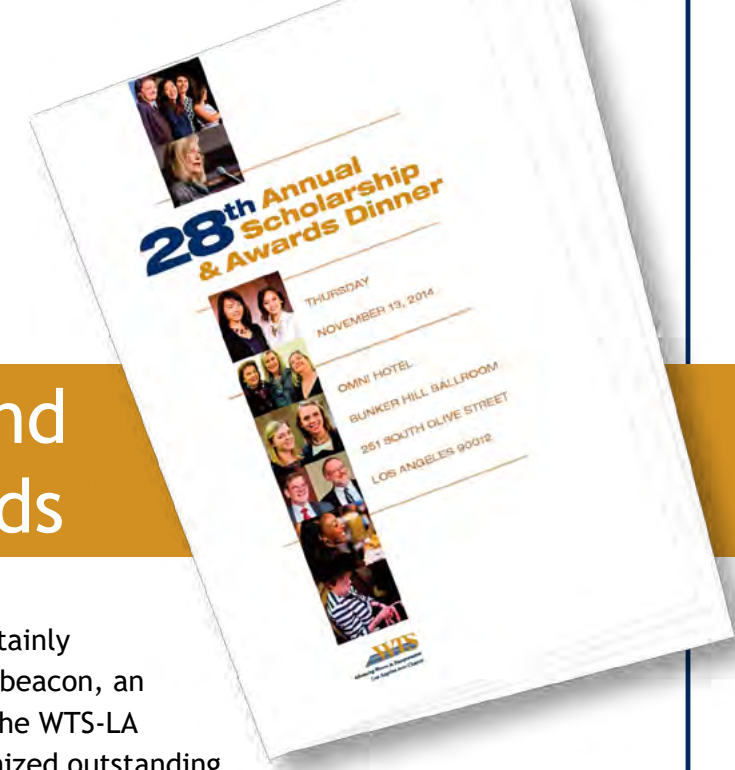


Educator Externship Program

Designed to connect high school and college faculty and administration with WTS-LA Directors-at-Large as a companion to WTS-LA's Adopt-a-School Program, Summer Externship for Educators is the brainchild of WTS-LA Special Advisor to the President and retired Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Administrator Emilie Gino. A veteran educator who created curricula for successful career academies within the LAUSD system, Gino believes that academics need a taste of real-world possibilities to better understand and communicate opportunities to students.

Gino worked together with WTS-LA President Lynda Bybee, Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority (Expo) Chief Operating Officer and WTS-LA Director-at-Large Samantha Bricker, Metro Community Relations Manager Jennifer Mendoz-Arndt, and Metro Transportation Planner Megan Nangle to design a program that introduced Los Angeles-area educators to transportation careers through field visits, tours, and meetings with Expo staff and consultants.

Five Los Angeles-area educators joined the WTS-LA/Expo summer pilot program and learned lessons that will last their students a lifetime.



Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner—Awards

Recognition serves a very real purpose. Though it certainly acknowledges accomplishment, it also functions as a beacon, an inspiration for others to strive and excel. In 2014 at the WTS-LA Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner, WTS-LA recognized outstanding contributors to the chapter and the transportation industry.

Executive Director at Southern California Association of Governments Hasan Ikhrata and Executive Officer of Congestion Reduction Initiative at Metro Stephanie Wiggins (formerly Executive Director of Vendor/ Contract Management) hosted the evening as our two emcees. Diversity/Recognitions Chair California Labor Commissioner’s Office Melanie Do coordinated our 2014 award nomination process. Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner Chair Arcadis Business Development Manager Natasha DeBenon planned and executed, for the third time, WTS-LA’s Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner held in November.



2014 WOMAN OF THE YEAR - Gina Marie Lindsey, Executive Director, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

Appointed as LAWA executive director in 2007, Lindsey brings more than two decades of airport management success to the table in her administration of LAWA’s three Southern California airports. She is also implementing the largest public works project in the history of Los Angeles, the \$7+ billion capital improvement program of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Lindsey is credited for her indelible contribution in leading LAX and LAWA into the 21st Century.



2014 MEMBERS OF THE YEAR - Amanda (Smith) Heinke, Transportation Engineer, Fehr & Peers and Lisa Karwoski, Civil Engineer, Hatch Mott MacDonald

A WTS Sacramento Scholarship Award winner in 2007, Heinke is a transportation planner and engineer who is well versed in regional planning policies and CEQA and NEPA guidelines. In addition to her bachelor’s degree in engineering management, Heinke earned a master’s degree in civil engineering from USC. In 2014, Heinke served on the Programs Committee, later as Vice President, and ultimately President in 2015.

Lisa Karwoski first joined WTS Philadelphia before heading west. Today she uses more than a decade of civil engineering experience and expertise to cover a wide range of transportation modes. She, too, has been very active in the chapter, serving on the Transportation Résumé Book Committee, as Programs Co-Chair, and as Vice President, a position she holds in 2015.



2014 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR - Foothill Transit

Doran Barnes, Executive Director of Foothill Transit, accepted the 2014 Employer of the Year award on behalf of Foothill Transit. The primary public transportation provider for the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, Foothill Transit serves 14 million passengers each year on 36 fixed bus routes. A nationally recognized leader in sustainability, Foothill Transit’s 330 buses run entirely on alternative fuels and it operates the nation’s first fast-charge electric bus line. In addition, Foothill Transit is a leader in workplace diversity with four women on its senior management team.



2014 INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AWARD - Port of Los Angeles (POLA)

Dina Aryan-Zahlan, Harbor Engineer Chief of Design at POLA, accepted the award for POLA’s Berths 142-147 Backland Redevelopment Project, the first automated container terminal on the West Coast and the first terminal in the world to implement automated loading and unloading of road trucks. The \$207-million project completed its first phase in April 2014 and will be fully completed in March 2017. In a myriad of ways, this project promotes more efficient cargo transfer between ship, truck, and rail, while reducing emissions and decreasing operation and maintenance costs.



2014 DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARD - Gwiin Correa, Chief of the Office of Equal Opportunity Employment (EEO), Caltrans District 7

For more than 20 years, Correa has excelled at equal rights advocacy, training, public speaking, and event planning. As the Caltrans EEO leader, Correa provides departmental management for the EEO/diversity program, as well as expertise for implementation and compliance with federal and state laws. She assisted in the development of a successful online sexual harassment prevention-training module, saving California thousands of dollars. And she instituted the first Caltrans statewide Diversity and Disability Awareness Day for more than 20,000 employees.



2014 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR - Amy Grat, Chief Executive Officer, International Trade Education Programs, Inc. (ITEP)

Grat sees her mission as the “bridge between what’s happening in the classroom and what the industry needs in terms of a qualified workforce.” And as such, she promotes ITEP’s role to “marshal the social, intellectual, and financial resources of the industry and transfer that knowledge to young people.” Grat excels in fulfilling her mission and has since become leader of the non-profit founded in 1999 and supported by the Port of Los Angeles and the international trade sector.



Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner— Scholarships

Sometimes dinner is more than just a meal. In 2014, WTS-LA proved that by awarding \$32,000 in scholarships at the Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner with the leadership of our Adopt-A-School/Career Day Co-Chairs and Scholarship Chair and Consultant Elisabeth Rosenson. More than 325 people attended the dinner with about 25% in attendance from the public sector. They joined to watch 10 scholarship winners and their families celebrate the next generation of transportation professionals, as well as honoring

a number of current industry leaders. But the dinner also had another purpose.

At its heart, the Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner is also a fundraiser. In large part, funds raised at this dinner provide much of the monies for next year's scholarships. Proceeds from the dinner raised \$27,362 and that includes a record \$5,710 from the raffle/silent auction alone. That doubled the amount raised from last year's raffle/silent auction.



2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Joan G. Wood Memorial High School Scholarship (\$1,500)

Bianey Mercado, student at Phineas Banning High School

Marilyn J. Reese High School Scholarship (\$1,000)

Addy Ortiz, student at Phineas Banning High School

CORPORATE/AGENCY SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

Richard G. Newman AECOM Scholarship (\$2,500)

Rachel Lindt, master's degree candidate in urban and regional planning at UCLA

PB Marty Rubin Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000)

Daisy Jauregui, student at Phineas Banning High School

Southern California Association of Governments Scholarship (\$2,000)

Camille Guiriba, master's degree candidate in urban and regional planning at UCLA

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Myra L. Frank Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$6,000)

Anne Brown, doctoral degree candidate in urban planning at UCLA

Myra L. Frank Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$4,000)

Kelcie Ralph, doctoral candidate in urban planning at UCLA

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Ava Doner Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship (\$6,000)

Hilina Gudeta, bachelor's degree candidate in industrial and systems engineering at USC

Ava Doner Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship (\$4,000)

Danielle Thomas, bachelor's degree candidate in civil engineering at USC

INAUGURAL WTS-LA DIRECTORS' SCHOLARSHIP

WTS-LA Directors' Scholarship (\$1,500)

Ileana Acosta, bachelor's degree candidate in civil engineering at USC

Communications and Social Media

Communications and social media involve much more than just getting the word out about what the chapter is doing. In fact, the work of the Communications Committee in many ways defines the reach of the chapter and how it is publicly perceived. Here is the short list of the accomplishments of Communications and Social Media Co-Chairs Metro Senior Marketing and Communications Officer Ana Vallianatos, Metro Supervising Engineer June Susilo, and Publicist Alexandra Spencer.

- Developed and placed the article “Transportation Proves Effective Vehicle for Executive Advancement in LA” in the July issue of *Metro*
- Developed and placed the article “Pilot Program Shows Career in Transportation May Be the Ticket” in the September/October issue of *Mass Transit*; an expanded distribution of this issue went to the October APTA Expo in Houston attended by more than 17,000 industry professionals
- Continued to grow WTS-LA’s Twitter (@WTSLosAngeles) following, ending the year with almost 2,500 followers including prominent transportation editors and journalists
- Issued four e-newsletters



- Tweeted the Career Day photo of Transportation Résumé Book Chair STV Engineer Lucy Terrell-Lewis, making her the most tweeted-about member in WTS-LA history, retweeted to 47,900 followers
- “Live-tweeted” from selected programs and events
- Designed and issued over 60 event e-blasts and posted them on the WTS-LA website event section
- Posted numerous event photos to the home-page slideshow, as well as posting 21 separate event photo galleries and more than two-dozen news stories on the chapter website
- Expanded and updated Constant Contact email database; in April alone 64 people signed up to receive chapter mailings
- Enhanced chapter branding by securing the services of Los Angeles photographer John Livzey (JohnLivzey.com and Livzey.com)
- Produced a series of 6 x 9-inch color marketing postcards advertising the chapter’s speakers, volunteer activities, and summer faculty externship program
- Developed and issued 25 personal invitation letters to state and local dignitaries informing them about WTS-LA and inviting them to attend the August reception for newly appointed Port of Long Beach Chief Executive Jon Slangerup

Again, just the short list of accomplishments, co-chairs Spencer, Susilo, and Vallianatos also provided comprehensive communications, public relations, and social media support to the chapter in many decisive ways.



Transportation Résumé Book

A résumé is a calling card. To professionals, it's another tool in a career arsenal. But to a young person, a résumé is a debut, an essential introduction to the working world. And you only get to make one first impression. WTS-LA has found a perfect way to help young people in Southern California who are interested in transportation careers, the Transportation Résumé Book. A collection of graduating student résumés, the Transportation Résumé Book is distributed to a very select group *that's in a position to hire these young people*—WTS-LA corporate partners. In return, these partners get a first look at top transportation talent in Southern California through the Transportation Résumé Book. And in 2014, Transportation Résumé Book Chair STV Engineer Lucy Terrell-Lewis made a great resource even better.

After conducting extensive surveys of employers, schools, and students, Terrell-Lewis made the Transportation Résumé Book available online via Dropbox and Google Docs. With a deadline at the end of March, the Transportation Résumé Book was distributed in early May to WTS-LA corporate partners. But before it was distributed, Terrell-Lewis and her team of volunteers carefully scanned each of the 74 submitted résumés, checking for errors and typos, and then returned the résumés to the students. Students corrected their résumés and resubmitted them to the Transportation Résumé Book team. It proved a most effective process.

Terrell-Lewis credits her team of volunteers for achieving such success. So much so, in fact, that she held a thank you lunch to honor their work. Terrell-Lewis also created a feedback loop among students and partners to measure how well the Transportation Résumé Book works and implement necessary changes to continually improve its value and effectiveness.





Volunteer Coordination

Volunteers are the lifeblood of many organizations. In WTS-LA, they hold even greater importance. Put simply, without volunteers, the chapter could not function. But it is a two-way street. While volunteers give of themselves and their time, they also receive incomparable training in leadership, administration, and interpersonal skills that are essential for professional advancement. To engage more chapter members and create an accessible path to being part of the chapter and the board, WTS-LA greatly revamped the volunteer coordinator role in 2014. Yes, it's that important.

ICF International Senior Proposal Manager and 2014 WTS-LA Volunteer Coordinator Chair Jeff Markwardt masterminded the changes. He sought to make the volunteer program more enriching and beneficial to both the volunteers and the chapter by offering opportunities strategically designed to fulfill the needs of both parties. Here's what he did:

- Attracted 43 new volunteers in 2014 for a robust volunteer base of 202 individuals
- Created clear, concise, and informative email templates that explained the program, detailed responsibilities and time commitments for available volunteer opportunities, and thanked volunteers with follow-up notes
- Implemented a tracking system for short- and long-term volunteers along with a two-strikes rule for not following through with volunteer responsibilities
- Staffed a volunteer sign-up station at event registrations
- Incorporated volunteer recognition at each monthly program to acknowledge volunteers and encourage others to participate
- Hosted a volunteer appreciation and information event on October 2 and awarded plaques to 2014 volunteers
- Invited key volunteers to attend board meetings and submit board reports

Making a good program great, Markwardt sought to expand the program for the good of the chapter and its members.

Legislative Report



The law is never static. But when it comes to the transportation industry, changing laws often have profound consequences. So knowing what laws are changing and what those changes mean is critical. Fortunately, 2014 WTS-LA Legislative Chair Nossaman, LLP Partner Margo Bennett kept the chapter updated on the latest legal news and its meaning. Here is a sampling of her legislative updates, though her original updates provided much greater detail.

MARCH 2014

LOCAL:

LACMTA (Metro) Receives FTA Grant Funds

The Federal Transit Administration and Metro signed a \$670 million construction grant agreement to support construction of the Regional Connector light rail transit line in downtown Los Angeles. Metro will also receive \$64 million in other USDOT funding and up to \$160 million in loans from USDOT's TIFIA program. The remaining \$1.4 billion will be funded by state and local sources.

FEDERAL:

USDOT Accepting Applications for 6th Round of TIGER Grants

USDOT opened an application process for \$600 million for projects that "support reliable, safe and affordable transportation options that improve connections for both urban and rural communities."

FTA and FHWA Issue Final Rule on New Categorical Exclusions

FTA and FHWA add two categorical exclusions for actions within existing operational right-of-way and with limited Federal funding.

US Senate: Introduction of Highway Innovation Act of 2014

Senators Mark Kirk and Mark Warner introduced a US Senate bill to grant more flexibility to states in funding their highway systems.

JUNE 2014

LOCAL:

Los Angeles City Council Approves Funding Agreement with Metro

On April 23, LA City Council approved a \$206+ million funding agreement over the next 14 years with Metro, related to the Regional Connector, the Crenshaw/LAX Line, Leimert Park Station, Westchester Station, and the Westside Subway—Phase 1.

Westside Purple Line Extension Receives \$2.1 Billion in FTA Grant/Loan Funds

USDOT Secretary Anthony Foxx announced on May 21 that Metro received \$1.25 billion in construction grants from FTA's Capital Investment Grant Program and up to \$856 million from USDOT's TIFIA loan program to be used for the Metro Purple Line.

Los Angeles to Submit Applications for Metro's Express Lanes Net Toll Revenue Re-investment Grant Program

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) submitted grant applications for seven proposed Metro projects pursuant to the Express Lanes Net Toll Revenue Re-investment Grant Program. An estimated \$16 to \$19 million is available.

SCAG Publishes Proposed Amendment to FTIP

On June 3, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) published amendments to its approved 2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program. The amendments cover Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties.

FEDERAL:

Federal activity at this time is related to transportation projects and funding on various proposals for the reauthorization of MAP-21 as well as the precarious status of the Highway Trust Fund. They include the following proposals:

President Obama's "Grow America" Bill

Grow America is a \$302 billion, 4-year transportation reauthorization bill.

Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee's Proposal for Reauthorization

On May 15, the Senate EPW Committee unanimously approved the committee's proposal for MAP-21 reauthorization.

House Appropriations Committee's THUD Appropriations Bill

On May 21, the House Committee on Appropriations passed the 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Bill.

House GOP Plan for Funding One-Year Reauthorization

House GOP leadership proposed funding a one-year reauthorization of MAP-21, funding it through the reduction of Saturday mail delivery. In addition, the GOP plan would transfer funds from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund to the Highway Trust Fund.

JULY 2014

LOCAL:

Seleta Reynolds Confirmed as Permanent General Manager of LADOT

On July 1, Los Angeles City Council confirmed the mayor's appointment of Seleta Reynolds as permanent General Manager of LADOT.

STATE:

Rail Construction: County of Los Angeles (AB 577)

The California State Assembly approved a proposal to repeal provisions that prohibit the construction of a mass transportation rail project, other than a subway, within a specified San Fernando Valley corridor. The California Senate has yet to vote on the proposal.

High-Speed Rail

The High-Speed Rail Authority was the subject of a number of bills concerning funding and bond sales.

Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors: Documents (AB 1551)

AB 1551 would prohibit a licensed engineer or land surveyor from unreasonably withholding consent to use certain documents. The bill failed.

Bennett reported on numerous additional state bills this month.

FEDERAL:

Federal activity related to transportation projects and funding is focused on various proposals for reauthorization of MAP-21 as well as the precarious status of the Highway Trust Fund.

USDOT Outlines Steps for Managing Impending Highway Trust Fund Shortfall

On July 1, USDOT Secretary Anthony Foxx sent letters to state transportation departments and transit agencies outlining USDOT's planned actions should the Highway Trust Fund become insolvent prior to action by Congress.

SEPTEMBER 2014

STATE:

Construction: Prevailing Wage and Mechanics Liens (AB 26)

AB 26 would expand the definition of public works for the purposes of requirements regarding the payment of prevailing wages to also include any task relating to the collecting or sorting, or both, of refuse or recyclable metals, such as copper, steel, and aluminum, performed at a public works jobsite.

Public Contracts: Bidders: Employment Practices (AB 1650)

This bill would enact the Fair Chance Employment Act, which would require any person submitting a bid for a state contract involving onsite construction-related services to certify that they do not ask an applicant for applying for such work to disclose information concerning his or her conviction history.

Public Contracts: Change Orders (AB 2471)

This bill would require a public entity when authorized to order changes or additions to work in a public works contract (awarded to the lowest bidder), to issue a change order promptly, and no later than 60 days after the extra work is performed and reasonable documentation has been submitted, except as specified.

Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (AB 2574)

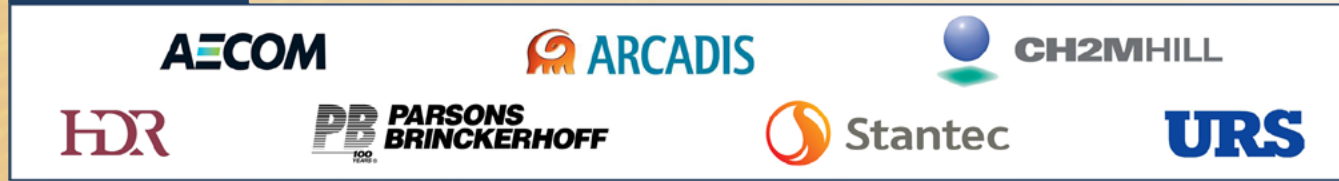
This bill would authorize the extension of the Gold Line light rail line from the City of Montclair in San Bernardino County to the City of Ontario in San Bernardino County...and authorizing Metro to operate the project to the LA/Ontario International Airport.

“AS A RULE OF THUMB,
CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION
THAT IS BIPARTISAN IS USUALLY
TWICE AS BAD AS LEGISLATION
THAT IS PARTISAN.”

THOMAS SOWELL

Corporate Partners

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Corporate Relations

WTS-LA corporate partners have helped underwrite meaningful and effective programs—from broad support for transportation-related high school programs to mentoring for professionals to professional development programs featuring nationally renowned technical experts and career coaches.

Corporate partnership dollars also have sponsored area college and graduate students' attendance at WTS-LA programs where they learn about industry issues, meet industry leaders, and get a leg up on entering the transportation industry. In short, sponsorship has directly benefited chapter members, burgeoning transportation professionals, and the Southern California transportation industry. But it has also done more.

WTS-LA affords corporate partners outstanding exposure as patrons of WTS-LA and its mission of advancing women in transportation. Corporate partners are recognized as contributors to the education of the next generation of transportation professionals. They are lauded as organizations that actively invest in leveling the playing field for all. And they get exclusive access to today's—and tomorrow's—transportation professionals.

In 2014, WTS-LA Corporate Relations raised \$54,911. Corporate Relations Chair and Consultant Dan Beal along with all our 2014 WTS-LA Board of Directors thank our corporate partners for their continued support.



Financial Statement

WTS-LA started 2014 with a total of \$280,369 in unrestricted operating funds and long-term savings. In 2014, WTS-LA raised approximately \$55,000 from corporate sponsorships and \$145,000 from other income (including event registration fees and membership dues). WTS-LA spent about \$185,000 on monthly luncheon programs, special events, professional development events, and scholarships. The net income for WTS-LA in 2014 was \$15,898 as shown in the table on the following page.

Of the \$185,000 spent in 2014, \$45,000 was transferred to the WTS International Foundation. A total of \$32,000 was awarded in scholarships in November 2014, including \$22,500 from the WTS-LA account in the WTS International Foundation, \$6,500 from WTS-LA corporate sponsors, and \$3,000 from the 2014 WTS-LA Board of Directors. WTS-LA has a remaining

balance of \$21,000 in the WTS International Foundation for future scholarships.

In 2014, WTS-LA established a separate account for deposit of certain funds dedicated to be used for scholarship and educational purposes while maximizing earnings to provide a relatively predictable, stable stream of distributions that keeps pace with inflation over time. This account is managed by the California Community Foundation (CCF) with oversight by the WTS-LA Board of Directors. The initial deposit into this account came from the Los Angeles Women's Transportation Scholarship Foundation (LAWTSF) as part of its dissolution plan.

As of the end of 2014, the CCF account balance was \$460,939.89. WTS-LA also has a separate operating account with a year-end balance of \$57,230.

Financial Profit and Loss Report January - December 2014

INCOME	
Corporate Sponsorship	\$54,911
Scholarship Fund Raising ^[a]	\$5,404
Monthly Luncheons	\$59,542
Annual Awards Banquet	\$67,282
Professional Development	\$511
Membership Dues	\$12,925
Other (Interest)	\$55
<i>Total 2014 Income</i>	<i>\$200,631</i>
EXPENSES	
Monthly Luncheons ^[b]	\$58,480
Annual Awards Banquet	\$39,920
Special Events	\$823
Memberships Dues transfer to WTS International ^[c]	\$2,950
Professional Development	\$1,420
Volunteer Appreciation	\$3,650
Mentorships	\$69
Board Expense ^[d]	\$13,521
Communications/Postcard Printing/Reproduction	\$12,593
Administration ^[e]	\$2,459
Career Day	\$3,846
Scholarships ^[f]	\$45,000
<i>Total 2014 Expenses</i>	<i>\$184,732</i>
Net Income	\$15,898

^[a] Raffle, Silent Auction, and Flower Donation combined

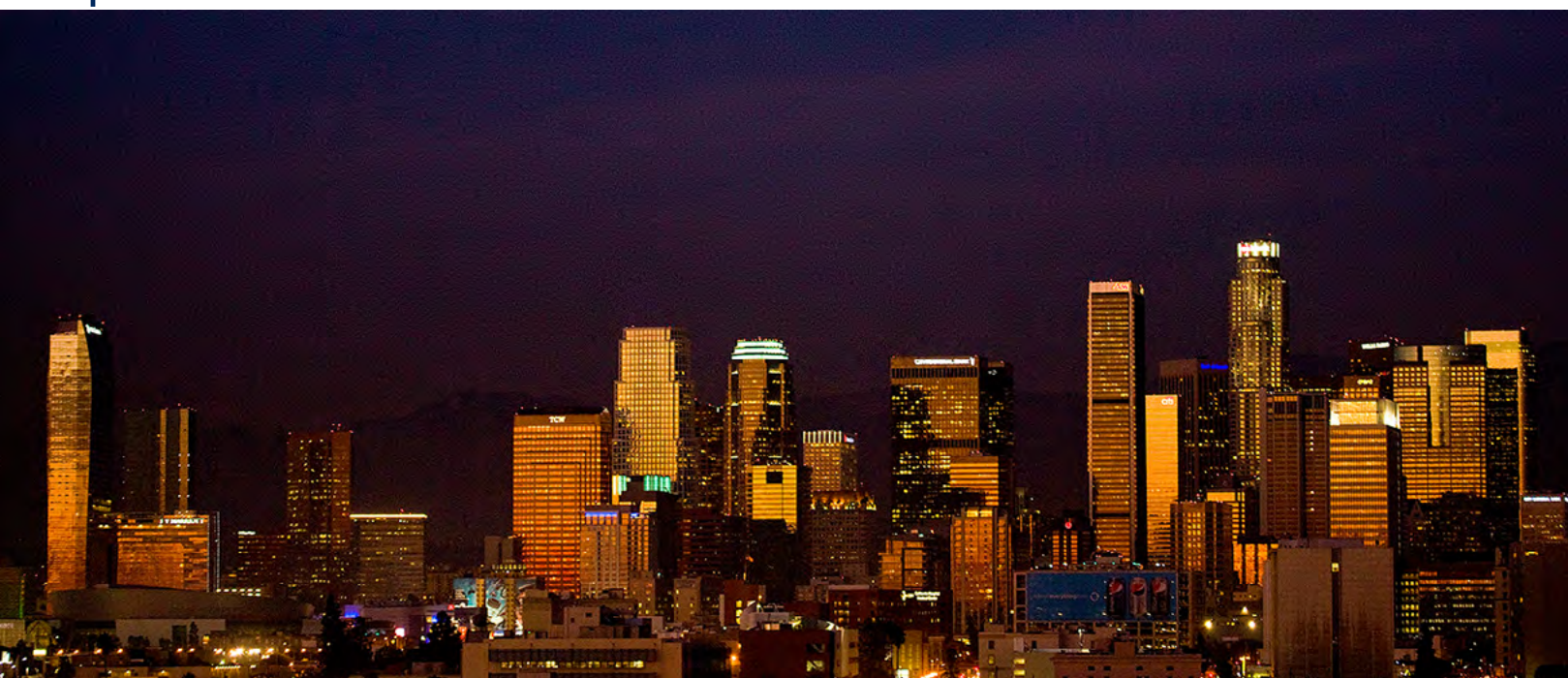
^[b] Photography/video, script writing, equipment rental, meals, decorations, program venue, etc.

^[c] Free membership for all Bronze level sponsors

^[d] Board meetings and Seminars, legal fees, computer consulting, bookkeeping

^[e] Bank fees, office supplies, insurance, tax filing fees, postage

^[f] Scholarship funds sent to WTS International Foundation





Advancing Women in Transportation
Los Angeles Area Chapter

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