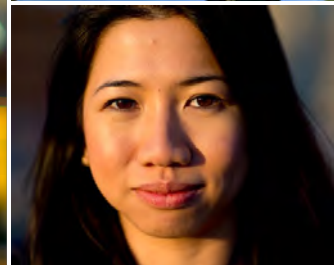
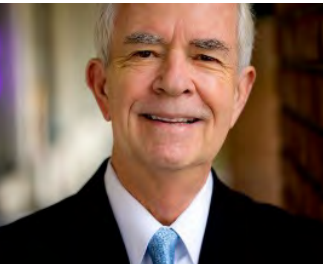




2015
ANNUAL
REPORT

30 Years
WIS
Advancing Women in Transportation
Los Angeles Area Chapter



Pearls may be the traditional 30th anniversary gift and diamonds may be the modern offering, but WTS-LA has given an even greater gift to its members and the Southern California transportation industry for the past 30 years—the fight for equality.

Context is everything. As WTS-LA celebrates its 30th year of advancing women in the transportation industry, it is important to remember the context during WTS-LA’s creation, juxtaposed against today. In 1985, things were different. The first .com domain name was registered. Microsoft released Windows 1.0. British scientists discovered a hole in the Ozone Layer. Route 66 was officially decommissioned. And women earned, on average, 64.6% less than men. *In 1984, only 37% of women aged 20 to 64 held fulltime jobs.* It seemed all but revolutionary to have women leaders.

Yet, Elizabeth Dole broke a glass ceiling in 1983 by becoming the first female USDOT secretary. But 24 more years would pass before Mary Peters became the second woman to gain the post. Locally, the story was similar. Women simply did not have access to high-level posts in the transportation industry in Southern California. Things have changed.

Through grit, determination, hard work, some luck, and the strong advocacy of WTS-LA, to date many women have led transportation agencies and organizations, and many more women fill senior-level executive ranks in Southern California. From aviation to rail to transit to ports, women fill high-level posts in virtually every transportation discipline. And where there are few women at high levels, WTS-LA fights to level the playing field. Though we

can’t claim that women have arrived, we can say with certainty that we are well on our way. And WTS-LA has been a big part of that journey.

Bringing luminaries to the chapter, WTS-LA seeks to introduce its members to the women and men in power, so that they can learn from them, network with them, and use them as role models. Routinely welcoming federal, state, and municipal agency leaders, WTS-LA features mayors, congresswomen and men, port leaders, aviation executives, and USDOT Secretaries including Mary Peters and Norman Mineta. Today, many transportation leaders—both female and male—call WTS-LA home. But the chapter’s focus also went beyond just looking up the ladder.

WTS-LA also always felt a great obligation towards mid-level professionals and the next generation. So the chapter provided career training at all levels. In 2015, the chapter continued its outstanding mentoring program, helping connect aspiring professionals with senior-level expertise. And since its inception, the chapter has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships to deserving young high school, undergraduate, and graduate women entering the transportation industry. That is a remarkable achievement as well as a sacred duty for the chapter.

So forget pearls, forget diamonds. We celebrate WTS-LA’s 30th anniversary with the most important gift the chapter can bestow, continuing the fight to advance women in transportation. And so we dedicate this report to the women and men who have fought the good fight for the past 30 years in WTS-LA. Thank you and keep fighting...



“The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.”

VINCE LOMBARDI



**“To handle yourself, use your head;
to handle others, use your heart.”**

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

President's Letter



We have made tremendous strides. Today, women run state departments of transportation, transit agencies, aviation departments. Women have run the US Department of Transportation as well as other federal transportation agencies. In Los Angeles, a woman, Deborah Ale Flint, serves as CEO of Los Angeles World Airports; several of her predecessors were women as well. And many high-level executives at Metro, Port of Los Angeles, Port of Long Beach, and numerous other agencies are women. We have made tremendous strides, but we have not yet *arrived*. Not even close.

According to a recent *Forbes* article, “Even though women accounted for 47 percent of total employment in the United States in 2014, some industries still have significant gender gaps... the American transportation sector ranks as one of the country’s worst offenders when it comes to the underrepresentation of women.” Citing an August 2015 joint report by the US Departments of Education, Transportation, and Labor, the article points out that, “In 2014, 8 out of every 10 workers in the industry as a whole were men.” This is exactly why WTS-LA is so important, why we do what we do. And in 2015, we did it very well.

Outstanding programs, unparalleled access, exceptional networking—these are the elements that helped make 2015 an extraordinary year for WTS-LA. First, we celebrated the chapter’s 30th anniversary, a remarkable accomplishment unto itself. Through our chapter newsletter, we also launched a president’s series, presenting profiles of past presidents, as a part of those celebrations. And building on the success of previous years, WTS-LA saw its reach grow with each event. WTS-LA also continued to look toward the future by working with young people through our Adopt-A-School program and scholarships awarded at the 2015 Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner. In 2015, WTS-LA bestowed \$36,000 in scholarships to deserving women. In addition, at our Annual Scholarship & Awards Dinner, WTS-LA recognized many women who contributed to the chapter and the transportation industry as well.

Finally, WTS-LA serves another vital purpose in transportation in Southern California. We represent a good number of women in transportation in the region. So in many ways, WTS-LA is the face of women in transportation. I consider that a real honor. But with that honor comes a responsibility. As the face of women in transportation in Southern California, we must continue to advance women in transportation and carry out our mission to its fullest extent. We must be the catalyst for change in Southern California and beyond for women in transportation. It is up to us to make the very difference that finally levels the playing field.

We have made great strides. But we have not yet arrived. And we must work that much harder in the future to maintain our role as *the* force for change. We must keep our focus and make that change a reality.

Thank you,

WTS-LA President Amanda Heinke

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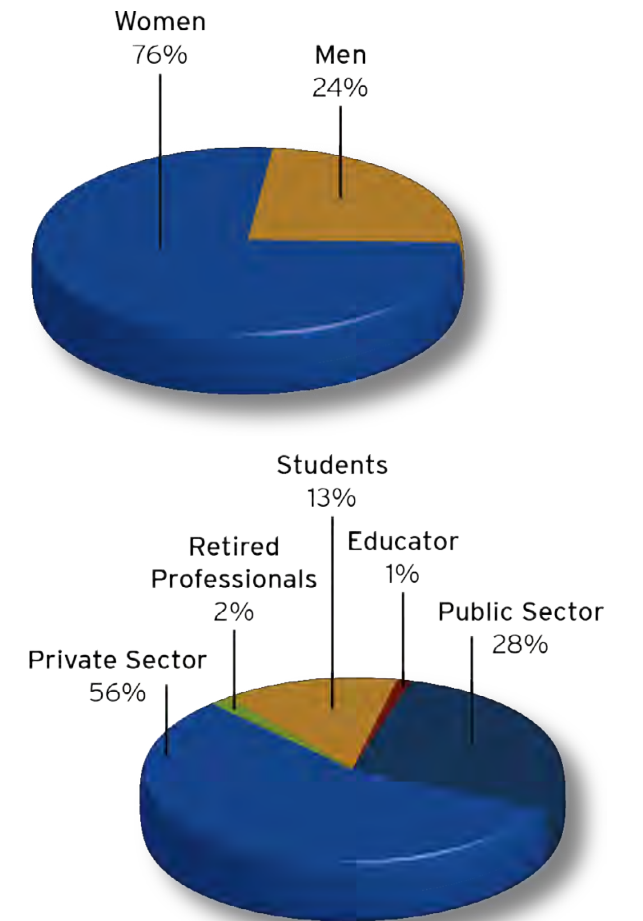


Membership

Membership defines every organization. Who you meet is just as important as what you do. So, membership is the singular strength and the greatest attraction of WTS and WTS-LA.

Second Vice President of Membership, LAWA Senior Airport Engineer Rosa Brice, along with Membership Chair Jenelle Saunders of Berg & Associates, took decisive action to create an effective strategy to increase membership. Working with WTS International and other WTS-LA committees, the Membership Committee launched several initiatives aimed at bringing in new members and retrieving past members. From creating a new-member corner at programs to an outreach effort to past members including a proposed auto-renewal feature to a dedicated membership drive, the Membership Committee experimented with different actions and gained invaluable knowledge about how to increase membership and enhance its value.

WTS-LA Membership Breakdown



“I am a member of a team, and I rely on the team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual, is the ultimate champion.”

MIA HAMM



Programs hold a special place in WTS-LA, in every chapter really. First, they are the face of every WTS chapter. Most people's initial contact with WTS-LA is through a program. But programs do so much more. They enlighten, enhance, and inspire people and their careers. The Programs and Professional Development Committees are absolutely essential for the success of the chapter and its members. In 2015, First Vice President of Programs, Lisa Karwoski of Mott MacDonald, and Programs Co-Chairs Kaoru McCullough of Mott MacDonald and Liz Ramirez of Curt Pringle & Associates exceeded expectations, providing an outstanding roster of compelling, vital, and timely programs, programs that provided guidance, awareness, and education. Professional Development Committee Chair Emily Freund of WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff developed and delivered her highly-regarded series of ongoing, members-only professional development programs. What follows illustrates the type of exemplary programs WTS-LA members and non-members enjoyed this year.



JANUARY



Metro Planning Update Luncheon: On February 10, WTS-LA welcomed then-Metro Chief Planning Officer Martha Welborne to update the chapter on Metro's planning agenda. Drawing from her oversight of the long-range future of Los Angeles County transportation, Welborne reported on the design and delivery of the twelve Measure R transit corridors, the Union Station Master Plan, and the promotion of sustainability and active transportation. She also presented on Metro's plans for the year.

FEBRUARY



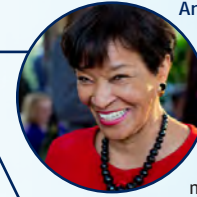
Lunch with Hilda Solis, LA County Supervisor and Metro Board Member: Former US Secretary of Labor and former Congresswoman Hilda Solis visited WTS-LA on March 6 for a luncheon. A recognized advocate for working families, Solis explained how her experience shaped her transportation vision. In addition, she described how she and her colleagues work to ensure that the regional transportation system provides even greater access.



Professional Development Program—Leadership at All Levels #1: In a members-only professional development breakfast program on March 27, WTS-LA greeted then-Expo Line Construction Authority COO Samantha Bricker, Destination Enterprises CEO Marcy Szarama, and LA DWP Procurement executive Gwenn Williams. These high-powered professionals shared their experience and expertise to help WTS-LA members advance their careers and gain leadership positions.

MARCH

APRIL



FTA's Flowers Shines Hope on Funding for Los Angeles County Transit Growth: WTS-LA held a reception for then FTA senior advisor and current FTA acting administrator Carolyn Flowers on April 15 in downtown Los Angeles at the Jonathan Club. Flowers praised LA County transit officials for addressing multiple needs and concerns including greater transit access, multimodal growth and integration, and climate change and its effect on transportation.



Port Executives Look to Future, Anticipate Seas of Change: On April 29, executives from three California ports—including the nation's first and second-largest container-handling ports—described how they plan to embrace the relentless pace of change in the shipping industry. Moderated by CH2M Vice President Stacey Jones, POLA Deputy Executive Director Tony Gioiello, then-POLB Chief Executive Jon W. Slangerup, and Port of Hueneme CEO and Port Director Kristin Decas explained why their mammoth capital projects are crucial in fighting off competition from ports worldwide.

MAY

JUNE



Experts Look Into California Rail Future, See Challenges That Might Derail Progress: A June 2 luncheon entitled "The Future of Rail in Southern California" brought together rail experts from across the region, featuring Southern California Regional Director of the California High-Speed Rail Authority Michelle Boehm, Metrolink CEO Art Leahy, Metro Program Management Executive Officer Jeanet Owens, and then-Metro Regional Rail Executive Officer Don Sepulveda. Hosted by then-Expo Construction Authority COO Samantha Bricker, panelists discussed wide-ranging topics from new projects to reliability, system investment, and transparency to stakeholders.

JULY

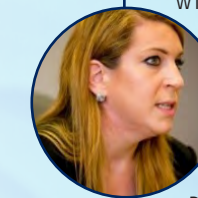


Changing Perceptions: LAWA's Plan for LAX: On July 9, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Deputy Executive Director Roger A. Johnson updated WTS-LA members on LAWA's \$7 billion modernization program for Los Angeles International Airport, as well as major construction projects for LAWA's LA/Ontario International Airport and Van Nuys Regional Airport.

AUGUST



Transforming LA Through Innovation & Investments At Metro: Breakfast proved to be the most important meal of the day on August 6, when WTS-LA sat down with new Metro CEO Phil Washington, who took the reins of the agency as it celebrated its 25th anniversary. WTS-LA members learned about Mr. Washington's plans for Metro's next 25 years.



Professional Development Program—Leadership at All Levels #2: WTS-LA members enjoyed another members-only professional development program on August 7. This time, transportation deputies for elected officials, who shape transportation policy in Los Angeles County, shared how priorities are set, how their offices build consensus, and how stakeholders influence and support transportation priorities for the City and County of Los Angeles. Those deputies that participated were Nicole Englund, Transportation Deputy for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl; Paul Backstrom, Transportation Policy Director, LA Councilmember Mike Bonini; and Jennifer Brogin, Transportation Deputy for Supervisor Michael Antonovich.

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER



Reception for New LAWA Executive Director Deborah Ale Flint: WTS-LA members enjoyed exclusive access to newly appointed LAWA Executive Director Deborah Ale Flint in a members-only program on September 21. Flint discussed a wide range of topics including LAX's multibillion dollar capital improvement program, the largest public works project in the history of Los Angeles.

NOVEMBER



Breaking the Glass Ceiling: On September 30, WTS-LA welcomed BART general manager Grace Crunican and former MBTA and MassDOT board member Liz Levin to celebrate the publication of their book *Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom: Transportation Women Tell Their Stories*. Raw, funny, heroic, sad, and wonderful, the first part of the program saw Crunican and Levin and two women from their book, LaVerne Francis Reid and Dana C. Hook, share their stories about making it to the top of the transportation industry. Part two featured a members-only roundtable discussion, giving WTS-LA members exclusive, intimate access to the women from the panel.

In addition to exemplary programs, the Communications Committee instituted a new speaker gift for program speakers. Proposed by Jeff Markwardt, the new gifts are framed John Livzey 4x6 signed photo prints. After unwrapping his print that portrayed LAX's Tom Bradley International Terminal and aircraft under a spectacular sky, LAWA's Roger Johnson said it was the "best speaker gift" he'd ever received and invited John Livzey on a full-access tour of LAX.

DECEMBER



Mentorship



Nothing substitutes for an exceptional mentor. WTS-LA knows this. After relaunching its mentoring program in 2014, Mentorship chair and Metro community relations manager Lilian De Loza-Gutierrez and the Mentorship Committee advanced the Mentoring Program in 2015 to better serve the chapter, particularly its entry-level members. After extensive preparation—including a comprehensive survey and a highly unique form of mentor-mentee speedmatching—the committee effectively matched 14 mentor/mentee pairs. The committee also provided the mentorship welcome packet, “Guidelines for a Successful Mentor-Mentee Relationship,” to help mentors and mentees optimize their participation in the program. But that was only the start.

The committee organized events throughout the year to enhance each participant’s experience. They included the following events.

Mission Statement Accomplished

In an event held at Metro headquarters, WTS International board member and FAA division manager Felicia Boyd led WTS-LA mentorship participants and chapter members in a session

on how to prepare a personal and career mission statement. Approximately 20 members participated including eight mentor/mentees pairs.

Life-Work Balance

On May 28, the Mentorship Committee welcomed WTS-LA member Coach Allison Kim, who shared her insights on life-work balance and discussed her new #1 bestselling Amazon book: *Superhuman’s Guide to Life-Work Balance*. Each participant received a copy of Coach Allison Kim’s book.

Résumé Review and Enhancement

On November 23, the Mentorship Committee hosted a working session where mentors and mentees reviewed each other’s résumés and then shared tips for enhancing the résumés that highlighted an individual’s specific experience and skills to better resonate within those sought by employers within the transportation industry. Each participant left the session with an updated résumé that was ready for the next career development opportunity.

“In order to be a mentor, and an effective one, one must care. You must care. You don’t have to know how many square miles are in Idaho, you don’t need to know what the chemical makeup of blood or water is. Know what you know and care about the person, care about what you know and care about the person you’re sharing with.”

MAYA ANGELOU



WTS-LA's mission is to advance women in transportation, and that extends into educating tomorrow's transportation professionals today. The Adopt-A-School Committee has a unique obligation in that regard. They are the vanguard reaching out into area high schools to make girls aware that transportation is an excellent career choice for them. The Adopt-A-School Committee takes that mission most seriously.

In 2015, the Adopt-A-School experienced a leadership transition from Nancy Michali, an AECOM associate vice president to Dr. Amy Shimshon-Santo, an adjunct professor at Claremont Graduate University. The spring and summer were spent sharing information and strategizing about next steps. The Adopt-A-School Committee emerged stronger and able to put together an outstanding program to advance WTS-LA's message in numerous ways.

The committee worked to expand its reach into area high schools through collaborations with the Los Angeles Unified School District. The committee reached out to numerous high schools throughout the region and developed relationships with three high schools that expressed interest and provided a viable intermediary to provide hands-on services. These schools include: Banning High School

in Wilmington (ITEP Intermediary), Fremont High School in Central Los Angeles (Los Angeles Education Partnerships Intermediary), and Susan Miller Dorsey High School in South Los Angeles (STEM Coordinator Intermediary). In addition, the committee facilitated orientation meetings to encourage high school students to apply for the WTS-LA scholarships.

The committee's outreach efforts were successful, resulting in an increased number of high school scholarship applications received. The committee evaluated the proposals and awarded three scholarships to high school students (from Dorsey, Fremont, and Banning High Schools), and one Teacher of the Year Award to Tammy Bird (from Carson High School). Three students and one teacher attended the Annual WTS-LA Gala with their families or school representatives and publicly received their awards.

The committee provided hands-on workshops and panels, and documented its efforts to share with teachers and students to encourage future applications. The committee participated in WTS International's Transportation You webinar on a monthly basis and received useful strategies to enhance outreach.



“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.”

JOHN F. KENNEDY



2015 WOMAN OF THE YEAR - Sharon Neely, Retired Chief Deputy Executive Director, *Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)*: Ms. Neely served as the chief deputy executive director of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)—the nation’s largest Metropolitan Planning Organization—where she was responsible for overseeing planning, modeling, compliance, legislation, public and media affairs, and relations with SCAG’s Board. Most notable to her career is her role in the formation of Foothill Transit in 1990. She was also the Director of Policy at the former Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC, now LA Metro) while working on the San Gabriel Valley Transit Zone (now Foothill Transit). With Ms. Neely, the region got not only a champion for the region’s transportation causes, but also a career-long commitment to making Southern California a better place to live, work, and play.



2015 SECRETARY RAY LAHOOD MAN OF THE YEAR - James Elliot Moore, II, *Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering; Public Policy and Management; and Civil Engineering, University of Southern California (USC)*: Nationally noted in his field, Moore is vice-dean of Academic Affairs at the University of Southern California’s Viterbi School of Engineering and immediate president of the board of trustees of the Institute of Industrial Engineers. At USC, he is a staunch supporter of the Women in Science and Engineering Program, and was personally central to the appointment of the first female chair in the Viterbi School of Engineering (WiSE) program. For almost two decades, this long-time WTS-LA Director-at-Large also shepherded scores of students to WTS Los Angeles programs and is the chapter’s most significant donor to its scholarship fund. In the crowded field of colleges and universities in Los Angeles, Professor Moore stands alone in his commitment to WTS-LA, and to advancing opportunities for women in academia as well as in the public and private sectors of the transportation industry.



2015 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR - *Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)*: As Metro celebrates its 25th anniversary, it has become one of the nation’s most progressive transportation agencies. Today’s Metro system transports 1.4 million people to their destinations every day. But as a major employer in Southern California, Metro also consistently works to ensure that its workforce represents the available labor resources. As of 2015, 29% of the agency’s total workforce is female, which is higher than the average transit agency. Since its founding 25 years ago, Los Angeles Metro employees and executives have not only been members of WTS Los Angeles, but have supported its programs by serving on our board of directors, being committee members, program speakers and emcees, and scholarship fund contributors.



2015 INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AWARD - Phase 2 of the *Exposition Light Rail Line—Culver City to Santa Monica, Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority*: Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Project, which opened on May 20, 2016, is a 6.6 mile-extension of the Expo Line from Culver City to Santa Monica, which will travel from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica in only 46 minutes, providing a safe, clean and efficient mass transit alternative to the heavily congested I-10 freeway. The \$1.5 billion project serves the densely populated and job-rich Westside, as well as local and tourist destinations such as Santa Monica beach and the Pier. It also connects West Los Angeles with the rest of the regional rail network and serves educational institutions, major employers and entertainment venues in downtown Los Angeles, Exposition Park, Culver City, West Los Angeles and Santa Monica. The project will help spur redevelopment and revitalization, will realize environmental benefits associated with increased transit usage, such as improved air quality, and will provide employers and workers with a viable mass transit option.



2015 MEMBER OF THE YEAR - Natasha DeBenon, *Business Development Manager, ARCADIS*: Natasha DeBenon has been in the professional construction industry for over 20 years holding positions in Operations Management and Business Development. DeBenon likes to give back to the industry by being a volunteer to construction-related associations such as WTS-LA, Southern California Chapter of APWA, and CMAA. She has taken a profound and active interest in the details for WTS-LA. On top of her substantial duties as a business development manager for the California region at Arcadis, a design consultancy firm for natural and built assets, DeBenon has served as the WTS-LA Scholarship and Awards Dinner chair for the last three years. Prior to serving as the Scholarship and Awards Dinner chair, Natasha served as the Programs co-chair for 2009 and 2010.



2015 DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARD - Christine Robert and Clarissa Filgioun, *The Robert Group*: Since its founding in 1993, The Robert Group has epitomized diversity. The firm, which specializes in public outreach and community consensus building, has sought to involve diverse communities in decision making about public infrastructure projects and private developments that affect their neighborhoods and livelihoods. Its two founding Principals, Chris Robert and Clarissa Filgioun, have strived always to ensure that employees of The Robert Group represent a broad cross section of California’s diverse population. In the past 22 years, they have employed 26 employees, including 19 women professionals, and 7 minority men. In word and deed, Chris Robert and Clarissa Filgioun personify diversity and provide a great example of personal and professional inclusion for all transportation professionals to emulate.



2015 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR - Tammy Bird, *Carson High School*: Tammy Bird is the lead teacher of the Environmental Science, Engineering, and Technology Academy at Carson High School. She has taught all levels of biological sciences at Crenshaw and Carson High Schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District and has received international attention for her work with Food from the ‘Hood’ - a youth entrepreneurial program that she co-founded. Most recently, she has been instrumental in developing and coordinating an engineering career pathway and robotics program. Bird has helped numerous students turn their dreams into clear, tangible, and attainable goals. Her legacy includes a network of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) professionals who have pursued higher education, earned prestigious scholarships, and obtained competitive fellowships.

Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner— Awards



Recognition serves a dual purpose. First, it acknowledges accomplishment to the professional community. Equally important, however, recognition also serves as inspiration for all—no matter what level—to engage ever more intensely in her or his transportation career. In 2015 at the WTS-LA Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner, WTS-LA recognized outstanding accomplishments in the transportation industry. Diversity & Recognitions Committee Chair Tina Backstrom, Transportation Engineering Associate at Los Angeles Department of Transportation, coordinated our 2015 award nomination process.

The Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner Chair, Arcadis Business Development Manager Natasha DeBenon and her committee, worked tirelessly to ensure the event was a true success. As part of this 30th anniversary celebration, Cynthia Guidry, Deputy Executive Director, Planning & Development Group at Los Angeles World Airports and Michelle Boehm, Southern California Regional Director, California High Speed Rail, hosted the evening as our two emcees.

Collectively, this team of volunteers helped create an exceptional program, celebrating WTS-LA’s past and setting the tone for the future.

“In the arena of human life, the honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action.”

ARISTOTLE



Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner—Scholarships

It is not enough to promise to help. You must deliver. And WTS-LA delivered solidly in 2015. In fact, 2015 was a banner year. WTS-LA received 34 applications for undergraduate and graduate scholarships from a host of area schools. But these were no ordinary students. The caliber of applicants was quite strong, with an average undergraduate GPA of 3.45 and graduate GPA of 3.71. More than 340 public and private sector guests attended the dinner.

Awarding \$36,000 in scholarships to deserving young transportation students at the Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner, WTS-LA members witnessed firsthand what these scholarships mean to young people and their families that are struggling to fund their higher education. Throughout the year, Scholarship Chair Elisabeth Rosenson and Adopt-A-School Chair Amy Shimshon-Santo worked tirelessly to put together the scholarship roster and awards.

“An investment in knowledge always pays the highest return.”

BEN FRANKLIN



2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Jalene Hernandez, student at John C. Fremont High School

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

Annel Castro, student at Susan Miller Dorsey High School

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Ava Doner Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship (\$7,500)

Emily Audet, bachelor's degree candidate in environment, economics, and politics at Scripps College

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

Diana Jauregui, bachelor's degree candidate in civil engineering at Bucknell University

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Myra L. Frank Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$7,500)

Rachel Junken, master of planning candidate at USC

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

Ling Feng, master of planning candidate at USC

WTS-LA DIRECTORS' SCHOLARSHIP

WTS-LA Directors' Scholarship (\$3,000)
Feby Boediarto, bachelor's degree candidate in environmental analytics at Pitzer College

WTS-LA Directors' Scholarship (\$1,000)
Linda Apodaca, master's degree candidate in leadership and management at the University of La Verne

CORPORATE/AGENCY SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

Richard G. Newman AECOM Scholarship (\$2,500)
Katherine Bridges, master's degree candidate in urban and regional planning at UCLA

PB Marty Rubin Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000)
Nancy Wuitron, student in the Global Environment Science Academy at Phineas Banning High School

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

Carmen Chen, master's degree candidate in urban and regional planning at UCLA



Communications and Social Media



The WTS-LA Communications and Social Media Committee gets through to members and the transportation industry by packaging information in unique and compelling ways. In doing so, the Communications and Social Media Committee touches on every aspect of the chapter, providing support as well as getting the word out. And in terms of communications and social media, 2015 was a very good year.

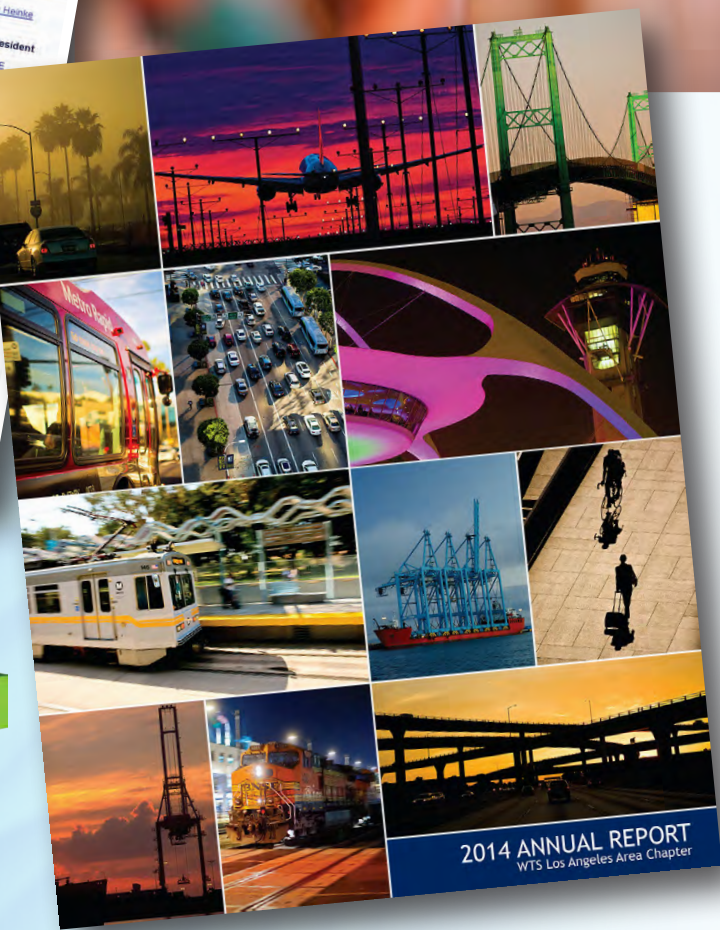
a seminar on how to write teasers and blurbs for Communications Committee volunteers to increase the chapter's LinkedIn presence. The committee also regularly updated the chapter website with timely articles and outstanding photography, driving considerable traffic between it and social media sites. The committee also launched an Instagram presence, featuring transportation and WTS-LA event images by John Livzey and Fred Chang. The committee looks to expand these offerings throughout 2016.

ICF International aviation business manager Jeff Markwardt served as committee chair for much of the year, until a promotion took him to the East Coast. He seamlessly transferred leadership to Curt & Pringle & Associates public affairs expert Liz Ramirez and she has continued the strong communications and social media program, augmenting it with her expertise as well. Together with the committee and volunteers, they have accomplished much. Here are some examples.

The committee updated its contact database, an essential tool to effectively reach both members and non-members. At present, WTS-LA has 2,873 Constant Contact names on its master distribution list. Through eblasts and other emailings, the committee used its database for targeted outreach and awareness. They also created an *Eblast Generation Flow Chart* and a set of *Eblast Formatting Best Practices* to improve the impact of the form. Looking to engage members at the highest level, the committee undertook a campaign to encourage board members to post on the chapter's various social media platforms.

Celebrating the chapter's 30th anniversary, the 2015 chapter newsletters featured WTS-LA past presidents and their reminiscences about the chapter and its benefits. In addition, the committee created a marketing video about the chapter, honoring the anniversary while advertising the virtues of the chapter.

Finally, under the leadership of Markwardt, the committee created an annual report for 2014. This report won a gold MarCom award. The MarCom Gold Award is presented to those entries judged to exceed the high standards of the industry norm. There were more than 6500 entries: 16 percent were platinum winners, 23 percent were gold winners, and approximately 10 percent were Honorable Mention winners. The chapter wrote and published a news article about this win, which was then tweeted, shared on LinkedIn, and published in the newsletter.



Books have the power to change lives. Usually, authors achieve that end through bold ideas, unique characters, and/or complex plots. But the WTS-LA Transportation Résumé Book (TRB) accomplishes profound change in another way, by introducing the next generation of transportation professionals to the people who deserve access to them the most—WTS-LA corporate partners. Presenting résumés from top area graduating students, the TRB is distributed only to WTS-LA corporate partners, as a benefit for their support of WTS-LA. And new TRB Chair Todd Nguyen went to great lengths in 2015 to make the TRB even more valuable to aspiring transportation professionals and company sponsors.

Taking a strategic expansion approach, Nguyen and the TRB Committee continued to foster and build relationships with top area universities, while establishing connections to new ones. They targeted a range of schools including Cal Poly Pomona, Caltech, CSULA, CSULB, CSUN, Harvey Mudd, USC, UCLA, and UCI. University outreach proved to be the key success for the 2015 TRB. On March 11 at the University of



California, Irvine over 40 students attended the Transportation Résumé Book Mixer. These events inspired students to not only be a part of TRB but also be involved with WTS-LA.

In 2015, the WTS-LA TRB debuted its first networking mixer connecting high-achieving graduating students and corporate partners. The event was held on April 30 at the Caltrans District 7 office, where the event drew numerous students and over a dozen corporate partners. Overall, their outreach efforts worked. The TRB Committee received a record number of résumés for this year’s TRB, making it the most valuable TRB ever to date. The WTS-LA corporate partners were thrilled to have first access to this outstanding group of emerging transportation professionals. But the committee didn’t stop there.

The TRB Committee utilized the support from the Communications Committee to publicize the TRB efforts. Through an article in the WTS-LA Newsletter, and on the chapter website and social media channels, the TRB Committee highlighted the students’ experience and their takeaway from the event.

Obviously the committee deserves much credit for this success. But Nguyen also praises the stellar group of volunteers that help put together and enhance the TRB. To acknowledge their efforts, Nguyen and the committee celebrated their contribution with a special luncheon in their honor. Finally, Nguyen and the committee conducted surveys to generate feedback about the process, to see what could be improved for next year.

Books have power to change lives. But few books will have changed lives as profoundly as the 2015 WTS-LA Transportation Résumé Book.



“It’s not who you know.
It’s who knows you...”

ANONYMOUS



Volunteer Coordination



WTS-LA recognizes and values the contribution of its volunteers. In fact, WTS-LA is most grateful. Without the volunteers' considerable support, WTS-LA could not function at the high level it does. But in addition to receiving the chapter's gratitude, volunteers get something else in return. They get invaluable training in myriad ways. From organizational experience to leadership training, WTS-LA volunteers get the unique opportunity to learn by doing. Guided by the WTS-LA board and senior advisors, WTS-LA volunteers gain invaluable skills and know-how by running committees, designing programs, and working with both senior professionals and students.

Working closely with each committee chair, WTS-LA Volunteer Coordinator Committee chair and ICF International aviation business development manager Jeff Markwardt began the year ensuring that each committee had the volunteer help it needed. Toward the end of the year, Parsons Brinckerhoff transportation engineer/planner Kyra Tao took the reins of the committee and continued to advance the committee's work in serving the chapter.

To start, the committee chairs maintained and updated a volunteer database, providing committee chairs with real-time data on available help. In total, WTS-LA counted 220 people on the committee's Master Volunteer List, including 50 long-term volunteers. But the success is not just in numbers alone.

Throughout the year, the committee chairs worked tirelessly to align volunteers with given tasks, attempting to put expertise where it could most benefit the chapter. They also sought continuous feedback to ensure that volunteers were providing the best possible assistance. And volunteers provided essential assistance to every aspect of the chapter, from eblast coordination to newsletter production to registration assistance at programs. Put simply, volunteers were essential to every committee and in virtually every function of the chapter. Again, the chapter could not have been so successful this year without the indelible contribution of the Volunteer Coordinator Committee and the chapter volunteers.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

MAHATMA GANDHI



Ensuring WTS-LA members are aware of changes in legislation that affect the transportation industry is crucial. WTS-LA Legislative Chair, Liz Cousins of Nossaman LLP, kept members informed of the most important legislative changes in 2015. Here is a sample of the legislative action from this year that was deemed relevant for our members.



MARCH 2015

LOCAL/STATE:

In addition to providing key legislative deadlines, the committee reported that in January California announced its intention to investigate a road-user-charge program, to reduce reliance on gas-tax increases.

FEDERAL:

Grow America Act: Throughout February, President Obama's Grow America Express undertook a 1,100-mile journey through five states to encourage Congress to act on the long-term transportation bill—the Grow America Act. Introduced on February 2, the act is a six-year transportation reauthorization proposal to provide \$478 billion to build transportation infrastructure, including \$100 million for the second section of the Metro Purple Line Extension Project.

Proposal to Increase State Safety Oversight of Rail Transit Systems: On February, 20, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced a plan to increase oversight responsibilities of the State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOA) that included replacing outdated regulatory frameworks to better evaluate safety programs; providing greater safety oversight resources; requiring adoptions and enforcement of state and federal safety laws; requiring financial and legal independence between SSOAs and the systems they oversee; and giving the FTA greater oversight review and approval.

Release of DOT 30-Year Plan: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx released the report, "Beyond Traffic: Trends and Choice." The report outlines key trends and innovation that will likely affect the US transportation system for the next 30 years. The report is intended to inform a national dialogue about key US transportation issues.

DBE Rule: The DBE program rule changed in late 2014, affecting 2015. The most notable changes involved certification standards (including size, economic disadvantage, ownership and control) and certification procedures (including prequalification, summary suspension, grounds for removal and certification appeals). Changes were also introduced in relation to goal setting, program administration, and forms and data collection.

Acquisition of Right-of-Way (MAP-21): Introduced in November 2015 to update 23 CFR 710 to conform with MAP-21, a proposed rule-making provides flexibility to states for cost reimbursement of state-funded acquisitions of interests in real property prior to completion of NEPA environment review for an entire project.

Case Law: The American Council of Engineering Companies of California (ACEC) filed a complaint against the Caltrans seeking to invalidate AB 401. AB 401 is a law that allows regional transportation agencies to use design-build for an unlimited number of transportation projects on state highways and expressways and for Caltrans to use design-build for up to 10 local projects, providing that it uses "department employees or consultants under contract with the department to perform" construction inspection services. The court ruled against the complaint.

APRIL 2015

LOCAL/STATE:

Numerous bills were introduced into the state legislature. Here is a representative sample from April:

Railroad and Surface Transportation Safety and Emergency Planning and Response: Hazardous Materials: This bill proposed the establishment of the statewide Regional Railroad and Surface Transportation Accident Preparedness and Immediate Response Force in the Office of Emergency Services. The force would be responsible for providing response capabilities for the release of hazardous materials from a rail car, railroad, or truck accident. It would also include development of a state regional railroad and surface transportation accident preparedness and immediate response plan, as well as coordination and biannual review.

High-Occupancy Toll Lanes: Several bills addressed high-occupancy toll lanes and when they can be established. Bills also addressed everything from use by buses and high-occupancy vehicles to revenues from bonds backed by HOT lanes.

DOT: Budgetary Cost-Savings Plan: State Highway Operation and Protection Program This bill would require the DOT to submit a plan identifying up to \$200,000,000 in annual cost savings.

California Transportation Plan: Under this proposal the California Transportation Commission would have to review recommendations to the California Transportation Plan every five years and to prepare recommendations for statewide integrated multimodal improvements.

FEDERAL:

Pilot Program to Allow Hiring Preferences for One Year: US Transportation Secretary Foxx announced a year-long pilot program to enable local and state DOTs to include local hiring preferences on federally funded projects. Mayors of three cities endorsed the program including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 Passes the House: The House of Representatives passed HR 749, the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, a \$7.8 billion, four-year authorization to Amtrak. It includes approximately \$1.9 billion for the Northeast Corridor Improvement Fund, \$3.9 billion for Amtrak's national network, and \$1.2 billion for capital grants to states for new intercity passenger rail.

MAY 2015

LOCAL/STATE:

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti introduced his "Sustainable City pLAN," that contained a number of proposed initiatives on mobility and transport in Los Angeles. His plan seeks to reduce daily vehicle miles traveled by 5% by 2025 and 10% by 2035; increase the mode share percentage of all trips by walking, bicycling, and transit to at least 35% by 2025 and 50% by 2035; increase trips through shared services to at least 2% by 2025 and 5% by 2035; and implement 1,000-bike bike share by 2017 and increase multimodal connections at ten rail stations.

FEDERAL:

Once again, there were numerous federal transportation developments. Here is a representative sample:

Introduction of Legislation to Prevent Railroad Crashes: Senators Blumenthal and Schumer introduced a bill to require railroads to install additional safety technology in an effort to help prevent crashes from speed and human error.

Bill Requiring States to Mandate Jobs for Veterans: Support grew for a bill that would require states to offer a percentage of construction jobs on transportation projects to veterans where federal funding is received.

Release of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA): The USDOT and the Federal Railroad Administration released the PHMSA, which includes targets actions to address a range of issues identified as a result of an unprecedented number of train accidents involving ethanol and crude oil shipped by rail.

Grants for Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety: FTA awarded eight grants, more than \$21.2 million, for investment in highway-rail grade crossing safety, passenger rail, and Positive Train Control.

MAP-21 Reauthorization: Congress continued to explore ways to extend the MAP-21 surface transportation funding bill, scheduled to expire at the end of May 2015.

JULY 2015

LOCAL/STATE:

Ports of Los Angeles, Auckland, Guangzhou Form Alliance: The above ports signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to encourage increased cooperation with respect to job growth and economic development. The MOU creates the Tripartite Ports Alliance and is intended to provide a platform for trade, innovation, and investment opportunities between the three regions.

\$561 Million Allocated for Upgrade of State/Local Infrastructure: The California Transportation Commission provided \$561 million for 125 transportation projects to help rebuild state transportation infrastructure and encourage the use of alternative transportation.

FEDERAL:

6-Year Highway Funding Proposal: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a six-year highway bill known as the DRIVE Act. The bill will increase funding, add a freight-projects program, and create a program for major projects as approved by the Federal Highway Administration.

Proposed Rulemaking to Improve Safety and Reliability of New Transit Buses: The Federal Transit Administration proposed a notice to improve the safety and reliability of federally funded new transit buses.

FRA Plans "Stepped-Up Enforcement" on Passenger Train Speed Limits and Several Measures: In the wake of the Amtrak crash in Philadelphia, the FRA proposed several initiatives. They included stepped-up enforcement on speed and safety recommendations for all US passenger train operators. They also reauthorized higher funding levels to improve track infrastructure and safety.

AUGUST 2015

LOCAL/STATE:

Challenge to Uber and Lyft at LAX: After being given the green light by the Board of Airport Commissioners (and support from LA Mayor Eric Garcetti), six members of LA's City Council are seeking to reexamine the new rules that would allow Uber and Lyft to collect LAX passengers.

Proposal to Save Half a Billion Dollars: Republicans recommended a proposal to save half a billion dollars by reducing Caltrans staff by 3,500 full-time positions. That represents a third of engineer positions responsible for overseeing construction projects. Naturally, Caltrans opposes the measure.

FEDERAL:

FTA Seeks Nominations for Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS): The FTA sought nominations for up to eight representatives for TRACS. TRACS seeks to provide a forum for public transit safety information.

FHWA Grants Fund New Projects: US Transportation Secretary Foxx announced more than \$7.1 million in grants from the Federal Highway Administration's Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration program for nine projects. The grants are for innovative projects such as data-driven safety analysis, geosynthetic reinforced soil-integrated bridge system technology, construction and warm-mix asphalt and include projects in Rhode Island, Kansas, New Hampshire, Washington, Florida, Montana, Wisconsin and the National Park Service.

Short Term Extension of Highway Trust: Congress passed a three-month extension of the Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act and promised to continue debate a long-term version of a reauthorization bill along with a bicameral conference in September to resolve outstanding issues.

NOVEMBER 2015

LOCAL/STATE:

Funding for Long Beach: The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority awarded the City of Long Beach, Long Beach Transit, and the Port of Long Beach \$23 million for transportation infrastructure improvement projects, including a \$12.4 million to extend the City's bicycle network and \$3.1 million to design and build a coastal bike and pedestrian path.

No Bike and Pedestrian Tolls on the Golden Gate Bridge: Governor Brown signed into law a bill prohibiting pedestrian and bike tolling on the Golden Gate Bridge for the next five years.

CTC Adopts 114 Biking and Walking Projects: The California Transportation Commission, through its Active Transportation Program, adopted 114 biking and walking projects worth at least \$262 million. This aligns with Caltrans's strategic goal to triple cycling and double walking and transit trips statewide by 2020.

Law Clears Path for LA Transportation Tax Vote: Governor Brown signed a law authorizing Metro to impose an additional local, countywide, one-half-cent sales tax to fund traffic reduction projects and public transit improvements. The proposal would be in effect for 40 years and could raise as much as \$120 billion.

FEDERAL:

\$500 Million in TIGER Grants: US Transportation Secretary Foxx awarded \$500 million in TIGER grants to 39 infrastructure projects in the US. The grants included a \$15 million TIGER Grant for the Rail-to (Almost) River Project in Los Angeles, a 6.4-mile stretch of a "dormant" and "blighted" rail right-of-way (ROW) in a "historically distressed area" turned into a path for walking/biking.

Build America Investment Center: US Transportation Secretary Foxx introduced the DOT's Build America Transportation Investment Center (BATIC). BATIC is intended to be a single point of coordination and contact for the variety of parties seeking to use federal transportation experience, access public private partnerships, and apply for federal transportation credit programs.

Grants for Energy Efficient Vehicles: The FTA announced funding in the amount of \$22.5 million through the Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program. The funds are intended develop next generation of energy-efficient vehicles in the U.S. including green technologies in transit buses, such as hydrogen fuel cells and electric and hybrid engines.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Corporate Relations



Whoever thinks it's only money has never seen what money can do. In WTS-LA, we see it firsthand on a regular basis. WTS-LA corporate partners help underwrite meaningful and effective programs that make a difference in Southern California. 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, none of these efforts would be possible without corporate support.

Corporate partnership dollars have also sponsored area college and graduate student attendance at WTS-LA programs, where those students learn about industry issues, meet industry leaders, and gain a foothold on entry into the transportation industry. In short, corporate partnerships directly benefit chapter members, burgeoning transportation professionals, and the Southern California transportation industry. But it also does so much more.

WTS-LA affords corporate partners outstanding exposure as patrons of WTS-LA and its mission of advancing women in transportation. Recognized regularly as fostering the next generation of transportation professionals, WTS-LA corporate partners are routinely 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 through WTS-LA and WTS-LA Transportation Resume Book. WTS-LA corporate partners make an investment by helping to sponsor the chapter, an investment that pays untold dividends for them and for Southern California transportation.

In 2015, WTS-LA Corporate Relations raised \$57,300. Corporate Relations Chair and consultant Dan Beal along with all our 2015 WTS-LA Board of Directors thank our corporate partners for their continued support.



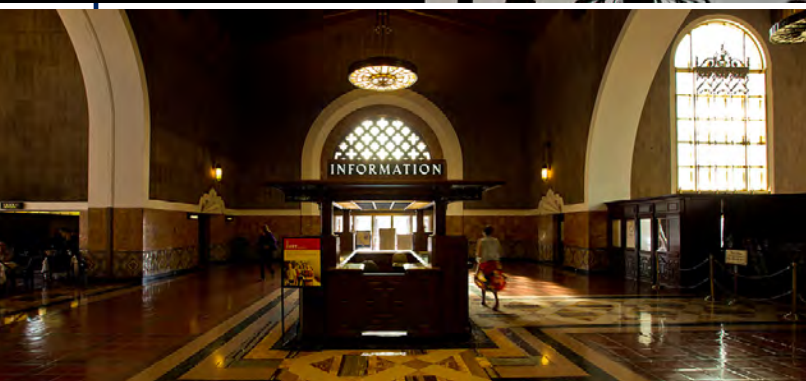
WTS-LA Treasurer and Stantec Senior Project Manager Pattie Antich handled the chapter's finances. And she reports that WTS-LA started 2015 with a total of \$57,000 in unrestricted operating funds. In 2015, WTS-LA raised approximately \$57,300 from corporate sponsorships and \$138,398 from other income (including event registration fees and membership dues). WTS-LA spent about \$72,000 on monthly luncheon programs, special events, professional development events, and scholarships. The net income for WTS-LA in 2015 was \$41,482 as shown in the table on the following page.

At the end of 2015, the WTS-LA operating account balance was \$100,000. A total of \$36,000 was awarded in scholarships in November 2015, including \$22,500 from the

WTS-LA account in the WTS International Foundation, \$9,500 from WTS-LA corporate sponsors, and \$2,000 from the 2015 WTS-LA Board of Directors matched by an additional \$2,000 from WTS-LA's California Community Foundation (CCF) account.

In 2015, 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 of \$462,313 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 2015, the CCF account balance was \$423,187.



FINANCIAL PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT JANUARY - DECEMBER 2015

| INCOME | |
|---|------------------|
| Corporate Sponsorship | \$57,300 |
| Scholarship Fund Raising ^[a] | \$6,391 |
| Monthly Luncheons | \$72,611 |
| Annual Awards Banquet | \$44,325 |
| Professional Development | \$930 |
| Membership Dues | \$14,140 |
| Other (Interest) | \$1 |
| <i>Total 2015 Income</i> | <i>\$195,698</i> |
| EXPENSES | |
| Monthly Luncheons ^[b] | \$68,814 |
| Annual Awards Banquet | \$45,917 |
| Memberships Dues Transfer to WTS International ^[c] | \$400 |
| Professional Development | \$847 |
| Mentorships | \$713 |
| Board Expense ^[d] | \$12,471 |
| Communications/Reproduction | \$20,363 |
| Administration ^[e] | \$2,691 |
| Scholarships ^[f] | \$2,000 |
| <i>Total 2015 Expenses</i> | <i>\$154,216</i> |
| NET INCOME | \$41,482 |

^[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] Scholarships for 2014 high school recipients



30 Years WTS

Advancing Women in Transportation
Los Angeles Area Chapter



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