

# Portland Chapter Annual Report 2015

Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) is dedicated to excellence in transportation through advancing the voice and professional development of women in the transportation industry.

The Portland, Oregon chapter of WTS was established in 1985. We are pleased to present our 2015 Annual Report, which highlights the events and accomplishments of our 30th year as a chapter.



## 2015 CHAPTER BOARD

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Susan Wright	<b>AWARDS &amp; RECOGNITION</b> Ted Stonecliffe
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> DeeAnn Sandberg	<b>FUNDRAISING</b> Deena Platman
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<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Jessica Roberts	<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b> Ray Delahanty
<b>LUNCHEONS</b> Vanessa Vissar Larissa Rawlins	<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b> Kristie Gladhill
<b>APPOINTMENTS</b> Shelli Romero	<b>EVENTS</b> Cara Belcher Alison Tanaka Jennifer Chariarse
<b>VANCOUVER LIAISON</b> Colleen Smith Irina Leschuk	
<b>LEAD/LEAP</b> Aisha Panas	

## WTS Advances Women in the Transportation Field

- WTS provides access to transportation professionals and top-level decision makers in the public, private and non-profit sectors.
- WTS helps enhance careers through professional development, networking, mentoring and other opportunities.
- WTS supports future transportation professionals and leaders through generous annual scholarships and access to national scholarship awards.
- WTS fosters professional development through a variety of training programs, stimulating lunch programs and other events.
- WTS fosters leadership through opportunities to participate on boards, committees and in management and leadership training programs.
- WTS empowers women in the transportation arena through professional development, mentoring and networking opportunities.
- WTS helps foster the interest of young women and girls in the field of transportation through activities that expose middle school and high school students to the breadth of opportunities available.
- WTS helps appoint its members to influential local, regional, state and federal positions to shape transportation policy and decision-making.

## WTS is the Premier Transportation Organization and Forum in the Portland Region and State of Oregon



WTS Portland has been providing Portland members with great technical programs, career support, and networking opportunities since 1985. We have been growing steadily and adding programs ever since. Some highlights:

- Since 1986 our membership has grown from 30 members to more than 250 members in 2014.
- We gave our first scholarship of \$500 in 1988. In 2015, we awarded a record amount of \$17,000 in scholarships.
- We continued our Transportation YOU partnership with Girls Inc. of NW Oregon to inspire our next generation of transportation leaders.
- We celebrated our 30th Anniversary at our Winter Gala with record breaking attendance of close to 200 people.



PORTLAND CHAPTER

**WTS** *Advancing Women in Transportation*

# wts portland president's message

I am delighted to present our 2015 Annual Report. 2015 marked our chapter's 30th anniversary. As you will read, the highlights from this past year are many and included significant growth in the reach of our chapter with multiple events in the mid-Willamette Valley area, Vancouver, Washington, and at NW Regional Council events, a newly invigorated mentorship program that included 30 pairs of mentors and mentees, and an amazing group of scholarship recipients and award winners, two of which have gone on to win awards at the international level.

In 2015 we had record membership as a result of hosting the 2014 annual conference. In 2015 we had excellent member retention and honored Governor Kate Brown's Transportation Advisor, Karmen Fore, and Stephanie Noll, Deputy Director of the BTA, with honorary WTS memberships as a way to recognize their contributions to the transportation industry and the leadership of women within their respective organizations.

Also this year we recognized Jerri Bohard (ODOT) as our Woman of the Year award recipient; Carolina Iraheta Gonzales (PBOT SRTS Outreach Coordinator) as our Diversity Award recipient; Alison Tanaka (Kittelson & Associates) as Member of the Year; Multnomah County as Employer of the Year; Kate McQuillan (Multnomah County) as New Voice, and the Transportation and Research Education Consortium for PSU (TREC) for the President's award for contributing significantly to WTS Portland's events, mission, and members. Multnomah County is being honored as the WTS International Employer of the Year in Austin, Texas at the annual conference in 2016.

In December, our annual winter awards event doubled as our 30th anniversary gala. At that event we honored five scholarship award recipients –Kyla D'Sa from Lincoln High School, Danit Hubbell from OIT, Elizabeth Rios from OSU, Andrea Mather from OSU, and Miranda Barrus from OIT; and recognized TriMet Orange Line as our Project

of the Year award recipient, and honored TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane with the inaugural Secretary Ray LaHood award for being a leader in systematically creating opportunities for women in the transportation industry. Miranda Barrus is being honored at the international level with the \$10,000 CH2M scholarship.



WTS Portland is working hard to expand the reach of our chapter. In 2015 we continued our programs in the mid-Willamette Valley and in Vancouver, Washington and had four events in each of these locations. WTS established the NW Regional Council in 2014, including the Portland, Puget Sound, Alaska, Treasure Valley (Idaho), Colorado, and Northern Utah chapters. The goal of the Regional Council is to provide richer opportunities for our members through offering regional programs and sharing experiences with one another to grow and expand our individual chapters. There were four opportunities in 2015 for members from various chapters to meet up at different events. We are looking forward to our first regional conference in Seattle in 2016.

The above barely taps the surface to explain all that the organization has done this past year. We held our sixth LEAD program, our fifth Transportation YOU class and our second EUREKA class focusing on high-school aged girls. We also held eight luncheons and dozens of other events. I am certain that reading our chapter's accomplishments over the next two dozen pages you will understand that our organization only continues to grow in its reach. Enjoy!

Take Care,  
Susan Wright  
WTS Portland Chapter President  
2015-2016

# membership

The Portland WTS chapter ended 2015 with 236 members. The WTS PSU chapter, which began in 2014, ended the year with six members.

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

- 57% PRIVATE SECTOR
- 32% PUBLIC AGENCY
- 8% STUDENTS
- 3% EXECUTIVE LEADER OR EDUCATOR

## Member Meeting

Tuesday - March 3, 2015 | Portland City Grill  
Celebration of chapter accomplishments and thank-you party for 2014 volunteers

## Honorary Memberships

- Karmen Fore - Governor Kate Brown's Transportation Policy Advisor
- Stephanie Noll - Deputy Director of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance

## 2015 VOLUNTEERS:

Alexis Gabriel  
Brenda Martin



2015 Membership Meeting



2015 Membership Meeting

# wts portland state university chapter

Twenty-fifteen was a transitional year for WTS PSU, as all but two of the board members graduated or left school for the professional workforce. Despite this, the remaining board members Tara Goddard (President) and Marisa DeMull (Vice-President) participated in WTS Portland professional chapter events and focused on encouraging WTS PSU members to take advantage of the benefits of WTS membership. WTS PSU is actively working with the Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC) and the Students in Transportation Engineering and Planning (STEP) group to recruit new members and to partner on educational events.

In 2015, WTS PSU implemented a Facebook group, which is followed by 61 people, including students, PSU faculty, and members from the WTS Portland. There are 81 active participants in the WTS PSU Google Group, where members post an array of transportation related topics, including events, scholarships, PSU transportation engineering and planning functions, and job postings.

In late 2015, the board members, with help from Mandia Gonzales, a WTS Portland member who volunteered to help the student chapter, came together to plan out 2016. We are happy to report that we are on our way towards big new things. To kick off the year, WTS PSU held "A Conversation with the Congressman", with Congressman Earl Blumenauer generously giving his time to speak with students and industry professionals about the history of transportation in Oregon, the future of the field, and the role we all play to ensure that future. The event was co-sponsored by TREC, who provided food and drinks for the 50 attendees. The event resulted in 20 new potential members who signed up for the listserv.

In 2016, WTS PSU has plans to host two additional socials and recruitment events, and are exploring ways to launch a shadowing program that connects students with WTS professionals for a day. At the beginning of the 2016 spring term, the group will open nominations and select new board members for 2016-2017 term.



WTS PSU Event



WTS PSU Event



Marissa DeMull, Vice President PSU Chapter

# special events

## Expert-in-Residence Program with Shelley Poticha, February 25

WTS Portland co-sponsored the 2015 Sustainable Cities Initiative Expert-in-Residence program. Our members attended a lecture and reception with Shelley Poticha on Wednesday, February 25th. Shelley Poticha is the Director of the Urban Solutions program at the National Resources Defense Council, where she brings the place-based work of NRDC together into a coordinated strategy that includes promoting transportation choices through mobility options, building energy efficiency, model green and equitable neighborhoods, sustainable food systems, green infrastructure and climate preparedness.

## WTS Portland/Oregon APA Grace Crunican Workshop & Reception, March 19

On March 19, WTS Portland and Oregon APA welcomed former ODOT Director (and current BART General Manager) Grace Crunican to Portland for a full day of events focused on charting a career in transportation. Grace had breakfast with members of the WTS Portland board and past LEAD/LEAP participants and lunch with Oregon APA (OAPA) members. The afternoon workshop, hosted by OAPA, convened an insightful and candid discussion with Grace. The day concluded with an evening reception hosted by WTS Portland.

## Spring Event, June 2

We had 102 people in attendance at the Spring Awards Event to help celebrate our award winners. In addition, we raised around \$1,700 for the Gail Achterman Scholarship!

2015 Awards were presented to the following winners:

- Woman of the Year: Jerri Bohard, Transportation Development Division Administrator, ODOT
- Member of the Year: Alison Tanaka, Engineer, Kittelson and Associates
- New Voice: Kate McQuillan, Transportation Planner,



Spring Event



Spring Event



MAX Orange Line Preview Ride



MAX Orange Line Preview Ride

## Multnomah County

- Employer of the Year: Multnomah County
- Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership: Carolina Iraheta Gonzalez, Safe Routes to School Organizer, Portland Bureau of Transportation

## MAX Orange Line Preview Ride, July 9

On Thursday, July 9 approximately 150 WTS members and transportation enthusiasts caught the new MAX Orange Line! Guests were treated to a reception in the CH2M Hill lobby with TriMet General Manager, Neil McFarlane during which he thanked the many people in the room who had directly contributed to the success of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project. The new MAX Orange Line opened to the public on Sept. 12, 2015.

Following the reception, everyone gathered outside at the Lincoln St/SW 3rd Ave platform and boarded the light rail for a preview ride to the end of the Orange Line past Milwaukie in Oak Grove at the SE Park Ave Station and Park and Ride. During the trip, participants had the opportunity to travel over the new Tilikum Crossing, stopping in the middle of the bridge to take selfies and enjoy the views from the region's first transit-only bridge. It was a fun evening with many WTS members bringing their families along for the ride. A big thank you to CH2M Hill for providing the reception space and to TriMet for sponsoring the preview ride.

## Karen Schilling Retirement Reception, July 23

On Thursday, July 23rd WTS Portland celebrated Karen Schilling's retirement at Coopers Hall Winery and Taproom.

## Events Volunteer Social, August 3

WTS Events committee gathered for a meeting and social to plan for the Winter Gala.

## Reception for Rian Windsheimer, September 23

WTS hosted a reception to welcome Rian Windsheimer to his position as Region 1 Manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 1 office located in Portland. He officially assumed his new role on Dec. 1, 2014, serving as interim Manager for the six months prior.

Rian has previously held the role of ODOT's Policy and Development Manager for the Portland region since 2006. Prior to his time with ODOT, Rian worked for U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith as a legislative aide, field representative and economic development coordinator. Over the course of his career at ODOT, Rian has focused on building strong relationships with stakeholders and modal advocates in the region. These relationships have helped him better understand the needs of the region, while offering an opportunity to both communicate ODOT's needs and build broad consensus around ODOT's transportation vision for the future..

## Streetcar Mobile Music Fest, October 10

WTS Portland sponsored streetcar mobile music fest again in 2015.

## Winter Gala, December 10

We celebrated the 30th Anniversary of WTS Portland at our Winter Gala this year with special guests, entertainment and surprises galore.

The Portland Chapter celebrated our first thirty years with many old friends, awarded scholarships, honored the Innovative Transportation Solution project and presented the Secretary Ray LaHood Award

- Innovative Transportation Solution Award: The TriMet Orange Line Light Rail Extension
- Secretary Ray LaHood Award: TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane



Karen Schilling Retirement Reception



WTS Winter Gala



WTS Winter Gala

The Innovative Transportation Solution Award (formerly known as the Project of the Year) recognizes a project led by a woman that has been particularly innovative from initiation to completion. The awardee can be an initiative, solution, project or policy that met and overcame challenges to achieve its purpose.

The Secretary Ray LaHood Award recognizes a man who is a leader in transportation and has directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation industry. This was the inaugural year of this award.

# special events

## VANCOUVER EVENT SERIES

### West Coast Electric Highway, February 5

Tonia Buell, WSDOT's Interim Director of Public-Private Partnerships and former WTS Board Member from the Sacramento Chapter, provided a presentation to 24 WTS members and transportation professionals who attended the lunchtime talk at the WSDOT SW Region Headquarters in Vancouver, Washington. The presentation provided a great overview of the amazing amount of infrastructure that has been installed to support electric vehicle charging in just the past few years, but also highlighted the work that still needs to be done in order to strengthen Washington's charging network.



West Coast Electric Highway

### Vancouver Networking Happy Hour, May 20

The Networking Happy Hour was a huge success! We had WTS members from both private companies and public agencies attend the happy hour last week. It was a great opportunity to meet and network with other Vancouverites and even some interested members from Oregon.



Port of Vancouver Tour

### Tour - Port of Vancouver, USA, July 16

WTS members and transportation professionals attended a lunchtime presentation and tour hosted by Port of Vancouver USA Director of Economic Development and fellow WTS member, Katy Brooks. During the presentation, members learned that 2014 was a record-setting year for the Port with a 47 percent increase in total tonnage of exports/imports, including huge increases in grain exports and steel and wind energy facility imports. Following the presentation, participants went on a behind the scenes tour of the Port where they had an opportunity to see one of the largest infrastructure projects the Port has ever undertaken - the West Vancouver Freight Access project, which has improved rail safety and congestion. In addition, the tour provided an up-close view of the marine terminals and the various port tenants that import and export goods and materials through the Port of Vancouver.



Reception for Kris Strickler

### Reception for Kris Strickler, September 15

WTS Vancouver hosted a wonderful reception for Kris Strickler at Lapellah in Vancouver. There was a great turnout of about 30 members and non-members from Portland to Cowlitz County and everywhere in between! WTS Vancouver was honored to welcome Kris on his return to WSDOT as the new Southwest Regional Administrator. Kris shared some thoughts on his new role and thanked WTS for their role in bringing transportation professionals together. Most people who attended stayed the entire two hours as we enjoyed networking with colleagues and meeting new people.

### 2015 VANCOUVER EVENTS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Colleen Smith, FHWA Western Federal Lands  
Irina Leschuk, DL Design Group, Inc.

## WILLAMETTE VALLEY EVENT SERIES

In order to extend the reach of WTS into a larger area of Oregon, WTS events have been organized in the Willamette Valley since 2013. This year, a steering committee was formed by many WTS members and non-members in Salem to better organize events planning, encourage Chapter membership in the Willamette Valley, and eventually establish a committee that could organize events on a regular basis in cities such as Salem, Albany, Corvallis, and Eugene.

### Networking Events, February and April

Two informal networking events were held in February and April at La Margharita restaurant in downtown Salem. These events provide an informal setting for people working in the Willamette Valley to network and get to know each other better. At one event, people came from Eugene and Albany, which shows the level of interest for more events like this in the Willamette Valley.

### Networking Happy Hour, October

In conjunction with the ODOT Planner's Workshop in October, a networking happy hour was held at a local restaurant in order to promote WTS to ODOT planners from around the state.

### Envision Eugene/Moving Ahead Event, November

Finally, the big event of the year for the Willamette Valley committee was the Envision Eugene/Moving Ahead event held in Eugene in November. A bus tour of the River Road corridor provided first-hand insights to the land use and transportation improvements taking shape, which the City of Eugene has planned in partnership with Lane Transit District. Following the site tour, an all-female panel discussed the project at the Wine Lab in downtown Eugene. Terri Harding, Principal Planner at the City of Eugene, Sasha Luftig, Transit Development Planner at LTD, and Kristin Hull, Project Manager with CH2MHill gave short presentations moderated by Frannie Brindle,

ODOT Region 5 Manager.

### 2015 EVENTS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Ana Jovanovic, Anais Malinge, Angela Rogge, Anne Sylvester, Brenda Martin, Cindy Pederson, Colleen Smith, Courtney Duke, Grace Cho, Heather Catron, Irina Leschuk, Kelly Laustsen, Kim Bria, Kristin Hull, Lidwien Rahman, Mandia Gonzales, Shelli Romero, Shelly Alexander, Tara Goddard, Telina Adams



Envision Eugene/Moving Ahead Event



Kristin Hull



Sasha Luftig



Terri Harding

# monthly luncheons

Each year, the Portland Chapter holds seven monthly luncheons from January to April and September to November. This year we had a bonus luncheon in May. In 2015 the monthly luncheons program provided our members and interested guests with information on a diversity of topics and with the opportunity to hear from leaders in transportation from throughout the region and state. In total, the luncheons program attracted approximately 666 attendees throughout the year; for an average of 83 people at each luncheon.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015:

January 14: The 2015 WTS Luncheon series kicked off with one of the region's most influential women in transportation! Leah Treat, PBOT's Director, discussed her top three policy priorities for the Bureau in 2015 and gave approximately 120 members and guests a first look at the Bureau's new work plan, Portland Progress, which launched this year and will guide the work of PBOT in the coming years.

February 17: WTS and the City Club of Portland teamed up to present a panel discussion on women in politics. Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington, Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel, and Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz shared their experiences as elected officials and gave insight on how women can attain more leadership positions. The esteemed panel was moderated by Sunny Petit, Executive Director for PSU's Center for Women's Leadership. This luncheon drew approximately 80 attendees.

March 10: An expert panel including Karen Rosenzweig, King County Metro's Rapid Ride Project Manager; John Evans, Lane Transit District's BRT Project Manager; and Chuck Green, C-TRAN's BRT Project Manager, spoke to approximately 86 WTS members and guests about Bus Rapid Transit. Topics focused on how to keep the 'R' in BRT and the benefits to the transit system and its riders. The panel was moderated by Alan Lehto, TriMet's Director of Planning and Policy.



Bonus May 2015 Luncheon speaker:  
Congressman Earl Blumenauer



Panel discussion on Women in Politics in  
February 2015



Full house at the March 2015 Panel on Bus Rapid  
Transit

# monthly luncheons



Members and Guests at the 2015 October Luncheon



PBOT Director Leah Treat sharing her policy priorities for 2015 at the January Luncheon

April 14: WTS and Oregon Walks partnered to bring in an international expert in accessible public transportation, Dr. Kate Hunter-Zaworski, a Rehabilitation and Transportation Engineer. She presented her research on pedestrian and bicycle friendly communities that give greater independence to people with disabilities and shared her passion for improving access to those with mobility, sensory and cognitive disabilities. This luncheon drew approximately 75 attendees.

May 4: This year we had a bonus luncheon with Congressman Earl Blumenauer. Congressman Blumenauer, as a member of the powerful Ways & Means Committee, gave the luncheon attendees an update regarding his transportation funding efforts in Congress and discussed the future vision of transportation in the region. This luncheon drew approximately 97 attendees.

September 9: The fall luncheons kicked off with a presentation from TriMet's General Manager, Neil McFarlane, on the opening of the new MAX Orange Line. He spoke to the economic impacts of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project and the improvements to active transportation, as well as an outlook for what's next for TriMet and transit in the region. This luncheon drew approximately 73 attendees.

October 13: In 2011 the earthquake that occurred in Christchurch, New Zealand badly damaged buildings and infrastructure, including roads and bridges. An expert panel including Carmen Merlo, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management Director, and Oregon State University Civil and Construction Engineering Professors Dr. Andre Barbosa and Dr. Haizhong Wang, explained to approximately 63 attendees how an earthquake in our region could have a similar effect.

November 10: Jon Makler, ODOT Region 1 Planning Manager, spoke at the November luncheon to approximately 72 WTS members and guests about connected vehicle technology. He reviewed the safety and environmental benefits the technology can provide and also spoke to what connected vehicles might mean for our infrastructure.

## 2015 LUNCHEONS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Cathy Cibor, Dee Hidalgo, Jennifer Rabby, Angela Rogge, Hannah Crum, Stephanie Millar, and Brenda Martin

# wts nw regional council



2015 was the first full year for the WTS NW Regional Council. The NW Regional Council consists of existing WTS chapters in Alaska; Vancouver, BC; the Puget Sound; Portland; Idaho (Treasure Valley); Utah; and Colorado, and includes the geographies of Nevada, Wyoming, and Montana. The focus of the Regional Council is to: help bolster existing chapters where more members and volunteers are needed to sustain the WTS vision; start chapters in states where there are not active members or enough active members to constitute a chapter; encourage collaboration between chapters within the region through events and communications; and grow WTS membership and participation overall.

The Council in 2015 sponsored several talks and gatherings where WTS members from several western states could connect, including:

- Salt Lake City – hosted a reception at the APTA Rail Conference June 22 in Salt Lake City featuring deputy FTA Administrator Therese McMillan. Approximately 100 attendees.
- Anchorage – presented at the annual WTS/ACEC/ITE/ASCE luncheon featuring Port of Anchorage Deputy Director Sharen Walsh June 23. Approximately 80 attendees.
- Portland – sponsored the conference reception and student



dissertation competition at the annual Transportation Summit September 15. Approximately 120 attendees.

- Nevada – held a luncheon November 4th with former USDOT Secretary Mary Peters to gauge interest in a new WTS Nevada Chapter. Approximately 65 attendees.

The Council held monthly conference calls and gathered twice in person, including: (1) at the WTS International Conference in Chicago (May), and (2) in Portland (September).

## REGIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Theresa Carr, as WTS Portland's Past President, is Portland's representative to the NW Regional Council. Other representatives are: Tiffany Jackson (WTS International staff), Paula Hammond (Puget Sound, WTS International Board member), Danielle Smith (Colorado), Elizabeth Faulkner (Puget Sound), Tracy Ellwein (Treasure Valley), Teresa Brewer (Alaska), and Helen Peters (Utah).

This year the WTS Portland Chapter mentoring program has had strong participation with 60 participants in 30 mentoring pairs. Program participants were able to meet one another at a happy hour in October at Saucebox. Mentees completed an application stating what they'd like from a mentoring relationship, and the program organizers established pairs based on mutual interests. A mentoring kick-off was held in November, where the relationships were chartered and participants discussed what kind of industry knowledge they would like to seek and pass on through the mentoring process. The program has a range of participants, from recent graduating students to those in management and executive management. We have participants from Vancouver, the Portland region, and Salem, representing engineering, planning, and public involvement.

In 2016, the program will host two events to help mentoring pairs get the most out of their relationship. Keep an eye out for an invitation to participate in a new round of mentoring pairs in September of 2016. Participation requires a modest investment for a potentially high level of personal and professional value.

## VOLUNTEER

Co-organizer: Matt Hastie, Angelo Planning Group

## MENTORS

Teresa Boyle, PBOT

Kristin Hull, CH2M

Catherine Ciarlo, CH2M

Matt Hastie, Angelo Planning Group

Drusilla Van Hengel, Nelson\Nygaard  
Frank Angelo, Angelo Planning Group

Jeanne Lawson, JLA

David Siegel, Leland Consulting

Jim Owens, Cogan Owens

Kelly Betteridge, TriMet

Sharon Daleo, CH2M

Lynn Averbeck, ODOT

Scott Richman, DEA

Elissa Gertler, Metro

Heather Wills, Western Federal Lands

Kirsten Pennington, CH2M

Jerri Bohard, ODOT

Hal Gard, ODOT

Leah Robbins, TriMet

Steve Litchfield, CH2M

Jennifer John, CH2M

Kristin Austin, USFS - Mt. Hood

Ken Zatarain, TriMet

Karen Buehrig, Clackamas County

Dave Simmons, CH2M

Chris Deffebach, Washington County

Ana Jovanovic, ODOT

Shelli Romero, ODOT

Kristen Stallman, ODOT

Sumi Malik, CH2M

## MENTEES

Caitlin Francis, CH2M

Vanessa Vissar, TriMet

Jenny Cadigan, Westside Transportation Alliance

Kate Drennan, CH2M

Angela Rogge, DEA

Alexis Gabriel, PBOT

Katie Pell, ODOT

Karla Kingsley, KAI

Jordin Ketelsen, DKS

Irina Leschuk, DL Design Group, Inc.

Lori Figone, WSDOT

Eddie Montejó, CH2M

Mandia Gonzales, Alta Planning + Design

Hannah Ritchie, TriMet

Emily Tritsch, City of Hillsboro

Christina Zellmer, Traffic Technology Services

Tasnia Subrin, PSU Engineering Graduate Student

Jessica Berry, Multnomah County

Scott Bucklin, ABAM

Marisa DeMull, CH2M

Kristie Gladhill, ODOT

Adriana Staley, CH2M

Jane Vail, Wallis Engineering

Ryan Farncomb, CH2M

Kathryn Doherty-Chapman, PBOT

Grace Cho, Metro

Patricia Neighbor, Wasco County

Heidie Beierle, Clackamas County Tourism

Cara Belcher, PB

Ted Stonecliffe, Salem-Keizer Transit

# 2015 awards

## 2015 AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

One way WTS meets its mission of closing the workforce gap in the global transportation industry is by recognizing the achievements of its members and women in transportation in general. Every year, the Portland Chapter recognizes women, employers, and projects that have demonstrated in many ways extraordinary leadership in the transportation industry in Oregon and southwest Washington. For the first time this year, a man has been recognized for his career-long commitment to advancing women in transportation. These award winners were celebrated at WTS's annual Spring Awards event on June 2, 2015 at the Circle Ballroom. The Innovative Transportation Solution (Project of the Year) and inaugural Ray LaHood (Man of the Year) awards were recognized at the Winter Gala on December 10, 2015 at the Elysian Ballroom.

## 2015 AWARDS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

We wish to thank the following members of the selection committee for their time to review the applications: Kim Haughn, Steve Litchfield, Ted Stonecliffe and Stacey Thomas.

### MEMBER OF THE YEAR: ALISON TANAKA

Alison Tanaka has been a long-time, engaged member of WTS and more recently a member of the WTS Portland board. Most recently she served as Events Co-Chair, where she provided excellent leadership engaging board members in identification of and planning for events for the year. She performed required duties with superb organization, precision and timeliness that allowed for maximum board member participation leading up to and during events.



Alison Tanaka, Member of the Year

As a Professional Engineer and Engineering Associate at Kittelson and Associates, Alison has been an active promoter of WTS within the transportation industry. As Events Co-Chair, Alison helped revitalize and expand the events function of the Portland Chapter. She led a strategic visioning process that ended with a high quality product that led to more visibility and participation in events for 2015 to help bring the following events goals to fruition:

- Provide remarkable, high quality events that allow our members to network, socialize, reconnect, build camaraderie, and enjoy access to leaders
- Engage and partner with a cross-section of professionals working on all transportation modes (freight, pedestrian, bicycle, auto, etc.), in all professional sectors (non-profit, government, private consultant, etc.), and in all related subject matters (health, equity, community development, land use, climate change, international, etc)
- Celebrate women transportation professionals and exemplary projects

### WOMAN OF THE YEAR: JERRI BOHARD

We need great leaders who are visionaries – able to see how things can be and to guide us in new directions. But those visionaries are pointless unless there are also leaders who are able to combine the pragmatism, innovation, collaboration and wisdom necessary to take those visions and make them a reality. Jerri is that leader. Over ten

years ago, she sat behind and beside Oregon Transportation Commission Chair, Gail Achterman, as Gail worked with Oregon's leaders to set a more aggressively multimodal, holistic, and sustainable vision



Jerri Bohard, Woman of the Year

for Oregon's transportation system. In increasingly responsible positions since that time, Jerri has worked diligently to make that vision a reality in how ODOT works with its partners and how ODOT works internally – with more inclusive approaches for developing modal plans, allocating resources, and doing business.

Jerri is a mentor and coach not just to her staff, but others in the transportation field. Within ODOT, Jerri is a strong advocate and champion for diversity in the agency and specifically within her work environment. Over the years, Jerri has effectively advanced women in the field by providing them with opportunities, tools, coaching, and mentoring to become effective leaders. These currently include Amanda Pietz, ODOT's Transportation Planning Unit Manager, and Roseanne O'Laughlin, Sr. Transportation Planner with the Freight Mobility Unit. Jerri sees potential in staff – and particularly women – that she works with regularly. She actively provides challenging work opportunities to those staff who have the ability to take that next leadership step. Many of these women in ODOT are today recognized as subject matter experts, innovators, and leaders.

Jerri – the highest ranking woman at ODOT – is a well-respected leader in the transportation community. Jerri is sought after to serve on statewide and national efforts. WTS Portland named Jerri as their very first Honorary Member when they started the program in 2013. Jerri serves as the co-chair for the AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning. She has been requested to serve on several national transportation research initiatives for TRB. She has developed a strong network of peers from other states. Planning leaders from other states all seem to know Jerri and it is clear there is a strong sense of professional admiration and appreciation. But perhaps most importantly, she has the respect of the officials that shape our transportation policy and decide on our course of action. From her role in ODOT as the Transportation Development Division Administrator to being the champion of Intermodal Oregon, the national transportation community views Jerri as an innovative, hard-working, visionary, and passionate leader.

## EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR: MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Multnomah County strives to be an inclusive organization for recruiting and retaining their employees. Some of the ways that the County demonstrates this inclusivity are having flexible work schedules, providing work out-of-class opportunities, apprenticeship opportunities to attract non-traditional employees and assessing the minimum qualifications for positions that emphasize transferable skills such as life skills gained through household management or volunteer opportunities. This assessment encourages candidates to apply that might traditionally believe they lack the skills. In particular, this may attract women to non-traditional roles.

Multnomah County is a strong advocate for training employees to grow in their position and prepare them for future advancement within the County. The Chair's office provides a quarterly Executive Leadership Series for all executive management at the county including Department and Division Directors. Topics such as Succession Planning, Mindfulness in the Workplace, Equity and Empowerment, Sustainability in Management and Creativity and Collaboration are some of the topics addressed in the past.

The County participates in two internship programs: College to County and the Summer Youth Program. Both of these programs provide opportunities to introduce high school and college students to a career in the public sector. Positions are carefully chosen to meet the skills and interests of students providing a 6-8 week internship. The purpose of



Multnomah County accepting Employer of the Year

# 2015 awards

the College to County program is to expose urban college students to county careers; candidates may come from underrepresented and low-income programs who may not normally consider the County as a career option due to lack of exposure. The Department of Community Services has participated in both of these programs.

Finally, Multnomah County has long been a strong supporter of WTS encouraging participation in the local board as well as the International board. Joanna Valencia is currently on the Portland WTS Board and is the Transportation You chair which she has led successfully for three years. Karen Schilling served in multiple roles on the local board and the international board and most recently served as the Chair for the 2014 Annual Conference in Portland.

## NEW VOICE: KATE MCQUILLAN

Kate is currently a Transportation Planner at Multnomah County Land Use and Transportation Planning. In her role as transportation planner, Kate leads the County's bicycle and pedestrian program. This role includes managing the County's Bike and Pedestrian Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the County's Safe Routes to School Program. Under Kate's guidance, the County has developed strong partnerships with Troutdale and Sweetbriar Elementary Schools in the Reynolds School District. She has also successfully applied for and secured grant funding to develop pedestrian and bike programs at the schools helping identify and address barriers to kids walking and biking to school. The program's participation rate has doubled under Kate's leadership. Kate is also coordinating efforts with the City of Gresham and the BTA to expand the reach of the Safe Routes to School Program in East Multnomah County. This work has included the coming together of East County partners to seek funding. Kate has been and continues to be a



Kate McQuillan, New Voice

tremendous champion of Safe Routes to School.

Kate is also an active member in the WTS Portland community. She has participated in luncheons, and other events sponsored by WTS. Kate was also part of the WTS LEAP 2013 cohort. She also has participated in the WTS National Conferences for the past three years. Kate shows great promise in making significant contributions to the transportation industry. She is a strong leader and committed and active participant in the work she does. Whether it be leading and facilitating meetings, or providing technical work in regional committees, Kate consistently demonstrates strong potential in contributing to the transportation industry. Kate is definitely one to watch in the transportation field!

## DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP: CAROLINA IRAHETA GONZALEZ

Carolina Iraheta Gonzalez is the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Outreach Coordinator for the Portland Bureau of Transportation. She has served in this role for over six years. Carolina serves as a role model for thousands of elementary and middle school children who go to over 100 Portland schools within the Portland, David Douglas, Centennial, Parkrose, and Reynolds Public School Districts. She is responsible for playing a role in securing funding and administering the Safe Routes to School Grants through providing education, encouragement, and empowerment of school children to give them access, confidence, and support to walk, bike and roll to and from school.



Carolina Iraheta Gonzalez,  
Diversity Leadership

Carolina exhibits extraordinary efforts and initiatives that facilitate professional opportunities for women and minorities in her capacity as Safe Routes to School Coordinator. She interacts with parents to encourage them and their children to bike, walk and roll to school. Carolina's appointment to the Citywide Equity Committee (CEC) supports the recruitment and retention of people of color as employees

at the City. She also participates in examining how policies, programs and funding coincide with serving the most vulnerable – low income and people of color in our City. Through her advocacy, she is working to advance policy, programs and funding to reach those who most need it.

Carolina is always a willing and enthusiastic participant and leader – always ready to step in and do what is needed. She brings a passion to her work that marries efforts to improve the lives of youth, people of color, advancing equity and more. She does not only talk the talk, but she walks the walk.

In 2014, Carolina began a group called Mujeres en Movimiento – a Latina recreational bicycle group. She plans events that get non-traditional bicyclists who are mainly Latina to participate in low stress short bike rides that also include an opportunity to socialize and talk about the benefits of bicycling. She promotes the group through a Facebook page and email, and was featured in a BikePortland.org article. Furthermore, she went on KB00 90.7 FM to talk about the Mujeres en Movimiento in Spanish to encourage more people to join in bike riding activities she spearheads. In essence, she is helping to build a movement within the Latina community to promote active transportation and to provide opportunities to engage in a conversation about the barriers and joys of bicycling and linking it to key initiatives and programs offered by PBOT and the City.

She manages the annual Safe Routes to School Spring Kick-off, an event in which hundreds of families have participated. The aim of the event is to introduce the Safe Routes to School program to low-income families. In addition, she was a strong advocate for the formation of a SRTS equity policy which guides SRTS service and funding allocation in an equitable manner. The SRTS equity policy is unique and serves as a national model. Due to this all this work she has spoken at local and national conference on creating an equitable Safe Routes to School program.

Carolina is a shining example to many women and minorities that they too can participate and assume a leadership role in a non-traditional field for women and minorities.



TriMet Orange Line Light Rail Extension, Project of the Year award

## INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION AWARD (PROJECT OF THE YEAR) - TriMet Orange Line Light Rail Extension (Portland to Milwaukie)

The Portland to Milwaukie Light Rail (PMLR) project is a 7.3-mile light rail alignment that connects Portland State University and downtown Portland with the South Waterfront community, the city of Milwaukie, and Clackamas County as the final link in the South Corridor Plan. Starting in February of 2011, David Evans and Associates provided final design services and design services during construction (DSDC) for the East Segment of the alignment which opened for revenue service in September 2015.

The East Segment is one of the three main projects segments within the overall alignment, which starts at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) on the east bank of the Willamette River and continues south to the city of Milwaukie with a terminus at Park Avenue in the community of Oak Grove. The overall route includes eight stations, two of which are park- and-ride facilities.

The planning, management, design, construction, and opening ceremonies for this significant transit project involved more than 300 women from TriMet, the City of Portland, the City of Milwaukie, Metro, Clackamas County, ODOT, FTA, FRA, railroads, design consultants, and

# 2015 awards

contractors. Of particular note was that the project representatives from the three lead agencies TriMet, the City of Portland, and the City of Milwaukie were women civil engineers. These women were active role models and mentors within the project and established a new normal for what is possible for future projects.

A light rail extension of this magnitude brought many significant challenges. Some of the key elements included: a new LRT alignment that required acquisition of railroad property, implementation of Quiet Zones in the cities of Portland and Milwaukie, securing 11 crossing orders, complex industrial property acquisitions and relocations, LRT and freight rail reconstruction in an active corridor, active transportation connections throughout the alignment, and designing station areas that fit the context of the local neighborhoods.

Project Website: <http://trimet.org/about/history/orangeline/index.htm>

Construction Start: May 2011

Construction End: September 2015

Investment: \$1.49 billion

Direct Jobs Created (as of Jan. 11, 2016 as reported by PMLR contractors): 7,187

## RAY LAHOOD AWARD (MAN OF THE YEAR) – NEIL MCFARLANE

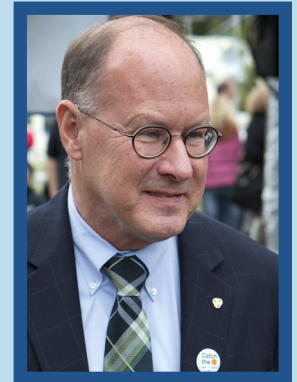
TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane has long been a leader in the transit industry, not only in the areas of infrastructure planning and innovation, but also in systematically creating opportunities for women.

As the originator of TriMet's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program during planning and construction of the Interstate MAX Yellow Line, Neil brought together a team of engineers, contract specialists, and community outreach professionals to open up new opportunities for small firms owned by people of color and women. This effort encouraged small local firms to bid on and win contracts.

On the Interstate project, 71 DBE firms were awarded \$36 million in contracts. Applying lessons learned on that initial effort, Neil has guided TriMet to improve the DBE program, which on the recently completed Orange Line awarded nearly \$175 million in contracts to 134 DBE firms. DBE firms accounted for more than 25 percent of contract awards on the project.

At the peak of construction, women represented 11 percent of all workers on the job and 20 percent of apprentices. This compares to a nationwide average of just 2.6 percent of women working in construction trades. Throughout his career at TriMet, Neil has worked to advance the best and the brightest individuals to the highest levels of the agency. Currently, women hold 42% of the Executive Director positions and 28% of the Director positions.

Women have been promoted and supported in significant lead roles, at TriMet, a nationally-recognized transit agency. These women lead the agency and their respective teams, providing an example inside and outside of TriMet of leadership both on the job and across the region. Known across the nation for their professionalism and effectiveness, these women have not only advanced the reputation of women in the



Neil McFarlane, Ray  
LaHood Award

transportation industry, their superior work has helped define that highly- regarded reputation. Neil's leadership has both supported these women and women across the industry, and deftly allowed them to step forward in positions of leadership. Neil McFarlane is an unparalleled advocate of equity across the industry and a superb example to executive officers everywhere.

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD – TRANSPORTATION AND RESEARCH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM FOR PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY (TREC)

Every year, the Portland Chapter President honors a member or organization that has contributed significantly to the Portland Chapter's events, mission, and/or members. This year, Susie Wright chose TREC for its contributions to the chapter and its ongoing partnership with the annual Oregon Transportation Summit, which is a jointly sponsored event between TREC, the Portland Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the WTS Portland Chapter. The award was accepted by Susan Peithman.



Susan Peithman accepting the President's Award for TREC



Kate McQuillan accepting her award from Karen Schilling



Jerri Bohard giving her acceptance speech for the Woman of the Year award

# 2015 scholarship awards

## 2015 WTS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

WTS Portland has been providing scholarships for the past 20 years to women who are pursuing their education in transportation related fields. Part of the WTS goal of fostering the development of women in the transportation field can be realized by encouraging bright new professionals to undertake careers in the area of transportation. The awards are more than money to help pay for college: they provide freedom to explore additional educational opportunities, and to spend more time on studies and with less worries about how to support oneself while in school. They help highlight these women while providing an introduction to the robust network of transportation professionals in our growing chapter who are the vital shapers of our industry.

This year, we received a total of 21 applicants, with a record 12 for the High School Transportation YOU scholarship; 4 undergraduate, and 5 graduate applicants. We awarded \$17,000 in scholarships at our December 2015 Winter Gala including the following;

- Transportation YOU Scholarship (\$1,000) to Kyla D'Sa from Lincoln High School;
- Sharon D. Banks undergraduate award (\$3,500) to OIT student Danit Hubbell;
- Helene M. Overly Graduate Scholarship (\$3,500) to OSU student Elizabeth Rios;
- Leadership Legacy Graduate Scholarship (\$3,500) to Andrea Mather from OSU;
- and the Gail Achterman Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates and Graduates (\$5,600) given to OIT student Miranda Barrus, which is

our highest award, funded entirely from the generous contributions of attendees at our Spring and Winter events.

We congratulate the 2015 scholarship winners! They all had very impressive resumes as well as a demonstrated passion for working in the field of transportation. WTS Portland is proud to help support the next generation of transportation professionals!

## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you also to our amazing volunteers! The 2015 WTS Portland Scholarship Committee included Kristie Gladhill (Scholarship Chair), Lidwien Rahman (a former scholarship chair), Heidi Beierle, Kate Lyman, and Rae Leigh Stark along with some extra help from former committee member Patricia Neighbor.

# 2015 scholarship awards

## Transportation YOU Scholarship

The \$1000 Transportation YOU scholarship, part of the WTS response for the federal call to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers, was awarded to Kyla D'Sa, a Senior at Lincoln High School in Portland. She is a National Honor Society student with a weighted GPA just over 4.0. Kyla has shown a strong passion for engineering and transportation issues, including completion of a project in 10th grade where she educated herself about the rules and regulations of roadways, with a goal to redesign a dangerous intersection in the community. After counting cars that traveled through the intersection, she processed the data, finalized proposals that recommended new traffic patterns to ease congestion, new landscaping designs to increase visibility and safety features to aid cyclists. This project led to an internship as a Topocoding Intern with Traffic Technology Solutions where she has been working since October 2014 to create a GPS system that will inform drivers about safer and more fuel-efficient routes.



Kyla D'Sa

## Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

The Sharon D. Banks undergraduate \$3500 scholarship winner was awarded to Danit Hubbell, an OIT civil engineering student. She has demonstrated leadership skills in her positions as Student Chapter President of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and Student Chapter Officer for ASCE Concrete Canoe. Danit has a strong interest in transportation and has demonstrated this by taking every available traffic engineering course at OIT. When there



Danit Hubbell

were no electives available during Winter Term 2016, she worked with her advisor to design an independent study class where she created computerized micro simulation models of Oregon's first diverging diamond interchange near her home town of Ashland. While still a student, Danit has a lot of professional experience already under her belt, with internships including; 3 months with RH2 Engineering doing pavement maintenance plans and sidewalk design; 6 months with (CECOP) Eugene inspecting roadway construction, surveying for roadway design, designing ADA ramps; 6 months with Kiewit Infrastructure engineers designing roadways for design-build estimates in Bentley programs. She even has a job lined up with Kiewit when she graduates.

## Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Helene M. Overly Graduate Scholarship \$3,500 was awarded to OSU student Elizabeth Rios. She will graduate in 2017 and currently has a GPA of 4.0. Elizabeth is very active in the student chapters of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and ASCE Concrete Canoe. Growing up in Sandy and seeing Mt Hood highway being expanded showed her how impactful transportation projects are on a community. Elizabeth has demonstrated her passion for transportation through research projects including an evaluation of the risk factors for bicycle and pedestrian crashes, and a geospatial analysis of bike and pedestrian crashes and bicycle level of stress. Over the summer, she also worked on the Multnomah County Sellwood Bridge project as a Project Technician.



Elizabeth Rios

# 2015 scholarship awards

## Leadership Legacy Scholarship

Leadership Legacy Graduate Scholarship \$3,500 was awarded to OSU student Andrea Mather. She will graduate in spring 2016 and currently has a GPA of 3.81. Andrea has shown exceptional leadership in transportation organizations and issues including; serving as the Student Chapter President in 2015-16 and Secretary in 2014-15 for ITE, Student Chapter President in 2015-16 for AREMA (American Railway Engineering Maintenance of Way Association), WTS National Member, and ASCE Student Chapter Member. She has also worked as a committee member of the OSU Athletics Beaver Train to schedule train service for OSU football games. Her professional experience includes working as an ODOT intern for the past three summers where she worked as an intern providing office and field support for the US 20 Pioneer to Eddyville Project, doing field inspection, and working with the Transportation and Land Use Planning team.



Andrea Mather

## Gail Achterman Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates and Graduates

The Gail Achterman Scholarship, the Portland Chapter's highest award, is for an undergraduate or graduate student. This scholarship is honoring the memory of Gail Achterman, and her long service to transportation in Oregon, with emphasis on leadership and risk taking. This year the scholarship was awarded to OIT student Miranda Barrus. She is a dedicated and successful Civil Engineering student with a strong interest in a career in transportation. Miranda has been very active as a leader, including being the ITE Student Chapter Vice President for two years, Student Chapter Member of ASCE, and the Corresponding Secretary for the Engineering Honor Society. She has been honored with multiple scholarships rewarding her hard work, including Presidential, Engineering Honors, Oregon Tech Foundation, OCAPA, SEAO, and ASCE, WTS, and NITC. In addition to all she has accomplished as a student, Miranda has found time to build her professional resume as well, working in a variety of internships including; PBOT in 2013, OBEC Consulting Engineers in 2014, and WSDOT in 2015. Miranda's graduate project aims to improve the safety of drivers and wildlife on major highways designing a wildlife crossing. The engineering is primarily structural; however, the inspiration behind the project is increasing safety for travelers and wildlife living in fragmented habitats. She plans to complete a design and report of this bridge for future use by ODOT.



Miranda Barrus

# appointments



Shelli Romero continues to work with the WTS Board and our membership to highlight the opportunities and benefits to seeking appointments to boards and commissions. – both transportation and non-transportation related at local and state levels. Service on boards and commissions has both personal and professional benefits as you learn about a variety of issues, gain new contacts and learn about different perspectives. You often acquire valuable experience in public policy and programming. With more WTS members plugging into these opportunities, we will increase public awareness about our organization and our work and expand our span of influence!

Speaking of expanding our influence, our own Theresa Carr was invited to serve on Governor Kate Brown's Transportation Vision Panel. And a record number of our members this past year were promoted within and outside their given organization. WTS has also embarked on becoming more engaged in providing opportunities for our members to partake in political debates and policy presentations. WTS Portland chapter held a luncheon on the topic of why women should consider a run for office with representatives from Metro, City of Portland and others. We also hosted a fireside chat format featuring candidates for Multnomah County Chair. The WTS student chapter based at PSU will team up with community partners to host a City or Portland Mayoral race. Raising the profile of WTS and our members allows us to expand our reach to new and existing members, helps us build influence for WTS and our members and provides us the opportunity to expand our networks and to exercise influence in transportation circles across the region.



For more information or questions, please contact Shelli Romero at [Shelli@rosecitychica.com](mailto:Shelli@rosecitychica.com).

# transportation YOU

## FIVE YEARS OF COLLABORATION WITH GIRLS INC. OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

WTS Portland has entered its fifth year coordinating a Transportation YOU program for “tomorrow’s women in transportation.” Our WTS volunteers bring transportation-related STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) experiences and opportunities to girls in the Portland area through an ongoing collaboration with Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest.



Since our sessions began in 2012, volunteers have worked with girls at various schools. In-class sessions have included lessons on bridge building and the science behind retroreflectivity. Field trips have included tours of new and under construction Portland infrastructure, including Eastside Streetcar, light rail construction in South Waterfront, and the new Tilikum Crossing.



## 10-WEEK AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

In 2011, WTS Portland forged a relationship with Girls Inc. to host an after school program run by our volunteers. Our school groups have included Beach K-8 (2012), Atkinson Elementary (2013), Lent K-6 (2014), Cesar Chavez K-8 (2015), and we recently signed up for our fifth year to be at George Middle School (2016). Girls range from fifth to eighth grade, depending on our selected site school.

During the after school sessions, WTS volunteers introduce the girls to various aspects of transportation planning, engineering, and science through bridge building, trail planning, and retro-reflectively (road signs!) activities. The girls are also chaperoned on pedestrian-oriented field trips through their school neighborhood and transported by van or transit to explore transportation projects happening around Portland.



## SUMMERTIME WITH EUREKA!

Our partnership with Girls Inc. continues now into the summer with their EUREKA! Program. The Girls Inc. program works with cohorts of girls from 8th grade through high school with the aim of exposing girls to STEM related opportunities and supporting them in pursuing STEM related education and career choices. WTS volunteers have attended EUREKA! sessions to share personal experiences from college and careers. Our volunteers have also arranged and led field trips for the girls. In summer 2015, WTS Portland hosted two outdoor excursions.



Multnomah County provided a behind the scenes tour of the construction of the Sellwood Bridge.



Approximately twenty girls participated on a guided bike ride with the Community Cycling Center and WTS volunteers in N/NE Portland.

## 2015 TRANSPORTATION YOU VOLUNTEERS:

Joanna Valencia, Susie Wright, Heidi Bierle, Kristen Kibler, Jennifer Chariarse, Colleen Smith, Tina Adams, Peter Koonce, Hannah Crum, Edith Victoria, Hannah Ritchie, Tori Brinkly, Courtney Furman, Amy Thomas, Ana Jovanovic, Lale Santelices, Chuck Maggio

# professional development

The Portland Chapter's commitment to professional development is a key part of achieving WTS International's mission to advance women in the transportation industry. In 2015, attendees participated in chapter-sponsored evening lectures that provided opportunities for members to network, build expertise in their fields and expand their breadth of transportation knowledge. All events included the opportunity to earn AICP and P.E. continuing education credits.

## 2015 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS INCLUDED:

### [The Cost of Congestion - Where do we go from here?, April 2](#)

In 2014 a major study was completed to review the economic impacts of congestion on the Portland-metro region and on Oregon's economy. The study provided key information about the importance of investing in our transportation system as a critical part of our economy. It intended to inform the public, the business community and government decision-makers in order to reach consensus on transportation policy, prioritization of projects and funding decisions. In a joint event between WTS Portland and the Portland Freight Committee, a panel of experts from a variety of fields and backgrounds shared their perspectives on the findings of the study and the state of congestion in our region. This panel



discussion was moderated by Sandra McDonough (President & CEO, Portland Business Alliance). Panelists included Alisa Pyszka (Greater Portland Inc), Tyler Lawrence (Green Transfer & Storage Co), Susie Lahsene (Port of Portland), Debbie Kitchin (Central Eastside Industrial District), Alan Lehto (Trimet) and Marion Haynes (Portland Business Alliance). Opening remarks were provided by City Commissioner Steve Novick and Metro Councilor Craig Dirksen.

### [Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Creating Great Communities, April 3](#)

During this lecture, attendees discovered how two climate change planning efforts in the Portland region support actions and investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help create livable, healthy, equitable communities. Participants learned about the newest findings and policy directions from Metro's Climate Smart Communities project, presented by Principal Planner Kim Ellis, and the City of Portland's updated comprehensive plan and Climate Action Plan, presented by Tom Armstrong, Supervising Planner with the City of Portland.

### [Smart Cities – the Road to Smart Mobility Workshop, April 22](#)

The Institute of Transportation Engineers and WTS Portland, in partnership with Intel and Portland State University, hosted a workshop that brought together a cross section of transportation professionals and technologists to explore the rapid technological changes that are impacting how we plan, build and operate our transportation system.

### [Promoting Safety: Implementing Vision Zero and Elevating Safety Considerations, June 23](#)

This professional development event highlighted resources and specific tools for agencies considering Vision Zero and related safety policies. The speakers presented the range of approaches to transportation safety in different communities, discussing concerns, data needs, and analysis methodologies for identifying high needs locations and short-term implementation action items. Speakers included Anthony Buczek, Metro; Joe Marek, Clackamas County; and Mary McGowan, Lane COG as well as brief updates from Gabe Graff, City of Portland and Noel Mickelberry, Oregon Walks.

# professional development

## Transportation and Community Summit 2015, September 15

WTS Portland continues to partner with TREC, OAPA, and ITE in planning and administering the annual Transportation and Communities Summit (TCS), formerly the Oregon Transportation Summit. This increasingly popular event brings together political leaders, academics, and professionals from around Oregon and beyond for a day of networking and learning.

Workshop topics at the TCS 2015 included:

- Transportation Equity Roundtable
- Performance Measure Anxiety
- Climate Change Laws in Oregon and California
- Connected Transportation Systems
- Zeroing In on Safety
- Balancing Freight and Livable Communities

## 2015 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Ray Delahanty, Katie Bell, Chengxin Dai, Hannah Day-Kapell, Sou Souvany, Deena Platman



## LEADERSHIP FOR EMERGING AND ADVANCING PROFESSIONALS (LEAP)

### 2015 Leadership Training Workshop

On November 5 and 6, 2015, WTS Portland hosted its sixth annual leadership training at Columbia Cliff Villas in Hood River, Oregon. This year's program, Leadership for Emerging and Advancing Professionals (LEAP), was geared toward women in the first two to five years of their transportation careers. Participating in the training is a competitive process, attracting an outstanding group of women transportation professionals.

The goal of the workshop was to develop a life plan based on professional and personal growth objectives. Participants focused on how to reach the next level of their professional growth, what to do to remain excited, satisfied, challenged, relevant, and marketable, and developed goals to help achieve their career and life plans.

Over the course of a day and a half, participants explored concepts such as their personality type and the types of others, how different personalities react with stress and how they thrive, mindfulness and emotional intelligence, their work style and the style of others, the role of power, work-life balance, and change and accountability. They used these concepts to inform their personal vision and goals.

On Friday evening, the LEAP participants enjoyed dinner and a panel discussion featuring longtime WTS Portland members DeeAnn Sandberg from TriMet (current Vice President), Sumi Malik with CH2M (current Mentoring Chair), and Jessica Roberts of Alta Planning + Design (outgoing Membership Chair). The panelists shared tales of their varied paths to transportation careers and offered advice and guidance to participants regarding career growth, work/life balance, and generational differences in the workplace.

Women who participated in the program reported they appreciated getting to know such a strong group of peers and developing an intentional path for their professional and personal growth together.

One participant shared, "I've been involved with several WTS events and programs over the last couple years. Each one brings me added assurance that I'm doing what I love, in the right city, and surrounded by the best support group, WTS!"



Group Photo (from left to right): Brittany Cowgill, Rae-leigh Stark, Judy Clarke (facilitator), Courtney Furman, Kate Petak, Alexis Gabriel, Theresa Conley, Heidi Beierle, Jordin Ketelsen, Adrianna Stanley, Brenda Martin, Mandia Gonzales, Hannah Crum

**LEAP SELECTION COMMITTEE:**

Aisha Panas, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District  
 Jenny Cadigan, Westside Transportation Alliance  
 Angela Rogge, David Evans and Associates  
 Larissa King Rawlins, Parsons Brinckerhoff  
 Amey Rivera, HDR

*This training was possible due to the generous support of our corporate sponsors.*

**2015 LEAP PARTICIPANTS:**

Heidi Beierle, Clackamas County Tourism  
 Theresa Conley, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments  
 Brittany Cowgill, Parametrix  
 Hannah Crum, Alta Planning + Design  
 Courtney Furman, Clark County  
 Alexis Gabriel, Portland Bureau of Transportation  
 Mandia Gonzales, Alta Planning + Design  
 Jordin Ketelsen, DKS  
 Brenda Martin, CH2M  
 Kate Petak, DKS  
 Adrianna Stanley, CH2M  
 Rae-leigh Stark, Alta Planning + Design

**WTS Engages with Social Media in 2015**

In 2015, we expanded our communication with members and others interested in the transportation field with Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. Posting continues to be great for luncheons and WTS events, with the use of social media to share event photos, presentation highlights, and relevant news stories. We continue to see a growing interest in social media as a communication tool and have 412 Twitter followers, 224 LinkedIn members and 124 people that like our Facebook page.

We encourage you to check out our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter and share relevant professional information with our LinkedIn group.

**2015 OUTREACH COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:**

Sou Souvanny, Nicole Schmidt, Seth Baker, Ady Leverette, Karla Kingsley



# 2015 financial report

WTS Portland Chapter started the year with \$46,373 in cash and long-term savings, and at the end of the year had \$46,436; \$1750 of which was 2016 fund raising that had already been received.

Overall the chapter spent approximately \$1,700 more than received making a small impact on the chapter's long-term savings and spending, much of which came from revenues earned hosting the WTS National Conference in 1996.

Of the \$40,000 received from our generous donors in our fund-raising drive for the year, one third was put into our WTS Foundation (WTSF) account for scholarships; just under \$10,000 supported our annual Leadership training, and approximately \$18,000 underwrote luncheons and events. Historically, our events have been planned so that revenues would cover costs; however, the past several years have demonstrated that underwriting events is necessary in order to maintain the quality of our event venues and food service while keeping member costs low and accessible to our entire community of professionals. Keeping costs low is one of our primary goals in order to maintain well-attended events because networking opportunities have continuously been identified as one of the most valuable benefits of membership; we continue to examine ways to balance event revenues and costs.

Scholarships totaling \$17,100 were given to five recipients: \$11,500 of this was from chapter funds contributed to the WTSF fund; and the \$5600 Gail Achterman scholarship was funded entirely from individual donations at the 2014 Winter Gala and 2015 Spring Event.

## INCOME

Corporate Sponsorship .....	\$41,629.80
Membership .....	\$7,190.00
Luncheons .....	\$15,908.33
Special Events .....	\$14,407.97
Professional Development.....	\$4,365.59
Vancouver/Salem/Eugene Events .....	\$469.12
Other .....	\$41.42
<b>TOTAL 2015 INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$ 84,012.23</b>

## EXPENSES

Corporate Sponsorship .....	\$612.84
Membership .....	\$2,624.30
Luncheons .....	\$23,641.19
Special Events .....	\$24,525.14
Professional Development.....	\$4,918.54
Vancouver/Salem/Eugene Events .....	\$350.44
Mentorship .....	\$937.75
LEAD/LEAP Workshop.....	\$9,646.47
Awards and Recognition .....	\$145.08
Scholarships (\$14,000 sent to WTSF) .....	\$14,166.76
Treasury Administration .....	\$2,948.98
Chapter Leadership Training .....	\$919.40
Other .....	\$259.87
<b>TOTAL 2015 INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$ 85,696.76</b>

# fundraising and sponsorship

Fundraising for the 2016 program year occurs in the fall of 2015. With record setting fundraising for the 2015 program year in mind, the 2016 target was set at \$40,000. The fundraising team delivered on its target and more, raising \$41,250. Our sponsors are critical to supporting the Portland chapter's operational expenses and the Portland Chapter scholarship fund.

## 2015 FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Theresa Carr, Catherine Ciarlo, KC Cooper, Chris Deffebach, Kristie Gladhill, Ashleigh Griffin, Julia Kuhn, Randy McCourt, Deena Platman, DeeAnn Sandberg, Jason Tell, and Susie Wright



# corporate sponsors

WTS THANKS OUR GENEROUS 2016 CORPORATE SPONSORS!

## Titanium - \$3,500



## Platinum \$2,500



## Gold - \$1,500



## Silver - \$750



*Collaborative planning,  
decisions & communication*



HanmiGlobal Partner



the mind of movement

## Bronze - \$500



## Pewter - \$250

