



Advancing Women in Transportation
Washington, DC Chapter

2018 Annual Report

WTS-DC



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Chapter Board and Advisors

Officers

President Adrienne Ameel, <i>Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.</i>	Vice President Neela Babu, <i>WSP USA</i>	Treasurer Bailey Lozner, <i>Kittelson & Associates, Inc.</i>	Secretary Brittney Gick, <i>Transportation Research Board</i>	Immediate Past President Avital Barnea, <i>US DOT</i>
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Committee Members

Communications, Newsletter and Social Media

Chair: Jennifer Heilman,
Stratacomm

Deputy Chair: Veronica Son,
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Corporate Membership and Program Sponsorship

Chair: Cherie Gibson, *HNTB*

Deputy Chair: Anita Beier,
Retired

Diversity

Chair: Sahar Nabae, *STV Inc.*

Co-Deputy Chair: Mei Feng,
Nspiregreen

Co-Deputy Chair: Anita Beier,
Retired

Holiday Party

Co-Chair: Sarah Knox, *Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.*

Co-Chair: Christine Suchy,
Amtrak

Legislative

Chair: Mariah Morales, *Amtrak*

Deputy Chair: Jennifer Covino,
Simon and Company, Inc.

Membership

Chair: Danielle McCray, *Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.*

Deputy Chair: Marseta Dill,
Federal Aviation Administration

Mentoring

Chair: Meredith Howell, *US DOT*

Deputy Chair: Sarah Henly-Thomas, *HDR, Inc.*

Professional Development

Chair: Cerasela Cristei, *T3 Design*

Deputy Chair: Khatereh Vaghefi, *WSP USA*

Program Logistics

Chair: Katie Masetti, *Sabra and Associates, Inc.*

Deputy Chair: Rachel Roberts,
British Embassy

Recognitions

Chair: Katie Kraft, *Thompson Coburn, LLP*

Deputy Chair: Christine Sherman, *Arlington County*

Scholarship and Fundraising

Chair: Maheen Aziz, *US DOT*

Co-Deputy Chair: Nancy Connor, *HDR*

Co-Deputy Chair: Sophie Guiny,
Transurban

Transportation YOU

Chair: Jasmy Methipara, *US DOT*

Deputy Chair: Margaret-Avis Akofio-Sowah, *WSP USA*

Advisors

Margaret Ballard, *Retired HDR*

Cathy Connor, *WSP USA*

Anne Stubbs, *Retired Coalition of Northeastern Governors*

WTS-DC 2018-2019 Corporate Members

Thank you to the WTS-DC 2018-2019 Corporate Members! This support helps sustain our chapter, including the programming and scholarships we offer!

GOLD LEVEL



SILVER LEVEL



BRONZE LEVEL



W/MDBE/SWaM



A special thank you to our Transportation Rock Star sponsors: AASHTO, Transurban, Kimley-Horn, and Foursquare ITP. Their scholarship donations will support young women in the Washington, DC area who are pursuing a degree in transportation.

President's Message

Dear WTS-DC Chapter members and friends,

The transportation industry continues to innovate in 2018. The WTS-DC Chapter kicked off 2018 with an Innovative Solutions panel in February that included transportation officials from Arlington, Montgomery County, Washington DC, and Las Vegas. One of the topics discussed included the recent permits issued to private investors by the District to test the feasibility of a superconducting magnetic levitation train system that would take passengers from Washington to Baltimore. The discussions also included the limited amount of funding available and the importance of public-private partnership (P3) projects. Innovation and P3 projects continued to be a theme for WTS-DC events in 2018.

To further engage the executive level membership, the Chapter hosted two Executive Women's Roundtable events in June and October. These events were organized and led by Vice President, Neela Babu. The events have helped increase the engagement between executive women and the Chapter.

The Chapter continues to engage our young members and the next generation of transportation professionals. In 2018, we supported 28 participants in our mentoring program. Our Chapter's Transportation You committee continues to partner with Dunbar High School to reach future transportation professionals. The committee hosts monthly meetings that include inspirational speakers, speed mentoring, and lunches that focus on professional development and college readiness.

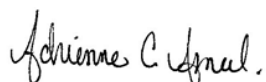
Helping members with networking and professional development is another priority for our Chapter. In 2018, we sponsored four members to attend the WTS Annual Conference and two members to attend the WTS Chapter Leader Training. At the Annual Conference, our chapter achieved Gold Status, the highest level of WTS International's Circle of Excellence Program, which celebrates the achievements based on the Chapter's performance throughout the year in several categories such as membership growth and retention, the Transportation YOU program, and other chapter activities and programs.

Also at the Annual Conference, we won the WTS International Diversity Award for our commitment to considering diversity in our programming.

To end the year on a high note, the Chapter hosted an annual holiday party in December. At this event we honored five well-deserving professionals in the Washington, DC community, along with an innovative project led by a female project manager and an employer of the year. In addition, the Chapter awarded eight scholarships totaling over \$10,000 to four PhD candidates, three masters' students, and one undergraduate student.

Thank you to the 32 board members that supported me throughout 2018. The Chapter would not exist without the constant support from the executive board, committee chairs and deputy chairs, advisors, and volunteers. The countless hours that are spent making the WTS-DC Chapter one of the most active Chapters in the organization does not go unnoticed. Our Chapter has an outstanding reputation in the DC area and across the United States as being one of the most active Chapters in the organization.

Sincerely,



Adrienne C. Ameal
2018-2019 WTS-DC Chapter President

Treasurer's Report

Table 1 – Operations Budget as of December 31, 2018

Revenues	Actual 2018
Holiday Party Revenues	\$9,450.06
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship: Corp. Membership dues*	\$29,630.43
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship: Program Sponsorship*	\$8,655.40
Diversity Committee Revenues	\$604.54
Legislative Committee Revenues	\$2,104.29
Membership Committee Revenues	\$12,680.00
Professional Development Committee Revenues	\$646.56
Mentoring Committee Revenues	\$0.00
Other Programs Revenues	\$9,802.44
Total Revenue	\$73,573.72
Expenses	Actual 2018
Holiday Party Expenses**	\$869.93
Communications/Outreach Expenses	\$603.00
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship Committee Expenses**	\$0.00
Corporate Membership Expenses (to WTS International)**	\$0.00
Diversity Committee Expenses	\$636.90
Legislative Committee Expenses	\$1,274.16
Membership Committee Expenses	\$0.00
Professional Development Committee Expenses	\$1,735.39
Mentoring Committee Expenses**	\$803.31
Recognitions Committee Expenses**	\$0.00
Scholarship and Fundraising Committee Expenses**	\$0.00
Transportation YOU Committee Expenses	\$5,557.81
Other Program Expenses	\$14,088.13
Administrative Expenses**	\$2,075.11
2018 WTS International Conference(s)/Travel Expenses**	\$8,201.64
Total Expenses	\$35,845.38

* Pending accounts receivable as of 12/31/2018

** Pending accounts payable as of 12/31/2018

Table 2 – 2018 Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet	January 1, 2018	December 31, 2018
Cash Balance:	\$40,611.85	\$79,865.55
Other Assets:		
Cash Reserve Account	\$98,985.00	\$98,985.00
Paypal	\$17,378.16	\$5,598.52
Accounts Receivables:	\$4,600.00	\$6,800.00
Accounts Payable:	\$6,490.72	\$20,290.95
Ending Balance	\$155,084.29	\$170,958.12

Table 3 – 2018 Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Fund	Balance
Starting Balance	\$32,686.71
Total Amount Raised*	\$15,596.72
2018 Corporate Member 10% Allocation	\$3,292.27
2018 Transportation Rock Stars	\$2,000.00
2018 Sponsored Scholarships*	\$4,000.00
Scholarship Happy Hour Fundraisers	\$587.17
Complete Streets Bike Tour Fundraiser	\$496.23
Anatomy of a Megaproject Fundraiser	\$1,168.18
Staying Successful and Giving Back Fundraiser	\$1,173.83
The Art and Science of Influence Fundraiser	\$706.36
2018 Holiday Party Scholarship Tree	\$1,577.38
Individual Contributions	\$595.30
Total Amount Distributed**	\$10,500.00
Ending Balance	\$37,783.43

* Pending accounts receivable as of 12/31/2018

** Pending accounts payable as of 12/31/2018

Committee Reports

WTS-DC has 12 committees who contribute to the overall functioning of the chapter. The responsibilities of each committee are described below along with a summary of their accomplishments in 2018.

Communications, Newsletter and Social Media

In 2018, the Communications, Newsletter and Social Media Committee (from here on referred to as the Communications Committee) included Jennifer Heilman of Stratacomm as Chair, Veronica Son of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. as Deputy Chair, Elena Studier of Arlington County Department of Environmental Services as a social media volunteer, and Leslie Thomas of ATCS as a newsletter volunteer.

The Communications Committee works with the Executive Board, the Membership Committee and various program planning committees to provide regular communications to chapter members and friends about upcoming events and membership initiatives through the publication of a bimonthly e-newsletter, e-blasts and social media. The committee has an active presence on social media as they curate content for the chapter's social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. The committee is also responsible for publishing a bi-monthly newsletter, which includes a President's message, summaries of recent events, corporate member spotlights, and other articles written by members.

Notably in 2018, the Communications Committee spearheaded the transition of the chapter's long-time Connector newsletter to a fully electronic format; Figure 1 illustrates the new electronic format. Other committee accomplishments in 2018 include coordinating the development and execution of a Membership Month communications campaign in June, and live tweeting for the first time from a chapter event.

Coming out of the chapter's annual strategic planning meeting in January, the committee created and launched a free WordPress site – <http://wtsdc.wordpress.com> – to host the content for the bimonthly e-newsletter and developed an updated template in Constant Contact. The first fully electronic e-newsletter was published in March/April, with a total of five e-newsletters sent in 2018. The launch of the e-newsletter received positive feedback from chapter membership and helped streamline the content creation process for the committee. As of December 2018, the WordPress blog received 2,934 views.

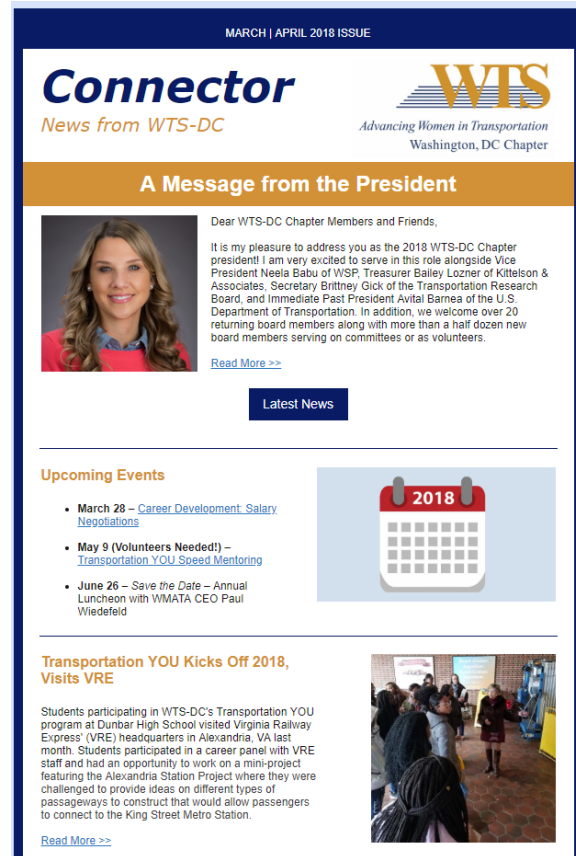


Figure 1 – The electronic Connector newsletter

In coordination with the Membership Committee, the Communications Committee provided strategic support in the development and execution of a Membership Month communications campaign in June to promote the benefits of WTS membership, with the goal of increasing membership rates overall. The committee helped showcase a series of [11 member profiles](#) via four campaign e-blasts and social media. Campaign e-blasts averaged a strong 26.75% open rate and a 9.5% click-through-rate, performing above industry averages.



Figure 2 – Tweet to kick off Membership Month



Figure 3 – Sample membership profile tweet

Also, in June, the Communications Committee supported the chapter's annual luncheon with WMATA General Manager and CEO Paul Wiedefeld. In coordination with the program organizer, the committee drafted a media advisory and pitched local transportation media. The committee also live tweeted for the first time from the event and encouraged participants to follow along using the [#WTSDC](#) hashtag. More than 15 tweets sent from the event garnered over 3,700 impressions, 10 retweets, eight likes and two replies.

Lastly, the Communications Committee continued to support ongoing e-blast development, and managed and curated content for the chapter's social media channels, including [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), ensuring more consistent use of social media best practices. The committee increased social media post frequency by 114% on Twitter and 26% on Facebook. Analytics for these efforts are as follows:

(as of December 2018)

Emails:

- Total E-blasts sent: 46
- Total E-newsletters sent: 5
- Average open rate: 29% (industry average 23%)
- Average click-through-rate: 13% (industry average 8%)
- Opens by device: 24% mobile; 76% desktop

Social Media:

Twitter

- Total Tweets: 148
- Total impressions: 78,827
- Mentions: 77
- New followers: 106 (366 total followers)

Facebook

- Total posts: 96
- Reach (number of unique post views): 3,387
- New followers: 13 (116 total followers)

LinkedIn

- Total posts: 14
- Members: 244

Corporate Membership and Program Sponsorship

The Corporate Membership and Program Sponsorship Committee was led by Cherie Gibson of HNTB as Chair and Anita Beier as Deputy Chair.

Table 4 – 2018-2019 Corporate Membership Offerings

Benefits	Gold \$3500	Silver \$2000	Bronze \$1000	W/M/DBE \$500
Complimentary ticket(s) to the Annual Holiday Party	3	2	1	1
Logo prominently displayed at all Chapter events	X	X	X	X
Logo to appear in Chapter e-blasts	X	X	X	X
Verbal recognition at all Chapter events	X	X	X	X
Acknowledgement on Chapter website	X	X	X	X
Special nametag designation at all Chapter events	X	X	X	X
WTS assigned membership	1	1	1	1
WTS floating membership	1			
Corporate spotlight article in Chapter newsletter	X			

The committee's responsibilities for corporate membership include: developing and updating the corporate membership benefits brochure; maintaining the list of corporate members; profiling corporate members in the newsletter; recruiting new corporate members; and ensuring that the

corporate membership logos and banner are up to date. Additionally, the committee is responsible for managing program sponsorships, which are donations for specific programs run by WTS-DC.

In 2018, the committee took the initiative to add a new bronze level category to our corporate membership offerings. This \$1000 corporate membership level was designed to appeal to small businesses and the public sector. During 2018, the committee increased WTS-DC corporate membership revenue by \$10,000 compared to 2017, \$3000 of which came from the new bronze level category. Our WTS-DC 2018 Corporate Membership offerings are shown in Table 4. Our 2018-2019 WTS-DC Corporate Members are listed in Table 5.

Table 5 – 2018-2019 Corporate Members

Organization	Membership Type	Fee
*AASHTO	GOLD	\$3,500
APTA	GOLD	\$3,500
HNTB Corporation	GOLD	\$3,500
Jacobs	GOLD	\$3,500
AECOM	SILVER	\$2,000
HDR	SILVER	\$2,000
*Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.	SILVER	\$2,000
Kittelson & Associates	SILVER	\$2,000
RSI	SILVER	\$2,000
Thompson Coburn	SILVER	\$2,000
*Transurban	SILVER	\$2,000
WRA	SILVER	\$2,000
WSP	SILVER	\$2,000
Guidehouse	BRONZE	\$1,000
Stratacomm	BRONZE	\$1,000
VHB, Metro DC, LLC.	BRONZE	\$1,000
*Foursquare ITP	DBE	\$500
Sharp & Company	DBE	\$500
T3 Design Corporation	DBE	\$500
Toole Design	DBE	\$500
TOTAL		\$37,000

**Denotes a Transportation Rock Star (a Corporate Member who donated an additional \$500 to go towards the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund).*

Also in 2018, the committee collected a record donation in program sponsorships! The committee had \$7,955.40 in sponsorship commitments from the WMATA event alone! This contributed significantly to the program sponsorship total in 2018 of \$8,655.40, which helped us keep our programming within our chapter's budget and affordable for our members.

Diversity

The Diversity Committee was led by Sahar Nabae of STV Inc. as Chair; Mei Feng of Nspiregreen and Anita Beier served as Co-Deputy Chairs of the committee.

The WTS-DC Diversity Committee seeks to promote diversity and equality in the transportation industry for all, regardless of age, ability, ethnicity/race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic circumstance. WTS-DC believes that everyone benefits from diversity and that by valuing and celebrating differences and elevating minorities we pave the path to a more innovative and equitable transportation system that works for everyone.

This year, WTS-DC was honored to win the WTS International Diversity Award at the WTS Annual Conference in May. The WTS Diversity Award recognizes one chapter whose successful initiatives incorporate diversity into chapter leadership and chapter programs. The award considers how the chapter promotes diversity, actively works to reduce obstacles, and works to attract and recruit culturally and otherwise diverse audiences into chapter leadership.

On July 26th, the Diversity Committee held its annual event. This year, they recognized Disability Independence Day, the anniversary of the passing of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The event “Disability Independence: How to Make Transportation Truly Accessible” featured a panel of disability experts from various government and advocacy organizations. They discussed past achievements, ongoing efforts, and new ideas for making transportation more accessible. The panelists were accompanied by two American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters who signed the entire event so that the event itself was accessible; a big thank you to Amtrak for providing the interpreters. The panelist discussion was followed by a lively Q&A session with great audience participation. The closing remarks highlighted the importance of bringing more persons with disabilities into the workforce and into the decision-making process to understand their needs and to ensure accessibility and equity in our design procedures from the starting point. This event brought together more than 50 attendees who appreciated engaging on this important topic to our industry.



Figure 4 – Panelists at the July 26th event - Disability Independence: How to Make Transportation Truly Accessible. From right to left: Carol Tyson (DREDF), Claire Stanley (ACB), Christiaan Blake (WMATA), and Rik Opstelten (FTA).

In October, the Diversity Committee provided support to the Recognitions Committee in the nominations review process for the WTS-DC recognitions awards. The collaboration intended to bring a diversity focused point of view to the review process and to improve diversity amongst the awards recipients.

Additionally, in 2018, the Diversity Committee collaborated with the WTS-MN Chapter's new Diversity Committee on multiple occasions to exchange ideas for diversity related events and ways to improve diversity in the chapter's conduct and activities. The Diversity Committee also reached out to an ITE local chapter regarding future collaborations and providing support to recruit more women and minorities for their board positions.

Holiday Party

In 2018, the Holiday Party committee was led by Sarah Knox of Kimley-Horn and Associates and Christine Suchy of Amtrak acted as Co-Chair.

The Holiday Party Committee is responsible for organizing the Chapter's largest event of the year: our Annual Holiday Party in December. They identify a venue and a caterer that could accommodate the size of the grand event. The committee coordinates with several other committees on the event: with Scholarship and Fundraising and with Recognitions whose awardees are recognized at the event, with Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship to identify potential program sponsors, and with Program Logistics on ticket sales.

The annual WTS-DC Holiday Party and Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at the University Club in Washington, DC. Over 200 members and guests from throughout the transportation industry were in attendance. Special guests included Neil Pedersen (Executive Director of the Transportation Research Board), Helen Cuervo (District Administrator of the Virginia Department of Transportation), and Paul Wiedefeld (General Manager and CEO at Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority).

This event was an opportunity for our Chapter to recognize and honor the recipients of our awards: Member of the Year, Woman of the Year, Innovative Transportation Solution, Employer of the Year, Honorable Ray LaHood, Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award, and President's Award. (See the Recognitions Committee section for details regarding award categories and recipients.) These individuals and organizations made extraordinary contributions to the transportation industry as leaders, role models, mentors, and benefactors and they generously support WTS in a variety of ways. Our 2018 WTS-DC Award recipients are shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5 – WTS-DC 2018 Recognition Award winners.

From left to right:

- Paul Wiedefeld, WMATA, Honorable Ray LaHood
- Ting Ma, DDOT, Innovative Transportation Solution
- Jennifer Heilman, Stratacomm, Employer of the Year
- Jasmy Methipara, US DOT, Member of the Year
- Helen Cuervo, VDOT, Woman of the Year
- Cerasela Cristei, T3 Design, President's Award
- Darrell Mobley, Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership



Figure 6 – WTS-DC 2018 Scholarship Recipients with the award announcer, Neil Pedersen, and the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee members.



Figure 7 – Scholarship tree at the 2018 WTS-DC Holiday Party.

In addition to honoring our award winners, we also recognized eight extremely talented and deserving students as recipients of WTS-DC Scholarship Fund. Funded through the annual WTS-DC Scholarship Donation Tree, fundraising programs over the course of the year, and direct contributions from members and private companies (Transurban, WSP USA, Kimley-Horn and Associates, and HDR). These scholarships are a way to support our industry's future. All our 2018 scholarship recipients are pictured in Figure 6. (See the Scholarship Committee report for more details.)

The Scholarship and Fundraising committee worked throughout the evening to raise \$1,577.38 for the Scholarship Fund! To do this they used the Scholarship Tree, shown in Figure 7, which allowed guests to choose an ornament that listed the amount of money they wanted to donate. (See the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee section for more details.) WTS-DC would like to thank the organizations and individuals for their contributions of gifts and direct monetary donations. This support allows us to continue providing scholarships to deserving female students in transportation related disciplines at area universities and colleges.

Legislative

The Legislative Committee was led by Mariah Morales of Amtrak as Chair and Jennifer Covino of Simon and Company as Deputy Chair.

The committee arranges at least one program annually with a legislative focus and acts as the liaison between Capitol Hill and the Chapter.

On June 21st, WTS-DC hosted a morning question and answer session with Congressman Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member of the Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee. The event was held in a committee room in the Rayburn House Office Building. Representative DeFazio has served on the House T&I Committee since he first came to Congress in 1987, and his conversation with us drew on his vast knowledge of transportation issues and history.

Rep. DeFazio expressed his interest in finding sustainable funding for infrastructure programs and ensuring those funds are spent on infrastructure, whether for surface transportation or water resources. Rep. DeFazio fielded wide-ranging questions on autonomous vehicles, port structure and development, and potential priorities for the next Congress.

Rep. DeFazio thanked WTS-DC for the opportunity to speak to our members and pointed out that his Chief of Staff for the Democratic Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Kathy Dedrick, is the first female chief of staff on either side of the Transportation Committee.

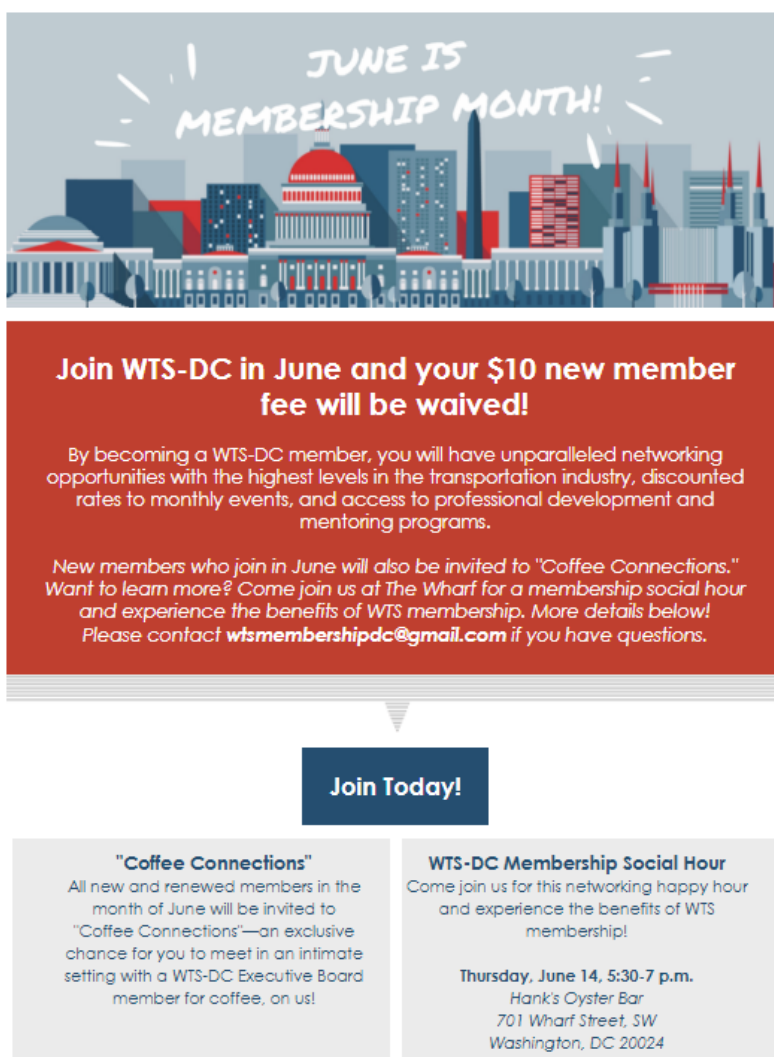
Membership

The 2018 Membership Committee Chair was Danielle McCray of Kimley-Horn and Associates, and the Deputy Chair was Marseta Dill of the FAA.

The committee is responsible for maintaining up-to-date membership records, preparing welcome packets for new members, sending renewal emails to chapter members, and answering any membership-related questions. They provide additional support to the Program Logistics Committee by confirming that everyone who purchased a member ticket for one of our events is in fact a WTS member.

In 2018, WTS-DC continued to maintain one of the largest memberships of all WTS chapters, with a total of 360 members at the close of the year. Our membership consisted of 255 individuals who indicated WTS-DC as their primary chapter, and 105 people who listed WTS-DC as an affiliate chapter. The chapter had 18 Executive Leaders primarily affiliated with our chapter.

Membership Committee efforts in 2018 focused on retention activities and attracting new membership to WTS. June 2018 was designated WTS-DC Membership Month to promote WTS benefits and programs. During that month, the Membership Committee partnered with the Communications Committee to highlight 11 WTS-DC members (listed in Table 6) throughout the month via social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter). Each member shared their transportation profession and the impact WTS has played in their career and development. Their stories showed the vast network of transportation professionals in the



JUNE IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH!

Join WTS-DC in June and your \$10 new member fee will be waived!

By becoming a WTS-DC member, you will have unparalleled networking opportunities with the highest levels in the transportation industry, discounted rates to monthly events, and access to professional development and mentoring programs.

New members who join in June will also be invited to "Coffee Connections." Want to learn more? Come join us at The Wharf for a membership social hour and experience the benefits of WTS membership. More details below! Please contact wtsmembershipdc@gmail.com if you have questions.

Join Today!

"Coffee Connections"
All new and renewed members in the month of June will be invited to "Coffee Connections"—an exclusive chance for you to meet in an intimate setting with a WTS-DC Executive Board member for coffee, on us!

WTS-DC Membership Social Hour
Come join us for this networking happy hour and experience the benefits of WTS membership!

Thursday, June 14, 5:30-7 p.m.
Hank's Oyster Bar
701 Wharf Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Figure 8 – Membership Month promotion.

Washington, D.C. area dedicated to building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women. The Membership Committee coordinated with each member to complete spotlight profile content for distribution via the Communications Committee.

Table 6 – Membership Month Member Profiles

Category	Member	Organization
Long Standing Member	Debbie Lipman	Retired, MWAA
New Member	Rachel Roberts	British Embassy Washington
Corporate Sponsor Member (DBE)	Cerasela Cristei	T3 Design
Corporate Sponsor Member (non-DBE)	Cherie Gibson	HNTB
Public Sector Member	Jasmy Methipara	FHWA
Public Sector Member	Maheen Aziz	US DOT
Past Scholarship Recipient	Margaret-Avis Akofio-Sowah	WSP USA
Past Scholarship Recipient	Sofie Rhoads	University of Maryland
Executive Leader Member	Karyn LeBlanc	Stratacomm
Male Member	Paul Skoutelas	APTA
Mentor & Male Member	Nigel Astell	Parsons

The Membership Committee also hosted a Membership Drive at Hank’s Oyster Bar, a woman-owned business located at The Wharf waterfront along the Potomac River, after work hours on June 14th. Individuals that renewed or joined WTS-DC in the month of June had the \$10 new member fee waived and were invited to “Coffee Connections” with a member of the Chapter’s Executive Board.



Figure 9 – Membership Month happy hour at Hank’s Oyster Bar.

Mentoring

Meredith Howell of US DOT and Sarah Henley-Thomas of HDR, Inc. served as Co-Chairs of the WTS-DC Mentoring Committee in 2018.

The WTS-DC Mentoring Program spans one calendar year. The committee pairs mentors and mentees by matching skills and interests. The committee encourages each pair to meet approximately monthly either in person or on the phone. Additionally, the committee organizes events for the mentoring group participants focused on topics to help advance the careers of mentees and/or make connections with others in the industry.

The WTS-DC Mentoring Committee is responsible for matching industry leaders with young professionals in a mentor-mentee relationship. We facilitate professional knowledge and experience learning in a friendly, interactive environment. In addition to our program mentors, we also invite industry experts and successful professionals in various sectors of transportation to share their career lessons learned with the group.

We were happy to have 14 mentor/mentee pairs in the 2018 program. The Mentoring Committee matched these mentors and mentees based on their work experience, interests, sectors, and personality-communication styles. We encouraged each pair to meet at least once monthly on their own and attend group events throughout the program. We also used monthly check-in surveys to ensure that the pairs were continuing to build their partnerships and were meeting regularly.

We kicked off the program in April, bringing together all of the participants for introductions and an overview of the expectations and ground rules for the program. Many mentors and mentees learned more about one another and “broke the ice” by participating in a round of Networking Bingo. With feedback from the group, we also selected the 2018 discussion topics: career panel, communicating to influence, leadership, and difficult conversations.

The next event was the perennially popular career panel. The event was held in May, with a total of 13 attendees and four speakers. The speakers represented both the public and private sectors. Their diverse experience gave the mentees and mentors a fuller picture of what it can mean to be a “transportation professional” and the various paths to get there. In particular, parts of the discussion focused on the experiences of the speakers as minorities and how this has shaped their experiences as working professionals in the transportation industry.

In July, we discussed the commonly-selected topic of communicating to influence. This was another panel-style event which included four speakers. During this event we discussed different communication styles for the workplace and what works best for different types of people. Speakers offered advice on how to strengthen communication skills, such as practicing outside of work with groups like Toastmasters and other professional development groups.

In October, we held our third panel of the year, focused on leadership. This panel consisted of two speakers, including one of our own WTS-DC board members, Danielle McCray. The group discussed what makes a good leader in the workplace and how to get leadership opportunities. In particular, the panelists suggested practicing leadership outside of work by joining groups like WTS! Our panelists offered tips for how to prepare for management positions, and advised mentees to actively seek out new opportunities at work and “take the driver’s seat” in their careers.

Our final panel event was held in November as a joint program with the Professional Development Committee. We were grateful to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) who generously donated their conference room for the event. This event featured professional speaker and self-proclaimed “idea enthusiast” Greg Roth, who delivered a presentation titled “The Art and Science of Influence”. The presentation was structured as an interactive workshop with several break-out groups to engage the audience. Greg spoke about different communication techniques which he described as tools that can be used to successfully navigate difficult conversations both in the workplace and outside the office.

Based on feedback from previous rounds of the mentoring program, our committee has added regular happy hours to provide opportunities for socializing and networking informally with mentees and mentors. We held happy hours in June, September, and December. Next year’s mentoring program could benefit from reaching out to specific mentors to request their attendance, as was done in the 2017 program to ensure consistent participation.

During the third happy hour in December, we also invited participants of past WTS-DC mentoring cohorts to this event. We saw many old familiar faces which helped make new connections with the 2018 mentoring group. We remain very excited about the success of mentoring program to date and hope to empower many future mentees to achieve their career goals.

Professional Development

Cerasela Cristei of T3 Design and Khatereh Vaghefi of WSP USA served as the Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively, of the Professional Development Committee.

The committee provides opportunities for members and non-members to advance their careers through educational, informative, and skill-developing events. They collaborate with other committees to organize joint events to support career development.

In 2018, the committee organized a total of five events: two events were organized in collaboration with the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee, one event was organized in collaboration with the Mentoring Committee, and two additional events on their own.

The first event focused on salary negotiations, which continued the committee’s “toolkit” series of events and occurred on March 28 at the AASHTO headquarters. Two guest speakers were invited for an informal event where participants were able to ask personal questions and receive personalized advice. Deepti Gudipati, the founder and Principal Consultant for DG Leadership, tailored her presentation based on her extensive experience. She described the part of the negotiation process that most people overlook: how to prepare for salary negotiations. (Her four-step method is described in detail in the PD Corner of the WTS-DC e-newsletter.) Deepti’s presentation was candid as she shared her knowledge and experience. Several participants were able to speak with Deepti after the event on a one-on-one level. Amanda Baxter, the Practice Builder Project Development Leader at Kimley-Horn, was the second guest speaker. Amanda spoke about the negotiations in the private sector and the public sector. Her insight into both types of opportunities addressed the audience broadly as it provided advice for attendees in both sectors. Amanda recently made a transition from the public to the private sector and was generous in answering questions from participants.

A group of ten cyclists, five men and five women, are posing for a photo in a park. They are standing in a line, each with their bicycle. They are wearing various cycling gear, including helmets, jerseys, and shorts. The background features a large statue on a pedestal, surrounded by trees and a paved path. The cyclists are dressed in a variety of colorful cycling attire, including pink, yellow, orange, black, white, and red. Some are wearing high-visibility vests. The setting appears to be a well-maintained urban park with mature trees and a clear sky.

Another annual event, this one with VDOT, took place on September 27. For the fourth year in a row, the VDOT Upper Management Team hosted an event designed to mesh the world of the public sector with that of a professional organization that helps promote women in the transportation field. This year's event was titled "The Anatomy of a Mega Project" and followed events in 2015 and 2016. Susan

On October 17, the Professional Development and Scholarship & Fundraising Committees hosted a joint program entitled “Staying Successful and Giving Back” which continued the series from previous years:

“Developing Your Personal Brand” in 2016 and “Making Strides in Your Career” in 2017. This year’s event featured five panelists from both public and private agencies who shared stories and advice from their own experiences. The panelists were: Avital Barnea, Policy Analyst & Grants Manager at US Department of Transportation - Office of the Secretary; Cathy Connor, Senior Vice President, Director of Federal

Government Affairs at WSP USA; Denise Roth, Chief Development Officer at WSP USA, Former GSA Administrator; Jennifer Mitchell, Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation; and Patricia Doersch, Legislative Partner at Squire PB. The event took place in the Rotunda at the British Embassy Washington. The panelists took turns or played on each other’s stories while responding to questions regarding their professional and volunteer careers.

The final Professional Development event of the year was held on November 13 in collaboration with the Mentoring Committee. In this event, Greg Roth of “The Idea Enthusiast” held an interactive workshop entitled “The Art and Science of Influence” in which he discussed communications, difficult conversations, and how to influence people in general. The event drew a crowd spanning all ages and career levels. APTA generously donated space for this event, and the training space facilitated the exercises in which Greg asked the attendees to participate. The audience was inspired, energized and engaged by the guest speaker.



Figure 12 – Cerasela Cristei moderated the discussion from the podium. The panelists, pictured from left to right: Patricia Doersch, Jennifer Mitchell, Avital Barnea, Denise Roth, and Cathy Connor.



Figure 13 – Greg Roth (center) engaged the audience by walking amongst the group and talking to everyone.

Program Logistics

The Program Logistics Committee was led by Chair Katie Masetti, of Sabra and Associates, Inc., and Deputy Chair Rachel Roberts, of the British Embassy. They were supported by Alanna McKeeman, of Foursquare ITP, who served as an active committee volunteer. Katie, Rachel, and Alanna were new to the WTS-DC Board in 2018, and they all jumped right into the Program Logistics Committee!

Committee members work with board members who are organizing an event to identify venues and caterers, and to offer advice on contracts. They also handle reservations and ticketing for events as well as on-site check-ins. The committee works with the Membership Committee to confirm that those who purchased member tickets are in fact members of WTS. After each event, the committee reports on event metrics at the following board meeting.

In 2018, the committee supported all WTS-DC events, which are listed in Table 7 below.

*Table 7 – WTS-DC 2018 Events**

Date	Event Title	Description	Number of Registrants
January 21	2018 WTS-DC Strategic Planning Session	Open Event, Lunch	46
February 20	Technical Panel – Innovative Solutions	Open Event, Light Dinner	49 30 Member, 12 Non-Member, 7 Complimentary
March 28	Career Development – Salary Negotiations	Open Event, Light Dinner	33 22 Member, 5 Non-Member, 1 Student, 5 Complimentary
May 5	Washington, DC Complete Streets Bike Tour - WTS-DC Scholarship Fundraiser	Open Event, Water and Snacks	14 1 Super Star Supporter, 3 Star Supporters, 6 Supporters, 1 Donation, 1 Student, 2 Complimentary
June 6	Executive Women's Roundtable	Invitation-Only	25
June 21	2018 WTS-DC Legislative Breakfast Featuring Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)	Open Event, Cold Breakfast Buffet	53 29 Member, 19 Non-Member, 2 Student, 3 Complimentary

Date	Event Title	Description	Number of Registrants
June 26	What's Next for Metro? A Conversation with WMATA CEO Paul Wiedefeld	Open Event, Formal Plated Lunch	120 56 Member, 40 Non-Member, 1 Student, 23 Complimentary
June 14	Membership Social Hour	Open Event	
July 26	Disability Independence: How to Make Transportation Truly Accessible	Open Event, Snacks	59
August 1	WTS-YPT-TRF Joint Event: Accelerating Innovation: Rethinking Transportation Financing	Open Event, Light Dinner	
September 27	The Anatomy of a Megaproject	Open Event, Light Dinner	66 20 Member, 20 Non-Member, 26 Complimentary
October 17	Staying Successful and Giving Back	Open Event, Light Dinner	44 22 Member, 11 Non-Member, 2 Student, 9 Complimentary
October 25	Executive Women's Roundtable	Invitation-Only	23
November 1	Coffee Chat with Beverley Swaim-Staley	Open Event, Coffee and Light Breakfast	13 10 Member, 3 Non-Member
November 13	The Art and Science of Influence	Open Event, Light Dinner	46 34 Member, 5 Non-Member, 7 Complimentary
December 4	WTS-DC Holiday Party	Open Event, Appetizers and Drinks	205 67 Early Bird Member, 38 Early Bird Non-Member, 2 Early Bird Student, 17 Member, 15 Non-Member, 1 Student, 65 Complimentary

*Note: This list excludes events that are part of our Mentoring and Transportation YOU programs, which are organized for the specific groups involved in the respective programs.

Recognitions

The 2018 Recognitions Committee was led by Katie Kraft of Thompson Coburn LLC as Chair and by Christine Sherman of Arlington County as Deputy Chair.

The committee solicits and reviews nominations for the annual WTS-DC recognitions awards. Once the chapter awardees have been determined, the committee submits them as candidates for the WTS International awards, which are distributed at the WTS-I Annual Conference the following May.

In 2018, the Recognitions Committee developed a streamlined nominations process, using Google forms, aimed to attract a higher volume of nominations. The committee worked with the Communications Committee to solicit nominations for awards in the spring and summer through email and social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) announcements and targeted outreach with chapter members. The committee's efforts garnered nominations for strong candidates in all award categories. The chapter also awarded a special President's Award to a chapter member in recognition of her commitment to the chapter and her investment of time in chapter activities to help raise funds for scholarships.

During the 2018 WTS-DC Holiday Party, the committee presented the following awards to well-deserving professionals in the transportation industry:

- Member of the Year: Jasmy Methipara, FHWA
- Woman of the Year: Helen L. Cuervo, VDOT
- Employer of the Year: Stratacomm
- Innovative Transportation Solutions: PaveDC, DDOT
- Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership: Darrell Mobley, Prince George's County (Retired)
- Honorable Ray LaHood: Paul Wiedefeld, WMATA
- President's Award: Cerasela Cristei, T3 Design

The award winners are shown in Figure 5 (in the Holiday Party Committee section).

We were delighted that award winners and representatives of award winners attended the Holiday Party to accept their awards, which were presented by Neil Pedersen, executive director of the Transportation Research Board. The chapter intends to nominate the award winners in each WTS International award category for WTS International's Recognitions Awards for 2019.

Scholarship and Fundraising

In 2018, the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee was led by Chair Maheen Aziz of US DOT. The committee also had Sophie Guiny of Transurban and Nancy Connor of HDR as Deputy Co-Chairs.

The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee promotes young women to advance both their educational and professional career while channeling them through the many networking and learning experiences offered by a one-year free membership. The committee is responsible for both awarding scholarships and raising funds for scholarships. Each year the committee plans the calendar year for the annual scholarships. The scholarship documents are updated and circulated to the growing list of college and university points of contact. Once the application period has closed, the committee forms a Review Panel to determine which applicants are most-deserving of WTS-DC scholarships. The Review Panel provides these recommended scholarship recipients to the full WTS-DC board for approval. Once the

board has approved the scholarship recipients, the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee notify the recipients and they coordinate with them on the logistics of accepting the award. Simultaneously, the committee members collect information on the awardees for inclusion in the scholarship awards ceremony, which takes place during the annual Holiday Party. The committee is also responsible for coordinating complementary membership for awardees and for completing the WTS International scholarship applications.

In addition to soliciting applications and awarding scholarships, the committee raises funds to give out as scholarships. The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee raised funds by soliciting named scholarships and by requesting donations to the scholarship fund. The committee received additional support from the Professional Development Committee in organizing events that raise money for the scholarship fund, and from the Corporate Membership Committee who allocates a portion of corporate membership dues to the scholarship fund and who requests that corporate members donate an additional \$500 to be Transportation Rock Stars. As per a WTS-DC policy, the committee can allocate scholarship funding (other than for named scholarships) up to the amount of money that was raised in the prior year.

In 2018, the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee raised a total of \$14,596.72; \$4000 of this was in named scholarships, which were distributed in 2018, and \$11,596.72 in other funds, which will be distributed for scholarship awards in 2019. The committed fundraising sources are listed in Table 8 below. The committee thanks all our donors for their contributions to our scholarship fund, which is its own 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable entity.

Table 8 – 2018 Scholarship Committed Fundraising Sources

Source	Supporting Committee	Amount Raised
Transportation Rock Star	Corporate Membership	\$2,000.00
Corporate Membership Dues Allocation	Corporate Membership	\$3,292.27
Complete Streets Bike Tour Event	Professional Development	\$496.23
Anatomy of a Megaproject Event	Professional Development	\$1,168.18
Staying Successful and Giving Back Event	Professional Development	\$1,173.83
Art and Science of Influence Event	Professional Development	\$706.36
Scholarship Tree	Holiday Party	\$1,577.38
Named Scholarships	N/A	\$4,000.00
Scholarship Happy Hours	N/A	\$587.17
Other donations	N/A	\$595.30
Total		\$15,596.72

The call for scholarship applications was issued to regional colleges and universities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area in early fall. The committee received impressive applications, and the Board selected eight highly-qualified recipients. Among these eight awardees, the committee gave out four \$1000 named scholarships (Kimley-Horn, HDR, Transurban, and WSP USA – raised in 2018) and \$6500 in funds (raised in 2017). The 2018 WTS-DC scholarship award recipients are presented below.

**Mahtot Gebresselassie**

Award Amount: \$2,000

Mahtot is a second-year doctoral student in Virginia Tech's Urban Affairs and Planning Department in the National Capital Region campus. Her research is focused at the intersection of digital technology and accessible transport for persons with disabilities. Specifically, she is passionate about innovations that help transport agencies deliver cost-effective and convenient mobility experiences for seniors and persons with disabilities. Mahtot has a diverse background. Prior to Virginia Tech, she studied urban planning and journalism in Canada and architecture in Ethiopia. She is an avid cyclist and a long-standing member of Toastmasters.

**Minha Lee**

Award Amount: \$1,000; Presented by Transurban

Minha is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at University of Maryland. She earned her Bachelor and Master's degrees in South Korea before coming to the U.S. in 2014. Her research at the University of Maryland has focused on developing an online decision support system that includes integrating simulation-based traffic models with active traffic management strategies.

**Wenjie Lee**

Award Amount: \$1,000; Presented by WSP USA

Wenjie is currently a second-year Ph.D. student in the Civil Engineering Department of George Mason University where she was awarded the Balfour Beatty Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. She received her bachelor's degree from Shandong Jianzhu University where she realized that transportation is rooted in people's daily life and where she conceptualized research techniques to solve traffic problems. For her master's degree, she worked on eco-reliable path finding problems in dynamic and time-variant networks. She published two peer-reviewed papers as the first author, including one in a top-tier academic journal. Now, she focuses on emerging co-opetition markets modelling with EPEC (Equilibrium Problem with Equilibrium Constraints) framework and is preparing to submit a paper about co-opetitive port investment and collaboration in maritime networks. Wenjie is confident and enthusiastic about her future research in data-enabled emerging co-opetition markets modelling with ambiguity.

**Kiana Roshan Zamir**

Award Amount: \$1,000; Presented by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Kiana is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her research interests are operations research, transportation network modeling, optimization, and application of machine learning techniques in transportation. During her graduate studies at University of Maryland, Kiana worked on a range of topics including dockless bike-share and scooter-share systems, balancing bike-sharing

systems, locating charging stations for electric vehicles, evaluating transit-oriented developments, school bus optimization, and validation and quality control of probe data.



Elizabeth Larson

Award Amount: \$2,000

Ellie is pursuing a Masters in Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics at George Mason University with a focus on transportation planning. She is also working in marketing and business development at VHB, where she has supported projects including MD 355 BRT, planning and environmental impact statements for the Long Bridge and Washington Union Station Expansion projects. Ellie is from South Carolina and graduated from the University of Alabama after double majoring in journalism and political science. Since then, Ellie has lived in Boston and Arlington where she developed an interest in multimodal transportation and transit access. She is focusing her studies on transportation and land use and multimodal planning.



Tabia Gamble

Award Amount: \$2,000

Tabia is a second year Master student at the University of Maryland College Park pursuing a master of community planning with a transportation specialization. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in Civil Engineering with a focus in transportation engineering. In the future, Tabia hopes to use her educational background and her dream of a more equitable future to bring just and equitable transportation to underserved communities across the world.



Shayna Rose

Award Amount: \$1,000; Presented by HDR

Shayna is a current graduate student at Georgetown University in Urban and Regional Planning. A former employee of the Baltimore City Office of Sustainable Energy, Shayna originally came to graduate school to study energy efficiency in city buildings and municipal systems. Over the course of her studies however, Shayna realized the potential that widespread active transport and public transportation could have on the climate, public health, and the urban fabric. Shayna is now devoted to proliferating pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation infrastructure, while decreasing unsafe interactions between all road-users, as a Transportation Planner/Engineer at Sabra and Associates in Columbia, MD. Shayna resides in Baltimore City, where she is an avid runner and karaoke singer.

**Shivani Patel**

Award Amount: \$500

Shivani is an international student from India pursuing a B.S in Civil Engineering at the University of Maryland. She belongs to a family of civil engineers and will be the first female civil engineer of the family. She wants to study the latest trends in transportation and logistics, such as mega infrastructure hubs, high speed railway systems, and hyperloop technology. Shivani is also a part of Flexus Women in Engineering Program (at UMD), Women in Engineering Leadership development program (at UMD), and a volunteer at the Indian Red Cross Society (since the last 5 years).

Transportation YOU

The Transportation YOU committee was led by Jasmy Methipara of US DOT as Chair and Margaret Akofio-Sowah of WSP USA as Deputy Chair. They were supported by several volunteers: Britton Hammit, Kyla D'Sa, Arianna Koudounas, Rachel James, Regina Moore, Jade Nobles, Detrius Williams, Semia Hackett, and Mercedeh Teriverdi.

The WTS-DC Transportation YOU Committee is working with 10th, 11th and 12th grade young women at Dunbar High School in Washington, DC through the Dr. Charles Drew STEM Academy, which is one of the school's learning communities with a focus on science and engineering. Our program currently consists of a monthly lunch series to provide discussion around professional development topics, and interaction with transportation professionals. Mentoring is at the heart of the Transportation YOU initiative.

Transportation YOU activities over the course of 2018 included a combination of professional development, college readiness, field trips and career spotlight workshops. The school year will culminate in June 2019 with participation in the WTS Transportation YOU Summit – the program's flagship conference – for select Transportation YOU participants.

Professional development activities led by the Transportation YOU Committee included a speed mentoring session and field trips to the Virginia Railroad Express, Baltimore Port Authority and the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. The students were also introduced to conflict management skills and public engagement activities through our spotlight speaker series. WTS volunteers across the DC Chapter have been recruited to act as speakers and lend a hand through all our professional development activities.

In addition to these locally planned activities, the 2018 WTS-DC Transportation YOU Committee sent one mentor (Margaret-Avis Akofio-Sowah)/ mentee (Jakaria Lynch) pair to the WTS International Transportation YOU Summit in June. This was an opportunity for the pair to gather with participants from across the United States for five days of tours, meet-ups with



Figure 14 – 2018 Transportation YOU Summit WTS-DC attendees on Georgetown Dinner Cruise: Pictured from left to right: Margaret-Avis Akofio-Sowah, Jakaria Lynch, Jasmy Methipara, Britton Hammit

government and industry leaders, and technical activities. The mentor/mentee pair was selected through an application process and met several times in advance of the Summit. The 2018 Summit's steering committee was chaired by Jasmy Methipara, also Chair of the WTS-DC Transportation YOU committee. Britton Hammit (WTS-DC Transportation YOU committee member) acted as 2018 co-chair and will be chair for 2019.

Other Programs

Beyond the committees, several members volunteered to organize other programs.

Innovative Solutions Panel

President Adrienne Ameel organized an Innovative Solutions Panel in February 2018. At this event, representatives from Montgomery County, Arlington County, District Department of Transportation, and ASCE spoke about how they were implementing projects with constrained budgets.

Executive Women's Roundtables

Vice President Neela Babu organized two Executive Women's Roundtables (EWR), one in the spring and one in the fall. These invite-only events brought together top-ranking women in the transportation industry in a facilitated forum to interact, network, and discuss common issues. The group of women sat around the table to share successes and lessons learned in a confidential setting that allowed them to build camaraderie and develop their professional networks. The June EWR was facilitated by Karyn LeBlanc of Stratacomm. The October EWR was facilitated by an Executive Leadership Coach, Kate Ebner of The Nebo Company, who discussed the topic of Executive Leadership Communication.

What's Next for Metro? A Conversation with WMATA CEO Paul Wiedefeld

Advisor Anne Stubbs organized this annual event with the General Manager and CEO of WMATA, one of our premier events in 2018. The topic "What's Next for Metro? Taking Metro into the Future" attracted many guests and sponsors to the sold-out event.



Figure 15 – WMATA GM and CEO Paul Wiedefeld sat down with WTS-DC President Adrienne Ameel to discuss what is next for the agency.



Figure 16 – Members of the WTS-DC Executive Board with the WMATA GM and CEO. As pictured from left to right: Brittney Gick, WTS-DC Secretary; Adrienne Ameel, WTS-DC President; Paul Wiedefeld, WMATA GM and CEO; Neela Babu, WTS-DC Vice President; and Avital Barnea, WTS-DC Immediate Past President.

WMATA General Manager and CEO Paul Wiedefeld shared his thoughts on how Metro needs to rebuild, reform and transform its role in regional public transit. The wide-ranging conversation came as the agency was preparing to receive – for the first time – dedicated capital funding from its three local/state jurisdictions.

Mr. Wiedefeld summarized Metro’s three recent phases as follows: a triage of crises, improving service, and the search for dedicated capital funding. Now Metro is shifting its focus – in conjunction with its public and private sector partners – to its long-term future as a major, sustainable option in the region’s overall mobility system. Individual decisions on mobility reflect the time of day and purpose of the trip, so WMATA cannot be the primary choice for all customers all the time. What Wiedefeld seeks is better and more reliable service so that more people chose WMATA as their best mobility option.

Greater mobility also requires strong leadership and engagement by WMATA’s governmental and private sector partners to tackle such issues as the last-mile connection, late/early and weekend service, reverse commuter service, coordination with development around Metro stations, and connectivity with other local jurisdictions as they plan major projects to tackle the region’s future mobility needs.

The conversation with Wiedefeld covered a wide range of topics including improving service, enhancing customer service, and WMATA’s multi-faceted approach to safety. In appreciation for Mr. Wiedefeld’s continued engagement with WTS-DC’s programs for its members, he was awarded an honorary membership in the WTS-DC Chapter.

Coffee Chat with Beverley Swaim-Staley

On Thursday, November 1, WTS-DC held a coffee chat with Beverley Swaim-Staley. Beverley is the President and CEO of the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation, where she manages the renovations and new developments at Washington Union Station. She was previously the Chair of the WTS International Board.



Figure 17 – The group of Coffee Chat attendees. As pictured from left to right: Neela Babu, Jodie Misiak, Emily Grenzke, Adrienne Ameal, Jennifer Heilman, Beverley Swaim-Staley, Kathleen Donodeo, Kirstin Boulden, Mariah Morales, Patricia Macchi, and Sean Rousseau.

In an informal, round-table setting, the attendees introduced themselves and shared their current career status. Beverley then explained her career path, from college internships to becoming the DOT secretary for the State of Maryland, and now serving as the President and CEO of Union Station Redevelopment Corporation. Beverley chatted with the group for over an hour, providing insights and advice on how to succeed in their careers. She tailored her advice to the specific group and their career paths, and she took questions from the attendees. After the discussion, Beverley graciously offered the group a tour of Union Station.

WTS International Conferences

Aside from our programming, the chapter sends board members to programs hosted by WTS International.

In support of Chapter members' continued professional development, each year WTS-DC provides an opportunity for board members to apply for funding to attend the WTS Annual Conference. This year the conference was held from May 15-18 in sunny San Diego and board members Neela Babu (Vice President), Avital Barnea (Immediate Past President), Cerasela Cristei (Professional Development Committee Chair), and Mariah Morales (Legislative Committee Chair) were selected to receive Chapter funding to support their attendance.

The chapter also sent Jasmy Methipara and Rachel Roberts to the WTS International Chapter Leadership Training on November 15-16 in Orlando, Florida. At the training, many representatives from the WTS-I Board and WTS International Foundation led workshops to facilitate discussion around various aspects of WTS board member leadership. Many important topics were covered: programs, governance, Foundation, membership, fundraising, board management and treasurer responsibilities. More than 100 WTS leaders from across the country attended the training including representatives all the way from Maine and Hawaii.

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