

IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President

2021 WTS SD County Board

April/May Programs

- Zumba Fundraiser
- Lunch & Learn
- Career Planning Workshop

Membership Survey Results

Join WTS Today

2021 Corporate Sponsors

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Summer 2021! I hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy in the ongoing uncertainty of the world pandemic. Your creativity, perseverance and ingenuity ensure that our transportation industry continues to provide life-saving and essential services! Thank you to the transportation professionals of our region, women and men working on improving our transportation infrastructure, technology, logistics and mobility! The world has recognized the vital role transportation plays in our livability! If you are a recent graduate or an incoming senior, you are in great luck! Take advantage of internships and student assistantship programs to demonstrate to the employers your qualities and skills.

We are halfway through the year; it is a good time to reflect on where we are in accomplishing the goals we set for our Chapter at the year-end Strategic Retreat. One of them was to conduct a membership survey to establish a baseline of our chapter membership composition. Our Diversity and Inclusion Committee sent out the survey in May. The goal of this committee is to keep the focus on diversity in all our activities and be

inclusive of the community and membership we serve. We are very proud of our members' participation as we received 77 responses (about 50%). The summary of the survey results is included later in this Newsletter.

WTS San Diego has been busy delivering quality benefits to our members and the Transportation Community at large. Heather McGuffin has organized two Lunch & Learn webinars with the presentations from our Platinum and Gold Level Sponsors. Stacy Williams put together a Professional Development workshop on taking charge of your career. James Starling and the Transportation YOU committee have sent a mentor and mentee pair to the virtual DC Summit. Marissa Thomas and Jenny Vick have been working tirelessly with the judges to finalize the Scholarship awards. Amy Jackson and Claudia Brizuela, along with Seana Urquhart and Dawn Wilson and the Annual Award Committee are selecting the finalists in various award categories. Sunnie House and Michelle Balk are hard at work with the Small Business Executive Mentorship Program. Chris Wahl and Aki Ghebre have exceeded the corporate sponsorship goal for this year! Our Membership Committee is making sure that WTS is the go-to professional organization that is known for supporting our members. And we couldn't have done all of that without our Communications Committee!

Pacific West Regional Council of WTS represents the chapters in Arizona, California, and Hawaii. It organized a bi-monthly networking event bringing the Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents together to share, learn from each other and build support for the mission of WTS. Through that forum, I met Emily Abrahams, the President of Sacramento Chapter, and a Senior Planner at Caltrans Headquarters. Together we started the conversation with Caltrans Executive Management, District Directors and Deputy Directors about the benefits of active participation in professional organizations and societies. Dina El-Tawansy, Director of District 4, Diana Gomez, Director of District 6, Shaline Hunter, HQ Assistant Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, and Ann Fox, Deputy District Director of Planning and Local Assistance here in San Diego, were among the distinguished female leaders at the roundtable. It gives me great hope that together we can highlight the importance of Female Leaders and the role they play in advancing transportation.

Looking toward the second half of the year, we are working on bringing you more exciting signature programs, our Annual Awards Gala, and other networking opportunities. If you want to be a part of the solution to create equity and to embrace diversity, what better professional organization can you find than WTS to help you channel your energy to affect change? Join us at <https://wtsinternational.org>.



Lima Saft, PhD, PE, PMP  
WTS San Diego County Chapter President  
Caltrans San Diego and SDSU

## 2021 WTS San Diego Chapter Board

President	Lima Saft	Award Recognitions	Amy Jackson (Co-Lead)
Vice President	Cecily Taylor		Claudia Brizuela (Co-Lead)
Secretary	Julie Froelich		Jim Starling
Treasurer	Melissa Gomez	Transportation You	Chris Wahl
Immediate	Brianna Pilkinton	Corporate Sponsorship	Lisa Madsen
Past President		Membership	Stacy Williams
Director At Large	Mary Holland	Professional Development	Bree Robertoy
Director At Large	Sunnie House	Communications	Annie Merritt (Co-Chair)
Director At Large	Eleanor Gonzalez		Nensi Lakrori
Annual Awards	Seana Urquhart		Danielle Zhang
	Dawn Wilson (Co-Chair)	Regional Council Chair	Kena Teon (Co-Chair)
Scholarships	Marissa Thomas (Co-Chair)	Diversity & Inclusion	
	Jenny Vick (Co-Chair)		

## SUBMIT A WOW!

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

- 1 Download our brief WOW nomination form at [http://bit.ly/WTSSD\\_WOW](http://bit.ly/WTSSD_WOW)
- 2 Fill out the nomination form
- 3 Email the form to [wtssd.communications@gmail.com](mailto:wtssd.communications@gmail.com)



## WTS San Diego Zumba Fundraiser

By: Valeria Ceron  
Scholarship Committee Volunteer  
T.Y. Lin International

This spring, WTS San Diego hosted their first ever Zumba Fundraiser led by our very own Valeria Ceron, WTS member and Scholarship Committee volunteer. Attendees had a great time dancing their hearts out to salsa, bachata, cumbia and reggaeton music as we socially distanced ourselves for one of the first in-person events of 2021. With over 20 attendees, WTS San Diego was able to raise a total of \$275 for the WTS San Diego Foundation. A big shout out and thank you to everyone who attended and to Caltrans for allowing us to use their space for this fundraiser.



## Lunch & Learn with MCTC and Burns & McDonnell

By: Heather McGuffin  
Lunch & Learn Coordinator  
Fehr & Peers

The first WTS San Diego Lunch and Learn for 2021 was held virtually in April and guests had the opportunity to hear from two of our corporate sponsors: Mid-Coast Transit Constructors (MCTC) and Burns & McDonnell.

Ketty Avila and Amber Linger from MCTC, a joint venture comprised of Stacy and Witbeck, Herzog and Skanska, began the program by discussing the Mid-Coast Corridor Expansion Project in San Diego. Ketty Avila, a Stations Engineer on the project, explained the challenges that this contractor has faced during construction such as the 300 Contracts Services (material agreements, professional services, and subcontracts) and 24,125 RFI's/Submittals/Transmittals. During 2020, the most stringent mandates were followed to implement MCTC Covid Law 'Be Proactive Not Reactive' including onsite testing, handwashing stations, and a zero-tolerance policy requiring cooperation with crews, subs, and vendors. The MCTC team coordinated with 296 Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) throughout the project and, as of 2021, they have committed \$223 million to DBE firms. Ketty and Amber shared a DBE success story of Leinaia's Transportation, a small woman-owned business that initially received a \$575,000 contract in May 2015 after attending several small business outreach and workshop events hosted by SANDAG and MCTC. Leinaia's Transportation now has nearly \$10 million in contracts with this project, allowing for the firm to expand capacity with new equipment purchases.

Next, we heard from Shari Cannon-Mackey, an Environmental Planner/NEPA Lead for the Transportation Market in Austin, TX at Burns & McDonnell. With over 30 years of experience leading the NEPA process, Shari shared her expertise in early coordination during the project decision-making process and strategies to minimize risk. She provided an extensive overview of the NEPA process and the recent July 2020 "NEPA Modernization." Some of the tools she discussed to minimize risk included early stakeholder identification, communication engagement strategies, addressing misconceptions, identifying project champions, and building long-term relationships. Thank you to our speakers and all the participants who made this program a success!



### Mid-Coast Corridor Expansion Project

Presented By:  
Ketty Avila and Amber Linger  
4/13/21

### IMPORTANCE OF EARLY COORDINATION IN THE PROJECT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

WTS SAN DIEGO CHAPTER  
APRIL 13, 2021

BURNS & MCDONNELL



# WTS SD Career Planning Workshop

By: Stacy Williams  
Professional Development Chair  
Twining, Inc.

The WTS career planning workshop was held virtually on May 20th. This program was hosted by Beth Adkisson International Master Chair for Vistage International and Greg Hulsizer, HNTB's Vice President and Western Division Toll Practice Leader.

During the career workshop, Ms. Adkisson and Mr. Hulsizer used a combination of presentations, personal exercises, and breakout sessions, which allowed for a very interactive workshop that helped attendees identify where they are now, where they would like to go, and learn how to take control of their career path with "intentionality."

Attendees were provided with a great deal of information and tools for their career paths. This was a very interactive and inspiring program for all participants that attended. Thank you to our speakers Beth Adkisson and Greg Hulsizer, and to all the participants who joined us!



## Putting Yourself in the Path of Opportunity

## Intentionality

[inˌten(t)SHəˈnalədē]

The fact of being deliberate or purposive.

Who Do I Want to Be?

What Do I Need to Do?

What Results Will I Have?



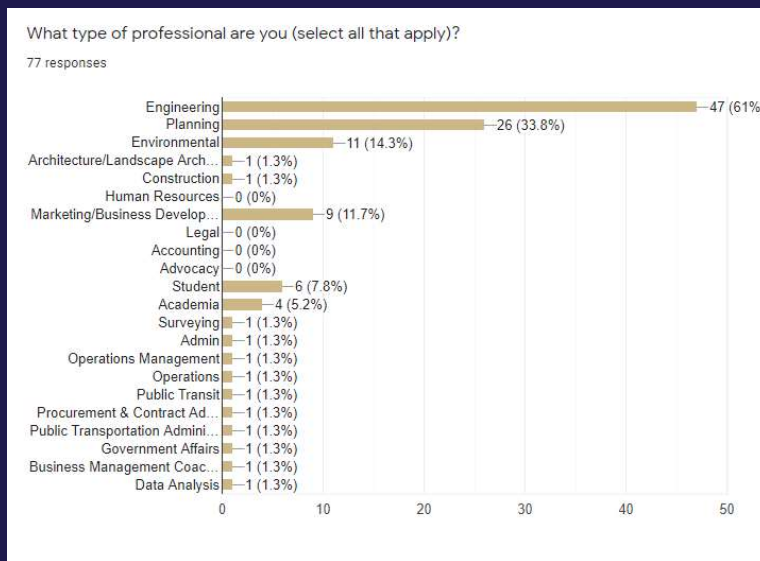
# WTS San Diego Membership Survey

By: Kena Teon  
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Co-Chair  
MTS

In May 2021, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee conducted this year's Membership Survey. Identifying this Chapter's membership baseline and then focusing our combined efforts on areas that may be lacking diversity will ensure we are meeting the needs of our existing members as well as attracting potential new members.

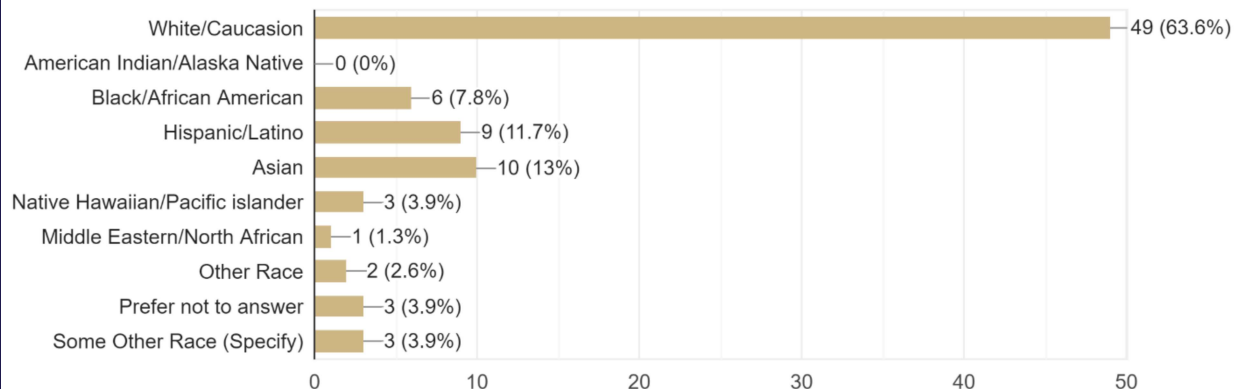
This year we collected responses from 77 WTS team members – a big thank you to all of you who completed the survey!

If you would like to voice your opinions and/or recommendations on how WTS San Diego can be better transportation diversity stewards, please reach out to [kena.teon@sdmts.com](mailto:kena.teon@sdmts.com) or [danielle.zhang@dot.ca.gov](mailto:danielle.zhang@dot.ca.gov).



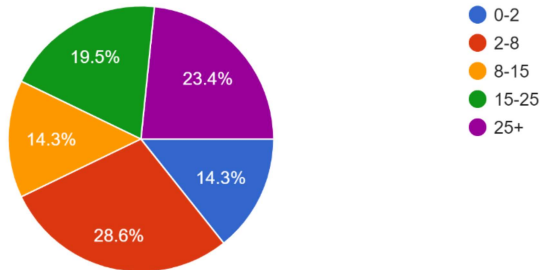
## What is your race/ethnicity (Select all that apply)?

77 responses



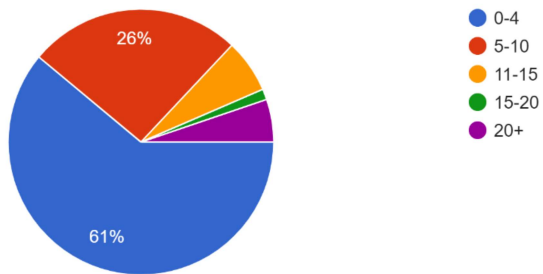
How many years have you been involved in the industry?

77 responses



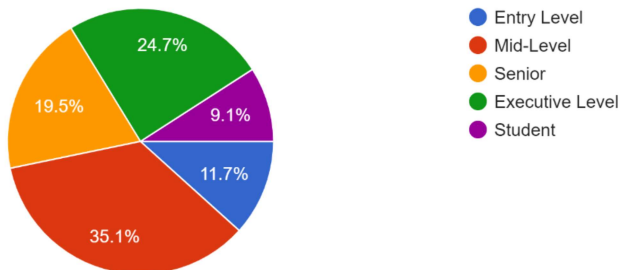
How many years have you been a member of WTS?

77 responses



What is your career level?

77 responses



Within the SD Chapter, where would you like to see more diversity and inclusion?



WTS SAN DIEGO COUNTY PRESENTS

# 2021 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

## SAVE THE DATE



**“WE CREATE OPPORTUNITY”**



Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
San Diego

**09.16.2021**



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

HOW ARE YOU WORKING FROM HOME?



HOW ARE YOU SOCIAL DISTANCING?



1

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

2

Tag **@wts\_sandiego**!  
Use the hashtags **#wtssdwfh** and  
**#wtssdsocialdistancing**

**OR**

Submit a picture and caption to **@wts\_sandiego**  
and we will post it for you!



**JOIN WTS TODAY!**



## What is WTS?

**W**omen's Transportation Seminar (WTS) is an international organization dedicated to building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women. With nearly 8,500 members, including both women and men, WTS is turning the glass ceiling into a career portal through its professional programs, networking opportunities, and unparalleled access to industry and government leaders.

## Why join WTS?

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

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

WTS SAN DIEGO COUNTY

# CORPORATE 2021 SPONSORS

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR  
CORPORATE SPONSORS!



## PLATINUM LEVEL



## GOLD LEVEL



## SILVER LEVEL



## SMALL BUSINESS LEVEL



BECOME A 2021 CORPORATE SPONSOR FOR WTS SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER

For more information, contact Chris Wahl at 619-758-3007 or [C.Wahl@fehrandpeers.com](mailto:C.Wahl@fehrandpeers.com).



Advancing women  
Advancing transportation