



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
Summer 2021
Newsletter

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Dear WTS Members and Friends,

There is a great energy in the air as we embrace summer and start to see a return to normal. June provided the first opportunity for WTS to host an in-person event since February 2020. I cannot express what a wonderful experience it was to reunite as a group and return to the heart of our organization which focuses on the people. We welcomed many new faces and familiar friends to the patio at Como Park to reconnect and share upcoming opportunities within WTS to network and get involved. For those that were not able to make

the event but are still looking to connect, please send us an email at wtsminnesota@gmail.com and we'll reach out to you.

Summer brings additional opportunities for fun and connection with the July St. Paul Bike Tour and social, and a joint WTS/MSES happy hour networking event in August. All are welcome and we hope to see you there!

I'm also pleased to share that WTS Minnesota is honored to have been named a Gold Chapter in the WTS Chapter Circle of Excellence. Thank you to our leadership team, members, and Corporate and Public Agency Partners.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished as an organization these last 18 months as we adapted to a remote world and provided creative opportunities to virtually connect and learn from each other. I am inspired by what lies ahead and the moments where we will greet each other in person.

Andrea Arnoldi
President WTS MN Chapter



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International Women in Engineering Day

By: Kara Hampton, Rani Engineering

International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) celebrated its 8th year on June 23, 2021. Brought to you by the Women's Engineering Society (WES), INWED is an international awareness campaign which raises the profile of women in engineering and focuses attention on the amazing career opportunities available to women and girls in this exciting industry.

This year's theme is Engineering Heros. Engineering Heroes aims to challenge the traditional stereotypes associated with engineers and show engineering as a fulfilling and exciting career for future generations. This year will be celebrating the amazing work that women engineers around the world are doing, and not just to respond to the pandemic but also to support lives and livelihoods every day. (www.inwed.org.uk, 2021).

WES has profiled the best, brightest and bravest women in engineering, who recognize a problem, then dare to be part of the solution, who undertake everyday 'heroics' as much as emergency ones. The Royal Academy of Engineering has partnered with Becoming X and Amazon to celebrate pioneers in engineering and technology, with a new This is Engineering series to inspire the next generation to become engineers of the future. These uplifting and empowering films show that engineers all have different stories. Their resilience and tenacity have led them to careers where they make a difference as engineering heroes. (www.inwed.org.uk/sponsorship/engineering-hero-stories, 2021).



References:

"Engineering Heros" *International Women in Engineering Day*, www.inwed.org.uk/.

"Engineering Heroes Stories" *International Women in Engineering Day*,
www.inwed.org.uk/sponsorship/engineering-hero-stories/.

TYOU UPDATE:

Transportation YOU (TYOU) wrapped up the 2020-2021 school year. Our last session with Blaine High School was on Friday, May 21, 2021 where we invited TYOU Alumni, Kellie Urman, to share her experience with TYOU to current Mentees. In June, WTS International held the 2021 Transportation YOU – DC Summit virtually. It was attended by Blaine High School student, Jayda Zuchowski, and her Mentor, Laura Melcher. The Summit lasted 3 days, between June 22 through 24, and consisted of networking, transportation games, and virtual tours. We are continuing to plan for next school year!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS—

TYOU is looking for mentors for the 2021-2022 school year with Blaine High School. This will be a volunteer position that will consist of less than 2 hours of planning and about 2 hours of classroom time a month between the months September – May. Each Mentor will be paired with 1 to 3 Mentees. We are also looking for a TYOU Co-Chair. If you are interested in becoming a Mentor or Co-Chair, please contact Laura Melcher at LMelcher@braunintertec.com.



CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:



MN OFFICES:

MINNEAPOLIS (2) AND THIEF RIVER

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OFFERED:

Design, planning, bridges, rail, traffic, transit, transportation architecture, design-build, strategic communications/public outreach, construction services, environmental, and project controls.



MN OFFICES:

MINNEAPOLIS

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OFFERED:

Program management, Alternative delivery - design -build and CM/GC, Traffic Management and ITS , Bridges and Structures, Planning, Roads and Highways, Utilities, Stormwater, Rail/Transit, Aviation, Technology, and Tolling/Managed Lanes

WHY HDR SUPPORTS WTS MN:

At HDR, diversity is what makes us strong, both in our project work and in the leaders who guide us every day. We recruit and retain many talented women and men in the transportation industry by providing a diverse and inclusive work environment, a strong mentoring program, and an opportunity for career advancement through enriching and challenging opportunities. Key HDR staff serve on the WTS International Board of Directors in addition to chairing the WTS International Foundation Board. In Minnesota, we are honored to support our local chapter. We embrace the strengths and diversity of the communities we support, including the many outstanding women professionals who work to solve Minnesota's transportation challenges. Our company culture is designed to inspire capable, successful women. Together, we make great things possible.

WHY HNTB SUPPORTS WTS MN:

WTS provides HNTB a platform for learning about professional opportunities, access to technical education, expertise and top leaders in the industry, all while focusing on diversity and inclusion and offering growth opportunities to women within the transportation industry.

At HNTB, we have made a corporate commitment to the advancement of environmental and community sustainability. In all our projects we are attentive to understand the effects of our work on environmental sustainability – from the paper we use in our documentation through design and project implementation.

PROGRAMS UPDATE:

MAY PROGRAM RECAP—ALL THINGS DRONES

Moderated by Cassandra Issakson, director of MnDOT's Office of Aeronautics Services, the WTS's May Program hosted a virtual panel of local drone specialists from the public and private sectors. Panelists and presenters included Katie Gilmore, MnDOT UAS Program Manager, Jennifer Wells, MnDOT Bridge Office, and Andrew Zeilike, drone operator at KLJ Engineering. Each panelists shared a variety of information related to the commercial drone industry, the technology, and the significant impact drones have on the aviation and transportation industry. For example, panelists discussed ways in which drones are improving worker safety, bridge inspections, the ability to capture 3D information, construction documentation, and public engagement efforts. Additionally, attendees learned about drone regulations, requirements, operating rules, and the future of drone technology at a state and national level. After the presentation, it was clear that drones are here to stay and have significant potential to continue improving our transportation industry!

JUNE PROGRAM RECAP—CLIMATE AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE ACTION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Our June program was moderated by Tim Sexton, Assistant Commissioner for Sustainability and Public Health at MnDOT. Tim kicked off the webinar by introducing guests Diana McKeown and Abby Finish from the Great Plains Institute, located in Minneapolis. Diana and Abby are specialists helping communities in Minnesota and around the Midwest to implement energy and climate action plans, prepare cities for electric-vehicle (EV) readiness, and lead statewide initiatives including the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS), GreenStep Cities, Cities Charging Ahead (CCA), and Powering Ahead with Vehicle Electrification (PAVE).

Abby began the presentation by sharing information regarding Minnesota-specific greenhouse gas emission metrics, sharing that the state has a goal to reduce GHG by 20% by 2050 - where transportation is now the greatest source of GHG in Minnesota. She emphasized how critical local climate action is in reducing these emissions and creating a cleaner and safer state.

Diana followed by sharing her experience leading the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT), which is a state-wide partnership that provides hands-on assistance for communities looking to achieve clean initiatives. Perhaps some of the biggest take-aways Diana shared with the group were providing Principles of EV-Readiness for communities and several action-items cities can complete to become EV-Ready - with education at its core.



JULY PROGRAM —SAINT PAUL BIKE TOUR:

WEDNESDAY JULY 21, 4:30-7:30

We are excited for the WTS bike tour of the Wakáŋ Tipi Center and Capital City Bikeway in Saint Paul! The tour will begin and end at City House (Red River Kitchen) in Saint Paul (258 Mill St, Saint Paul, MN 55102). At this time, the bike tour portion of the event is full. We would love for you to join us for happy hour after the event ([Register here!](#)). If you would like to be added to the waitlist for the bike tour, please email Lyssa Leitner (Lyssa.Leitner@co.washington.mn.us).

AUGUST PROGRAM —MSES/WTS JOINT SOCIAL EVENT: THURSDAY AUGUST 19, 4-7

Join together with other professionals in the transportation infrastructure industry for happy hour drinks and appetizers at La Doña (2114 Fremont Ave N, Minneapolis 55405). [Register here!](#)



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: We are growing as a chapter and have so many ways to get involved. See what opportunities are available [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PHYKBD) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PHYKBD>)!

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

Celebrating milestones for our members and friends. Have member news to share? Send in snippets about job changes, life milestones, and other accomplishments to [Emily Bowen](#) so we can recognize our colleagues!

Lyssa Leitner— Accepted a new position at Washington County as the Public Works Planning Division Director.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS:

We appreciate your support! You make all our programs, scholarships, and outreach possible .

ADVOCATE



SUPPORTER LEVEL:

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HR Green	Terracon

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Isthmus Engineering	Professional Engineering Services
LV Engineering	Rani Engineering
Minnesota Transportation Alliance	Sambatek
MN Best	Zan Associates

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Washington County
Metro Transit