

# WTS-GNY ANNUAL REPORT

2016



Advancing Women in Transportation  
Greater New York Chapter

# DEAR VALUED MEMBERS



President Polina Knaster

This past year, 2016, was one of continued growth for WTS-GNY, which maintained its prominence as WTS International's largest chapter. The Board launched a wide range of programs and

networking events that were critical to the Chapter's success. The Board focused on:

- Demonstrating the value of membership;
- Offering opportunities for career and leadership development;
- Providing smaller forums for sharing of career and personal insight;
- Delivering programs and events for professionals at all stages of their careers;

- Visiting industry firms and agencies to introduce WTS to employees;
- Providing high-caliber speakers to attract broad event attendance

Our annual meeting was an occasion to honor members' contributions to the Chapter, and to those who have been leaders in spearheading greater diversity and innovation in the workplace. Karen Rae, the newly appointed Senior Advisor for Innovative Project Delivery for the Empire State Development Corporation, was the featured speaker. This sold-out event also included the annual W/M/S/DBE Expo which offered a wonderful opportunity for networking between our small business corporate partners and industry professionals.

Our New Jersey winter and summer solstice networking events provided new members with opportunities to learn about WTS-GNY and also master the

skills of the "Elevator Speech," a presentation by one of the GNY members. And our third summer of free member-exclusive "Learn from a Leader" weekly roundtable discussions for 15 to 20 professionals, were hosted by successful women leaders.

To boost our membership and retain current members, we have held several "appreciation" events in recent years. The most talked-about event of this past summer was the cruise around Lower Manhattan. And the December holiday party was another well-attended affair in Midtown Manhattan.

In May, we hosted a program entitled "Turning Challenges into Opportunities, Alternate Delivery of Capital Construction Projects." The panel of accomplished women who shared their thoughts on the subject included Maria Corrado

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## GNY Chapter's 2016-2017 Corporate Partners

### DIAMOND

General Contractors Association of New York  
Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.  
HDR  
HNTB  
Jacobs  
Parsons  
STV  
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

### RUBY

AECOM  
Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc.  
Stantec Inc.

### EMERALD

AKRF  
Arup  
LTK Enginerring

### SAPPHIRE

Cambridge Systematics  
CH2M  
Dewberry  
Gannett Fleming  
HAKS  
NY Building Congress  
Sam Schwartz Engineering  
Systra

### W/M/S/DBE

Arora & Associates  
Arora Engineers  
B. Thayer Associates  
Envision Consultants, Ltd.  
Interactive Elements Inc.  
Malick & Scherer  
Marine Tiger Technologies  
Stellar Services  
Studio L'Image  
Wilson Ihrig

The Greater New York Chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank all the companies, agencies and individuals who have generously contributed to WTS-GNY and supported our programs and services. We look forward to your continued support in 2017.

COVER ART: Desiree Gazzo

# AWARDS

## Woman of the Year



Karen Rae, senior advisor, Empire State Development Corp.

**Karen Rae** was appointed senior advisor for Innovative Project Delivery for Empire State Development (ESD) in May 2015. She leads the ESD team working to develop new best practices guidance to bolster the MTA's use of the design-build project delivery method. Currently, she is the strategic design-build procurement and integrity lead on ESD's Javits Expansion project.

A nationally-recognized transportation expert with over 35 years of experience, Rae previously served as Gov. Cuomo's deputy secretary for Transportation. In that role, she oversaw the budget, policy and the governor's initiatives within the transportation portfolio, including the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), NYS Thruway/Canals Corporation, MTA, Department of Motor Vehicles, Port Authority of NY & NJ and NYS Bridge Authority. She has represented Cuomo during the introduction and enactment of the state's design-build legislation. Utilizing this law, Rae coordinated three transportation agencies' efforts to expedite environmental review and project procurement. She played an integral role in the governor's initiative to secure a \$1.6 billion federal TIFIA loan for the Tappan Zee Bridge replacement.

Rae's long career also includes a stint as deputy administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, where she managed the federal high-speed rail initiative and developed national freight- and passenger-rail policy. In addition, Rae has served as deputy commissioner at the NYSDOT and as director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, where she spearheaded the successful negotiation of a public-private partnership agreement to advance the Dulles Rail project. In addition, she has been director or general manager of other transit systems in the nation. Rae was named WTS International Woman of the Year in 2010.

## Member of the Year



Membership Committee Co-Chair Barbara Kearsse (LIRR)

The Member of the Year Award was presented to **Barbara Kearsse**, co-chair of the WTS-GNY Membership Committee, and Deputy Chief Compliance Officer at Long Island Rail Road because of her demonstrated commitment to increasing membership and drawing more members from the public sector. In fact, because Ms. Kearsse believed so strongly that her colleagues would benefit

from WTS through its professional development, mentoring and leadership training programs, as well as the networking opportunity the organization offers people in the transportation industry,

she created a brown bag lunch for LIRR employees to learn more about WTS. Due to her hard work, the event was a huge success, drawing more than 100 attendees. Ms. Kearsse did not stop once the luncheon had taken place, but followed up with attendees to answer questions and help them fill out and process application forms. Her next step is to customize a program for WTS LIRR members, so that they can take advantage of the many benefits WTS offers.

## Employer of the Year



Michael Sweeney, senior vice president accepted the award on behalf of HNTB

Because of its unwavering commitment to advancing women in transportation, **HNTB** received the 2016 Employer of the Year Award. The firm's "Champion level corporate partnership with WTS demonstrates its commitment to the development of all professionals, especially women. Thirty HNTB emerging women leaders serve WTS in leadership roles ranging from Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Chair, Annual

Conference organizers, Vice President, President, and Past President. Participating in and supporting WTS is a major component of the firm's business and people strategy. The HNTB New York office has increased its involvement and support for the WTS GNY Chapter and its membership has increased by triple digits in the last twelve months alone.

## Ray LaHood Award



Ian Campo, teacher and work-based learning coordinator, City Polytechnic High School

**Ian Campo**, teacher and work-based learning coordinator at City Polytechnic High School, received the Ray LaHood Award this year as a result of his having dedicated countless hours to inspiring young women to pursue careers in STEM as the school coordinator for the WTS NY Chapter's Transportation YOU program. Since the school's student body is only 25 percent female, Campo recognizes the special need to support young women in

a STEM program and to encourage them in the related education and careers that they can pursue. Campo has ushered in over 100 female students from diverse backgrounds into the Transportation YOU mentoring program, and has arranged all of the logistics for site tours for these young women. This involves scheduling the tours, coordinating travel and chaperones, not to mention developing an internship program. Over the past couple of summers, Campo successfully arranged paid summer internships through

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# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The programs in 2016 focused on women's advancement and strategies for maximizing success, but there was a range of events that also explored very different aspects of the field.

In addition to the many events in NYC, there was also a rich

assortment of offerings in New Jersey, including a program on automated cars.

The following is a summary of the variety of topics and speakers at our 2016 programs:

## JANUARY

NJ Winter Solstice Celebration

## FEBRUARY

36th Annual Awards Program and 19th Annual M/W/S/DBE Expo

**Keynote Speaker**

Karen Rae, Senior Advisor, Empire State Development Corporation

## MARCH

NJ Program: Transit Villages and Transit-oriented Development Panel Discussion



Annual Meeting. Incoming WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR) presented a plaque to outgoing president Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff) for her service to the organization.



From left: Keynote speaker Karen Rae (Empire State Development Corp.) and WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR) at the Annual Meeting.



WTS-GNY Programs Committee (NY) Chair Alexa Gangemi (CH2M) (right) presented the Innovative Transport Solutions Award to Jules Flynn of Motivate, which won for the Citi Bike program at the Annual Meeting.



From left: Marcia Shapiro, president, Marine Tiger Technologies, which is a corporate sponsor and was one of the Expo exhibitors, and Naomi Klein (Westchester County Dept. of Public Works) at the Annual Meeting.



From left: 2016 Member of the Year Barbara Kears (LIRR); Ray LaHood Award recipient Ian Campo (Polytechnic High School); WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR); Susan L. Kupferman Scholarship winner Kaitlin Lang; and HNTB Senior Vice President Michael Sweeney, who accepted the 2016 Employer of the Year Award at the Annual Meeting.



From left: WTS-GNY Vice President (NJ) Colleen Connolly (Malick & Scherer); WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR); Janet Keiser, Gannett Fleming, at the NJ Winter Solstice Celebration.



March panel discussion. From left: Vivian Baker, NJ Transit; Annie Hindenlang, Perth Amboy Office of Economic and Community Development; Debra Tantleff, Tantum Realty; and Mary K. Murphy, NJTPA.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## APRIL

Scholarship Fundraiser Wine Tasting

Tea Time with NYCT President Ronnie Hakim

Transportation Trivia Night

Trending Topics Series: Active/Green Transportation



From left: Silas Bensing (Wilson Ihrig); Craig Andrews (Malick & Scherer, PC); and Ani Toncheva (Wilson Ihrig) at the Scholarship Fundraiser.



Tea Time with NYCT President Veronique "Ronnie" Hakim, center, and others from the agency and Transportation YOU interns.

## MAY

Spring Dinner

Panel Discussion: "Turning Challenges into Opportunities: Alternate Delivery in Capital-Construction"

### Moderator

Sarah Kaufman, Assistant Director for Technology Programming at the NYU Rudin Center for Transportation Policy



The winning team at the Transportation Trivia Night event was The #Feltsociety.



Trending Topics panel. From left: Katie Theis, HNTB; Nette Compton, ParkCentral and City Park Development for the Trust for Public Land; and Dani Simons, Motivate.

## JUNE

NJ Summer Solstice Celebration

Learn from a Leader Roundtable Series

### Speakers

Yvonne Lopez-Diaz, Vice President, HNTB, Human Resources Director, NY  
Lisa Navarro, Senior Project Engineer, NJ Turnpike Authority



May panel discussion. From left: WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR); WTS-GNY Programs Committee (NY) Co-Chair Kellyann Valentine (PANY&NJ); WTS-GNY Immediate Past President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff).



From left: WTS-GNY Secretary Donna Tafro (MTA); Catherine Rinaldi, MNR; WTS-GNY Advisory Board Member Anita Miller (MTA); WTS-GNY Membership Committee Chair Barbara Kearse (LIRR) at May panel discussion.

## JULY

Membership Appreciation Cruise Around Lower Manhattan

Learn from a Leader Roundtable Series

### Speakers

Dana Hecht, Director, Capital Program Management, NJDOT  
Anita Miller, MTA Chief, Employee Relations & Administrative Officer

Waterfront Alliance's Ninth Annual City of Water Day – Cardboard Kayak Race



NJ Summer Solstice Celebration. From left: WTS-GNY NJ Programs Committee Member Meghan Myers (Arora and Associates); Tam Sillick, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff; Kerry Tyerman, Dewberry; WTS-GNY Vice President (NJ) Colleen Connolly (Malick & Scherer).



Membership Cruise: WTS-GNY Membership Committee Co-Chair Lian Duan (ARUP) and Deborah Chin, MTA LIRR.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## AUGUST

Learn from a Leader Roundtable Series

### Speakers

**Beth DeAngelo**, Deputy Area Manager and Vice President, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff  
**Emily Gallo**, Chief of Staff, NYC DOT



Annual Gala Special Guest Host Veronique "Ronnie" Hakim, president, NYC Transit.



From left: Chris Boylan, General Contractors Association; L. Ndedi Ngonga, MTA NYCT, at the Annual Gala.



From left: Emily Gallo, chief of staff, NYC DOT; Polly Trottenberg, commissioner, NYC DOT; Bonny Tsang, deputy chief of staff, NYC DOT, at the Annual Gala.

## OCTOBER

Annual Gala Cocktail Reception

## NOVEMBER

Fall Dinner Panel Discussion

### Moderator

**Liz Levin**, co-author, *Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom*



Annual Gala Cocktail Reception. From left: Donald Spero, president, MTA Bridges & Tunnels; Michael Horodniceanu, president, MTA Capital Construction; James Ferrara, vice chairman, MTA; Thomas F. Prendergast, chairman, MTA.



Fall Dinner Panel Discussion. From left: Mary Jane O'Meara, associate vice president, HNTB; Dana Hook, vice president, CDM Smith; Shirley DeLibero, former chairman and CEO, MTA of Harris County, Texas; Rina Cutler, senior director, Major Stations Planning & Development, Amtrak; Elizabeth Levin, president, Liz Levin & Co. and co-author, *Boots on the Ground*.

## DECEMBER

Holiday Party at Annie Moore's Irish pub

Transportation YOU Training



Students from the NY Transportation YOU Program learning power poses.



Holiday Party. From left: Mary K. Murphy, executive director, NYTPA; WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Lisa DiTaranti (VHB).



WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR) addressing the membership at the Holiday Party..



From left: WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Ella McLeod (MTA NYCT); Debbie Chin, PTC LIRR, at the Holiday Party.



From left: Malinda Foy, director, Planning and Analysis, MTA Bridges and Tunnels; Marcia Shapiro, president, Marine Tiger Technologies; Beth DeAngelo, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff.

# 2016 ANNUAL GALA

The Special Events Committee organizes the Chapter's annual gala. We also support other committees with their event planning when needed. This year, our committee co-chair, Annie Bergelin, worked with the Membership Committee to organize a member appreciation cruise. We also assisted the Scholarship Committee with the first annual wine-tasting fundraiser.

The Committee's main focus is the annual gala. From the Buzz:

WTS GNY chose the perfect night with its clear skies to hold the chapter's annual gala at Battery Gardens at the foot of Manhattan. After an hour of vibrant conversation, mixing and mingling and with the sunset over the New Jersey skyline as a backdrop, the crowd gathered for an animated awards presentation. Karen Rae, Woman of the Year, was toasted by Polly

Trottenberg, NYC DOT commissioner, and this year's seven scholarship winners were announced by Molly Campbell, director of the Port Commerce Department at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Other speakers in the all-star line-up were Polina Knaster, WTS-GNY president, and Ronnie Hakim, president of NYC Transit.

The presentation ended with the annual conference video, which featured many of the women in the room. It was received with roaring applause.

We had 343 registrants with additional walk-ins this year, a record number of attendees. These included all MTA agency presidents, representatives from NYC DOT and the Port Authority as mentioned above, other public agencies, industry groups, and of course our corporate partner firms.

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

*WTS GNY is able to put on a great variety of programming thanks to the generous support we receive from our corporate partners. The mission of the Corporate Partners Committee is to support these relationships and act as a liaison between the Chapter and our partners. Janice Li and her team diligently followed up with our partner firms to ensure we received their materials for the Gala Journal publication. As in 2015, 33 firms participated in our corporate partnership program this year.*

Patricia Masi led our Silent Auction team at B. Thayer Associates. The auction they assembled from items donated by our members, corporate sponsor firms, and other businesses, raised \$5,000 for the WTS Scholarship fund. ■



From left: Polly Trottenberg, commissioner, NYC DOT; Woman of the Year Karen Rae, director, Innovative Delivery Methods for Empire State Development Corp.; WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR).



Polly Trottenberg, commissioner, NYC DOT, introduced Woman of the Year Karen Rae.



From left: Advisory Board member Felice Farber (General Contractors Association); Veronique "Ronnie" Hakim, president, NYC Transit; Justin Bernbach, PANY&NJ.



From left: Beth DeFalco, MTA; Stephen Dilts, HNTB.



From left: Natalie Cornell, ITK Engineering Services; Chris Boylan, General Contractors Association.



From left: Yelena Shayer, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff; Marilisa Stigliano, AECOM; Sante Nyambo, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff.



From left: Darryl Irick, president, MTA NYCT; Michael Horodniceanu, president, MTA Capital Construction.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Mentoring Program

In 2016, the WTS GNY mentored 10 transportation professionals, representing an array of disciplines, agencies and corporations. For the first time, we had an equal balance of public and private sector apprentices which led to great discussions and unique perspectives. After pairing our mentors and apprentices in our “speed matching” workshop, we got right to work establishing individual goals and setting the topics for the program’s monthly meetings. In addition to our traditional development topics such as networking and delivering engaging presentations, we had two professional trainers coach our apprentices (and mentors, too!) in communication and in projecting a good image. Our group of mentors and apprentices also met one-on-one to tackle their goals throughout the year. In the summer, the mentors and apprentices had a wonderful visit to the Skyscraper Museum in Lower Manhattan, followed by a social event. As is our tradition, WTS GNY Woman of the Year (Karen Rae) dedicated a wonderful hour to our apprentices, answering some really great questions, at their program graduation. Nicole Bucich of WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff and Sarah Steib of T&M Engineers, once again led our program with great professionalism and praise. See the list below for the names of our mentors and apprentices and the organizations for which they work:

### 2016 Mentoring Program

#### Apprentices

Maria Bruschi  
*Parsons*

Nicole Bucich  
*WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff*

Deborah Chin  
*MTA LIRR*

Lois Goldman  
*NJTPA*

Deborah Howes  
*AECOM*

Jee Mee Kim  
*HR&A Advisors*

Naomi Klein  
*Westchester County*

Maxinne Leighton  
*Baros, Baum & Bolles*

Debra Moolin  
*WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff*

Sandra Persaud  
*MTA*

#### Mentors

Julie Polak  
*Sam Schwartz*

Jennifer Wuotinen  
*MTA Capital Construction*

Susan Benjamin  
*New Jersey Transit*

Gia Mainiero  
*Dattner Architects*

Bronwynn Evans  
*NYCT CPM*

Aimee Jefferson  
*NJTPA*

Elizabeth Fleming  
*HDR*

Kelly Bird  
*STV, Incorporated*

Amy Brown  
*Long Island Rail Road*

Amber Baron  
*WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff*

## Young Professionals

2016 marked the third year of the revitalized Young Professionals Committee. The committee, led by Co-Chairs Tiffany Cummings and Ece Koch, as well as Board Liaison Portia Henry, based the year’s programming largely off the successes of the previous years. The group’s annual calendar included monthly committee meetings; the “Trending Topics” speaker series at a midtown bar; a joint American Planning Association (APA) and Young Professionals Transportation (YPT) Trivia night; team participation in a Cardboard Kayak competition; and a holiday happy hour. The committee also assisted in coordinating cross-committee networking socials prior to scheduled Greater New York chapter events. More details about all of our events are provided below:

- Transportation Trivia in partnership with APA and YPT was held in April at Smithfield Hall in New York City.
- Trending Topics Series: “Active/Green Transportation” was held in April at Latitude Bar & Grill in New York City. Speakers were Nette Compton from the Trust for Public Land; Dani Simons from Motivate; and Katie Theis from HNTB.
- Cardboard Kayak Race was held in July on Governors Island in New York City. The WTS team engineered a cardboard kayak and then won the first heat of the race.
- Trending Topics Series: “Career Advancement: Capitalizing Your Free Time” was held in November at Penny Farthing in New York City. Speakers were Loriann Hoffman from NYCT; Nicole Hunter from HNTB; and Eunice Kim from AMTRAK.
- Holiday Happy Hour was held in December at Hudson Station in New York City. Members networked with fellow professionals to celebrate the end of 2016 and also contributed over 60 cans of food items which we donated to City Harvest.

In addition, Young Professionals’ leadership represented the committee at several larger WTS-GNY activities, including the Annual Meeting in January; the Spring Dinner in May; the Gala in October; Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom Dinner in November; and the Holiday Party in December. Lastly, the Young Professionals’ committee was also active in several 2017 WTS International Conference Planning committees.

## Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee would like to take the opportunity to shed a spotlight on this year’s winners. It is rewarding for WTS to see that our scholarship awards are providing the financial support to advance women in transportation.



### Leonard Braun Memorial Graduate Scholarship



**Megan Young** graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Lafayette College in 2013 and is pursuing her MBA at New York University's Stern School of Business. Young is a bridge design engineer at Hardesty & Hanover, LLC, where she works on some of the Tri-State area's largest infrastructure projects. She plans to remain in the transportation industry after graduation and to use her knowledge to develop more practical and advantageous project delivery systems. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa at Lafayette College from which she received the Chapter Event Chairperson of the Year Award in 2015. She also is a teaching fellow at NYU and is extremely proud to be a part of the WTS-GNY Membership Committee.

### The Leadership Legacy Scholarship for Graduate Studies



**Kelly Glenn** is a student at the Bloustein School at Rutgers University. She is pursuing a master's degree in City and Regional Planning, specializing in transportation. She received her B.A. in International Studies from Seattle University, with a focus on Latin America and Spanish language. Before graduate school, she taught English as a Second Language in Seattle through Americorps and advocated for affordable housing and tenants' rights in New York City. During her first year at Rutgers, Glenn conducted research on public outreach strategies with the Voorhees Transportation Center and interned with Michael Baker International. She is a recipient of the Bloustein School Excellence Award and an American Public Transportation Foundation scholarships. After graduation, Glenn intends to combine her interests in transportation and land-use planning to work as a city planner.

### TransitCenter Transit Policy Innovator Graduate Scholarship



**Shara Mirbabaee** is a master's candidate in Urban Planning, with a focus on Transportation, Land Use, and Environment at Columbia University. She also is an assistant transportation planner at BRT Planning International, LLC, where she has collaborated on the development of bus rapid transit (BRT) proposals for cities including Baltimore, Kirkland, WA, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and Bogor, Indonesia. Previously, she worked in the public sector for the City of Villa Park, CA. As an undergraduate at the University of California,

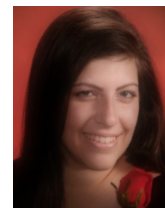
Berkeley, Mirbabaee performed research related to climate change and environmental health equity in urban environments. After completing her undergraduate degree in Urban Studies, she worked as a research intern at The Brookings Institution on national freight transportation and international transit funding schemes. Upon completion of her master's degree, Mirbabaee plans to dedicate her career to the advancement of innovative transit solutions, such as BRT, on an international scale.

### Susan Miskowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship



**Marisa Budziszewski** is pursuing her B.S. in Civil Engineering at Manhattan College. She has been on the Dean's List for six consecutive semesters. Budziszewski is a member of Chi Epsilon, the National Civil Engineering Honors Society; Tau Beta Pi, the National Engineering Honors Society; and Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society. Currently, she is marketing lead for the American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) Student Chapter and was aesthetics manager this past year for the Concrete Canoe Competition. Budziszewski also is a member of multiple nationally recognized engineering societies and associations. She works for Michael Baker International, where she is primarily involved with the implementation of a green infrastructure initiative and signal improvement projects. After graduation in spring 2017, Budziszewski plans to pursue a master's degree in Transportation Engineering part time, while working full time as a civil engineer.

### Molitoris Leadership Undergraduate Scholarship



**Allison Luongo** is a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and will be graduating in May 2017 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, with a focus on transportation engineering. During the past two summers, Luongo interned at Boswell Engineering, where she gained experience in highway, environmental, and municipal engineering, as well as construction inspection and management in the Transportation Inspection and Water Divisions. She is heavily involved with the student chapter of Engineers Without Borders USA, having previously served as vice president and now as professional liaison. After graduation, Luongo plans to enter the transportation field and to work toward earning her Professional Engineering license. She also intends to pursue a master's degree with a focus in civil engineering, urban planning or construction management.

## Transportation YOU High School Scholarship



**Caitlin Stanton** will be pursuing her B.S. in Computer Engineering at Cornell University starting this fall. Stanton began her career in technology in Stuyvesant High School's computer science department during her sophomore year. After learning the fundamentals of coding in the Girls Who Code program as well as the soft skills necessary in the business world, Stanton started a software development internship with AOL's Cambio brand. Stanton is the founder and head organizer of def hacks, a bi-coastal and bi-annual 24-hour hackathon for high school coders of all levels. She also served as a head organizer for PixieHacks, a 12-hour hackathon to immerse females in the world of technology. Stanton is currently a Software Engineering intern at Ask Applications, an InterActiveCorp brand.

## International Conference

WTS-GNY is proud to be hosting the 2017 WTS International Conference. We have spent the last year working with a team of more than 40 volunteers dedicated to organizing an interactive multi-day conference for more than 700 transportation professionals from around the world.

Since forming the 2017 Conference Committee, the team has assembled four days of quality programming, including 17 panels on topics ranging from sustainability to transportation technology. We have also organized 19 technical tours, providing attendees with the opportunity to tour regional transportation hubs, exciting mega-projects, and world class transportation facilities. The team is looking forward to continuing our work as the conference draws near. Please visit [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com) for volunteer opportunities!

## New York Programs

The New York Programs Committee began 2016 with the 36th Annual Meeting and 19th W/M/S/DBE Expo held on January 28th at Club 101. The event, which featured the annual awards ceremony honoring Member of the Year, Barbara Kearsse; The Susan L. Kupferman Scholarship recipient, Kaitlin Lang; Honorable Ray LaHood Award winner, Ian Camp; plus the presentation of the Innovative Transportation Solutions Award to Citibike, was a great success. Karen Rae, Senior Advisor at the Empire State Development Corporation, gave the keynote address on the future of alternate-delivery in capital construction projects in New York State.

The Spring Dinner, held on May 2, 2016, was moderated by Sarah Kaufman, Assistant Director for Technology Programming

at the NYU Rudin Center for Transportation Policy. The event featured esteemed panelists, Marie Corrado, Senior Director for the Gateway Program at Amtrak; Poonam Punj, Senior Project Manager at the MTA's Long Island Railroad; and Lysa Scully, General Manager at LaGuardia Airport with The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Following those exciting events, New York Programs held its third annual "Learn from a Leader" summer roundtable series from June through August. The series featured Deborah Chin, Executive Director, Positive Train Control (PTC), Long Island Rail Road; Yvonne Lopez-Diaz, Vice President, Human Resources, HNTB; Anita Miller, Esq., Chief Employee Relations and Administrative Officer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and Emily Gallo, Chief of Staff, New York City Department of Transportation. Speakers and attendees discussed a wide range of transportation and career-related topics in a less formal setting; feedback on the networking and educational opportunities provided by this series was extremely positive!

Last, the fall dinner, held on November 17, 2016, was centered on the book, *Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom: Transportation Women Tell Their Stories*. Co-author Elizabeth Levin moderated the program with four of the women highlighted in the book; Rina Cutler, Shirley De Libero, Dana Hook, and Mary Jane O'Meara, serving as panelists. The program included a book sale which was well-received by the attendees who were enthusiastic about meeting the ladies in person.

2016 proved to be quite an exciting year in the world of New York Programs!

## New Jersey Programs

The New Jersey Programs Committee began 2016 with a networking event in January that was free for members. At this informal event, attendees were encouraged to get to know each other in an at the Taste Venue in Newark.

The Spring Dinner meeting was held in March at the Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick. There was a diverse and dynamic panel discussion related to Transit Villages in New Jersey. The panel was moderated by Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director of North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. The panel members included Vivian Baker, Assistant Director, Transit Friendly Land & Use Development, NJ Transit; Annie Hindenlang, Executive Director, Perth Amboy Office of Economic & Community Development; and Debra Tantleff, Founding Principal, TANTUM Realty. Each panelist discussed transit-oriented development from the perspective of their organization.

In collaboration with the WTS Philadelphia Chapter, the NJ Programs Committee sponsored the TransConOps session at



the TransAction Event in Atlantic City. This break-out session, which included speakers from all of the major NJ transportation agencies, was the most well-attended one at the conference. TransAction is the largest transportation-related conference held in the state of New Jersey.

On April 19th, a free members-only workshop was held to educate members on using Social Media to increase personal mobility and address transportation needs. The interactive event was held in Newark. Presenters included Rosie Ellis from Uber; Jay Tedino from TransitScreen; Lynn LaMunyon of Maser Consultants discussing WAZE; and Ahsan Ali from NJDOT discussing NJ 511, Facebook, and Twitter. Everyone in attendance left with a better understanding of how to use these apps to assist with transportation.

The very popular Summer Solstice Celebration was held on June 23rd at Rat's Restaurant in the Grounds for Sculpture. Although the weather did not fully allow for viewing of the gardens and grounds, this event was enjoyed by all who attended. The informal atmosphere allowed for one-on-one networking opportunities. This event was free for members.

Over the summer months, the NJ Programs Committee organized the annual Learn-from-a-Leader summer roundtable series from June through August. The series featured Lisa Navarro from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority; Dana Hecht from New Jersey Department of Transportation; and Beth DeAngelo from WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff. Speakers and attendees discussed a wide range of transportation and career-related topics in an intimate setting.

The final dinner meeting of the year was held in October at the Cranbury Inn in Cranbury. The topic was Complete Connections - Connected and Autonomous Vehicles. The keynote speaker was Bill Kingsland from NJDOT. Featured speakers included Dr. Joyoung Lee of the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Dr. Nidal Bouynaya of Rowan University; and Cathleen Lewis of New Jersey Automobile Association of America (AAA). Each speaker provided their insight and perspective on this cutting-edge topic.

In addition, the New Jersey Programs Committee coordinated the Emerging Women Leaders Webinar Series in both New York & New Jersey. This is a live webinar presented by Be Leaderly, an organization dedicated to advancing women into leadership roles. These members-only free events are hosted in Newark and Ewing, New Jersey, and in Manhattan. Attendees are encouraged to stay after the webinar's completion to discuss it and to form a support community for those seeking to move into leadership roles. Webinars were held in February, April, August, October and December

## Communications and Social Media

The WTS-GNY Communications and Social Media Committee provides members with all of the information they need for what is going on in the Chapter and more broadly in the transportation community through a variety of channels, including email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, not to mention the Chapter's website.

This past year has seen a significant transition for the committee with an abrupt changing of the guard and a lean new leadership, but has accomplished quite a bit nonetheless. In addition to its maintenance and expansion of the quality and quantity of information on the Chapter's website, the committee also created a much more robust presence for the Chapter through other social media and has a burgeoning group of followers:

- WTS-GNY's Twitter account (@WTSGNY) continues to grow with 233 followers, including a number of transportation industry leaders. The Chapter also "live-tweeted" from a few of its large events (annual meeting, panel discussion, and Leadership Council);
- WTS-GNY's LinkedIn account has 424 members;
- WTS-GNY's Facebook page has 122 followers. This has meant an increase in chapter event coverage as followers have uploaded their photos from these programs;
- Posted YouTube two phenomenal YouTube videos, the Membership Committee video and the 2017 Annual Conference video to various social media. The annual conference video is proudly shown on the Chapter's website as well;
- Hootsuite, a software platform that facilitates management of the many facets of these social media.

Through its more traditional email communications, the Committee designed and issued e-blasts, electronic invitations, and save-the-dates for 35 Chapter events and posted them to the WTS-GNY website. To accomplish this, the committee also reviewed and updated the WTS-GNY's Constant Contact account's database of 692 regular mailings, of which 84 go to affiliate members, 82 to Young Professionals, and approximately 2,000 go to general-interest email addresses.

The Committee also updated the WTS-GNY Chapter News (formerly the Community Buzz) and the Chapter's monthly newsletter, with more substantive articles. These included profiles of three female chiefs-of-staff at NYC DOT, MTA, and NYCT, articles that were developed and prepared specifically for this publication. And there are many more in the works.

The Chapter website has seen improvements too. There have been numerous event photos posted to the photo gallery as well as the conference video and conference information to the home page. And there is an updated job bank plus updates to other

pages. For example, all of the annual reports and newsletters are now available.

The Committee is also responsible for organizing and preparing the Chapter's Annual Report and with this document, has completed its second one with the current committee members.

In addition to its primary mandate, the Committee also arranged two social media workshops presented by Stokes Creative Group, one for the committee and one for the Chapter's Board members and committee chairs.

WTS-GNY Communications and Social Media Committee members include: Donna Tafro, Board Secretary and Committee Chair; Adrienne Zicklin Kanter, Editor of Chapter News, Newsletter and Annual Report; Stephanie Camay and Beth DeAngelo, LinkedIn Administrators; Donna Williams, Gmail Calendar; Liz Archer, Social Media Chair; Jilla Moro, Website; Other Social Media Volunteers, Ani Toncheva, Yvonne Lopez-Diaz, Nicole Pace, Lucia Accardo. ■

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## AWARDS

*continued from page 3*

NYC Department of Education and NYCT. And he has helped three of our students apply and win scholarships through the WTS GNY's scholarship program

### Innovative Transportation Solutions Award



Jules Flynn, executive vice president of operations at Motivate accepted the award

**Citi Bike** operated by Motivate is the winner of this year's Innovative Transportation Solutions Award.

Bike share is a sustainable, healthy and convenient form of transportation unrestricted by schedules or fixed routes and helps to reduce vehicle congestion. With the arrival of Motivate, Citi Bike has been transformed from a popular, but struggling service into a world-class bike share system, befitting the

City of New York. Motivate's operational oversight has resulted in soaring ridership and better service which can be seen in the 50 percent reduction in calls to the Citi Bike call center. Ridership increased 18 percent from 2014 to 2015, and, during peak times, ridership exceeded 50,000 trips per day. These improvements also laid the groundwork for expansion of the system, which reached Queens for the first time in 2015 and extended further into Brooklyn and upper Manhattan. The program is on track to double in size, from 6,000 to 12,000 bikes by the end of 2017, serving more New Yorkers with the high-quality option. ■

## DEAR VALUED MEMBER

*continued from page 2*

of AMTRAK, Poonam Punj of MTA LIRR, and Lysa Scully of PANYNJ. It was moderated by Sarah Kaufman, Assistant Director of the NYU Rudin Center for Transportation Policy.

The Chapter concentrated on expanding and improving our Mentoring program, the Transportation YOU Committee and its scholarship initiatives. The Mentoring program continues to offer women earlier in their careers the opportunity to get meaningful and sustained guidance from those who are further along in theirs. Efforts are underway to expand Transportation YOU programming in New Jersey. And in April, the Chapter successfully held its first scholarship fundraiser, a wine tasting featuring women vintners.

The Young Professionals Committee was also active, and offered two Trending Topics events; a panel discussion exploring "Career Advancement, Capitalizing Your Free Time" and another one focused on "Active/Green Transportation." Our young professionals also participated in the Newark Boys and Girls Club bike exchange to give back to our communities. And an energetic team of six, known as "WTS-Making Waves Team," applied their engineering, planning, and inspired intuition, to design and build a vessel to compete in the Cardboard Kayak Race in which they paddled out and back around a marker in the embayment to win first place in the first heat. Although WTS-YP was defeated in the championship round, they made plenty of waves!

This year, we also initiated a Glass Ceiling Committee. The goal of the committee is to determine whether women working in the field of transportation in the New York/New Jersey area face a "glass ceiling" and, if so, what programs and policies could be advocated for by WTS-GNY to mitigate the "glass ceiling effect." The committee is in the process of reviewing and evaluating other chapters' efforts in this area, and also in developing its own course.

My first year as president of the GNY chapter has been a wonderful experience, full of challenges and opportunities. I am privileged to work with such a high-energy and motivated Board of Directors whose intelligence and dedication is unmatched. I look forward to the second year of my term and to continuing to move the Chapter forward. The 2017 WTS International Conference will be hosted by the WTS-GNY Chapter, and promises to be the best yet. If you haven't seen the promotional video, please [click here](#), a great indication of a wonderful highlight in the coming year.

Sincerely, Polina Knaster, WTS-GNY President ■



# 2016 BUDGET SUMMARY

Our ongoing efforts to increase and retain our membership succeeded this year, with a nearly \$5,000 jump in membership dues revenue from 2015. In August, the Membership Committee thanked both its longtime members and those new to the WTS-GNY family with a membership appreciation river cruise. We also drew greater numbers of attendees to our New York and New Jersey dinner programs. And we increased the number and variety of smaller events, from several “Trending Topics” programs that featured interactive panel discussions in a casual

environment to a series of “Learn from a Leader” roundtable discussions. The Young Professionals Committee participated in the Waterfront Alliance’s ninth annual City of Water Day Cardboard Kayak Race, while the Scholarship Committee hosted its first-ever wine tasting fundraiser for WTS-GNY scholarships. It was a busy year in which we focused anew on developing and diversifying our slate of programs and workshops, turning increased spending on these activities into higher attendance and greater visibility in the transportation community. ■

	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Revenues</b>				
Membership Dues	\$15,535.00	\$12,130.00	\$13,440.00	\$18,230.00
Bank Interest	\$173.34	\$189.31	\$186.95	\$182.17
Monthly Programs and Workshops	\$21,898.47	\$28,180.84	\$22,268.36	\$51,105.51
Membership Events	–	\$2,705.00	\$2,616.76	\$1,537.23
Corporate Partners	\$65,250.00	\$96,900.00	\$80,175.00	\$83,075.00
Fundraising	\$29,988.00	\$31,841.05	\$70,936.00	\$33,923.65
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$132,844.81</b>	<b>\$171,946.20</b>	<b>\$189,623.07</b>	<b>\$188,053.56</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
President	\$625.00	\$590.49	\$405.80	\$630.36
Board Training	\$5,516.32	\$9,830.85	\$12,233.44	\$14,988.19
Bank Fees	\$27.10	\$101.56	\$75.26	\$52.56
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$1,698.46	\$2,236.25	\$1,320.34	\$1,593.77
Monthly Programs and Workshops	\$36,590.93	\$43,333.32	\$38,776.77	\$43,837.87
Membership Events	\$5,444.30	\$8,283.66	\$9,242.24	\$14,468.46
Fundraising	\$49,256.23	\$41,447.73	\$40,913.86	\$43,058.30
Transportation YOU	\$6,352.74	\$6,815.86	\$7,649.49	\$7,977.07
Corporate Relations	\$183.33	\$89.78	\$58.70	\$55.75
Board Expenses*	\$4,487.24	\$7,034.14	\$6,399.70	\$5,438.10
Board Liability Insurance	\$900.00	\$909.00	\$877.00	\$878.00
Mentoring	\$2,928.60	\$2,602.01	\$4,510.68	\$7,397.69
Newsletter/Annual Report	\$401.13	\$268.55	–	–
Photography	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
Young Professionals	\$1,279.47	\$917.58	\$1,519.85	\$1,563.41
2017 WTS International Conference Committee	–	–	–	\$11,748.65
Miscellaneous	–	\$100.14	\$137.19	\$0.00
International Conference Attendance Scholarships	\$2,303.23	\$3,914.75	\$3,690.22	\$3,357.49
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$118,994.08</b>	<b>\$130,475.67</b>	<b>\$129,310.54</b>	<b>\$159,045.67</b>
Money Raised for WTS Scholarship	\$4,712.00	\$1,850.00	\$37,050.00	\$21,275.00
<b>Total Expenses including Deposit to Scholarship Account</b>	<b>\$123,706.08</b>	<b>\$132,325.67</b>	<b>\$166,360.54</b>	<b>\$180,320.67</b>
<b>Net Revenue After Distributions</b>	<b>\$9,138.73</b>	<b>\$39,620.53</b>	<b>\$23,262.53</b>	<b>\$7,732.89</b>
WTS Scholarship Account Balance (December 2015)	\$26,141.47			
WTS Scholarship Account Balance (December 2016)**	\$43,426.600 (estimated)**			

\* Board Expenses include food at board meetings, conference call line, communications tools, professional memberships, and supplies.

\*\* Final 2016 scholarship account balance not yet available. \$66,867 includes balance as of June 30, 2016 less \$17,000 in scholarships disbursed, but does not account for interest earned in quarters 3 and 4.

## WTS-GNY Board of Directors 2016-2018

### President

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### Silent Auction Coordinator

TBD

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### Volunteer Champion

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### Young Professionals

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### Website

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## WTS-GNY Advisory Board 2016

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*General Contractors Association*

### Richard Maitino, Past Chair

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*The Wathen Group*





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Greater New York Chapter**

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