



Advancing Women in Transportation
Greater New York Chapter

WTS-GNY
March 2015 Community Buzz



Advancing Women in Transportation
Greater New York Chapter

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What's happening at WTS-GNY

Announcing the GNY Chapter Annual Conference Scholarship

Are you hoping to attend the 2015 WTS Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois? We are pleased to offer our members the opportunity to apply for a WTS-GNY scholarship to the Annual Conference. Please click [here](#) for the application, and look for a separate email from the WTS Greater NY Chapter with instructions on how to apply. Applications are due by Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Attend the NJ TransAction 2015 Conference!

The TransAction 2015 Conference and Expo is for professional planners, engineers, operators, consultants, contractors, suppliers, municipal, county, and state representatives, and not-for profit and for-profit agencies. Last year, TransAction was attended by nearly 1,000 attendees. The conference will feature 65 workshop sessions (4 & 5 concurrent

**Save the dates
for these
upcoming events**

- [March 18: Annual Meeting \(rescheduled\)](#)
- [April 21: Emerging Women Leaders On-Site Training](#)
- [April 22: TransAction](#)
- [July 22:](#)

throughout each day) specializing in bus, rail, roads, bridges, goods movement, pedestrian/bicycle, paratransit, community transportation, ports, and much more. Once again, WTS-GNY is co-sponsoring two panels! Click [here](#) for more details.

New Jersey Transit DBE Announcement

New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) is proud to announce the launch of a new component of its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program; a Race Neutral Small Business Set-Aside Program. Click [here](#) to read more.

WTS Community - Stay Connected!



Members News



Virginia Borkoski has been promoted to director, Qatar with Louis Berger International. Borkoski has over 26 years of design, construction management and operations experience in the transportation industry. She is responsible for providing strong and determined vision, leadership and direction and is skilled in all aspects of planning, policy, design, construction and close-out for major infrastructure projects.

Currently Borkoski is the engineering manager, PMC, for Qatar Rail's Doha Metro Red Line South, managing the multidisciplinary, international design/ build JV team for fast-tracked delivery of the first stations in the system, and part of a multibillion Qatari Riyal planned network of 98+ stations. She is responsible for pursuing business development opportunities in Qatar, with a focus on growing the business and identifying strategic new market targets for expansion; markets include rail, aviation, transit, horizontal and vertical development, and water/waste water for both public and private based clients; harmonizing best practices across projects in the region, specifically architecture and engineering management; and focusing on meeting Louis Berger's commitment to advance women's involvement in the business environment in the region.

Before joining Louis Berger, Borkoski held the title of associate vice president and senior project manager at HDR and was the lead Visual Quality and Facilities Designer for the design-build, \$3B Tappan Zee Hudson River Crossing Project.



Named one of Metro magazine's "Most Influential People of the Decade," Marcia Ferranto is known in the non-profit world for her reputation as a change agent. Responsible for the overall administration, management, and operations of both WTS International and its associated charity, WTS Foundation, Ferranto has grown the association's membership, engaged new corporate partners, and has expanded its reach throughout the industry and the globe since she took on her role in February of

2010.

Prior to leading WTS International, Ferranto served as the executive director of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation in Delaware, where she refocused the organization's mission and vision from a tourist attraction to an educational icon for the state of Delaware by spearheading a new master plan, and managing more than 300 staff and volunteers. Ferranto also held posts with the Delaware Art Museum, including acting director, chief financial officer, and director of finance and human resources.

Prior to her 17 years of leading change in the non-profit world, Ferranto ran two of her own accounting and payroll firms. She serves on the Board for Sandy Spring Museum in Sandy Spring, Maryland. She is a member of ASAE, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Membership
Appreciation event
- Yankees versus
Orioles

2014-2015
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WTS INTERNATIONAL
STRATEGIC PARTNERS
& TRAILBLAZERS



CHAIRMAN



Diannae Ehler, a speaker in our 2014 Learn from a Leader Series, will serve as the general manager of the Port Authority Bus Terminal and Lincoln Tunnel

Since 2011, Ehler has served as the deputy director of the Tunnels, Bridges, and Terminals Department at the Port Authority. She has been a driving force for the successful implementation of numerous initiatives in staff development, labor relations, operations, security, and asset management throughout the department. She has also been deeply involved in the Port Authority's recent "Quality of Commute" initiative at the Bus Terminal, which has resulted in better on-time performance and improved passenger facilities.

To oversee this and other important projects, Elher will now assume direct responsibility for the operations of the Bus Terminal and Lincoln Tunnel, including the implementation of continuing improvements in bus operations, customer communications, and passenger amenities. On behalf of the Tunnels, Bridges, and Terminals Department, Elher will also oversee long-term planning for a new Port Authority Bus Terminal facility and for the replacement of the Lincoln Tunnel Helix.

Do you know of a member who has recently been promoted or moved to a new employer? Please share member news by sending your announcement to wtsqny@gmail.com.

WTS-GNY Supports the 4th Annual Women's Leadership Conference at Rutgers University

On February 27th, Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy hosted the fourth Annual Women's Leadership Conference in New Brunswick, New Jersey. This year's one-day event entitled, "Step Up and Stand Out!," comprised of workshops and panel discussions to hone personal and professional development skills including: financial literacy; effective communication; and women's rights in the workplace.

WTS-GNY and NJ Programs Committee member Colleen Connolly shared her experiences on the "Communication That Makes a Difference" panel, where she conveyed tips on building self-confidence, gauging appropriate timing, and inevitably taking risks needed to advance professionally. Her notion of assertive communication to affirm individual skills and accomplishments followed by simply "asking" for opportunities, challenging common misconceptions for women in pursuit of career advancement.



photo credit: Portia Henry

(Left to Right): Colleen Connolly, associate, Malick & Scherer; Jane Kenny, founder & managing partner, The Whitman Strategy Group; Monique King-Viehland, director of housing & economic development, City of Trenton; Seema Kumar, vice president of innovation, global health and policy communication, Johnson & Johnson; Rebecca Perkins, president and CEO, The Perkins Partnership; Mildred S. Scott, sheriff, Middlesex County (not pictured)

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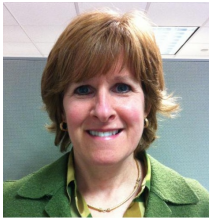
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There's something about...Sandra Forte!

by Amy V. Kaufman, Communications Chair

Sandra Forte wants YOU to become a member of WTS-GNY! As the chair of the Membership Committee for the past year and a member of the committee since 2012, her goal is to recruit new members and help keep current members of WTS-GNY

connected to the organization. Recruiting new members is important, but encouraging members to participate, attend events, join committees, and stay connected are critical for both the chapter and its members. "Volunteering allows me to share the many benefits I have experienced by being a member. It's easy to promote...something you believe so strongly about (which is) advancing women in transportation," Forte says.

In 2009, Forte had just started a master's program at New York University at Polytechnic Institute in transportation planning and engineering. She decided to join WTS-GNY because she wanted to participate fully in a community of transportation industry professionals. She immediately began attending chapter events, professional development activities, and networking with other members.

Forte has big plans for the Membership Committee and the chapter in 2015. Already on the calendar are: the membership workshop in early Spring; a membership appreciation event at a Yankees baseball game in July; and the annual recruitment event in August which will be held near the newly-opened section of the High Line in Midtown West. On the drawing board: a volunteer "buddy" program, pairing a new member with an established member for a year and promoting membership diversity through public sector brown bags.

Over the course of Forte's 28-year career in the transportation industry, she has held positions in computer programming and traffic engineering, at one traffic engineering firm for 25 years and most recently three years at Parsons Brinckerhoff. She works with both private- and public-sector clients on traffic projects, providing traffic simulation and GIS expertise. She says enthusiastically that transportation is a great field because you help move people along an infrastructure that gets them to work, school, vacations and home.

A lifelong resident of Suffolk County, Forte resides on Long Island with her husband. She has two children. Her daughter is a graduate of Penn State University and her son presently attends Syracuse University.

Corporate Partner Spotlight- Stellar

Stellar Services, Inc. is an IT consulting firm established in 1993, dedicating in providing Project and Program Management Support, Enterprise Content Management Solutions, Enterprise Asset Management Services, System Integration Service and IT infrastructure support for our federal, state, and local government clients.

Headquartered in New York City (NYC), Stellar has been honored to work with local government agencies such as the NYC School Construction Authority, NYC Department of Education, Port Authority of NY & NJ, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, NYS Department of Labor, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYC Office of Management and Budget, NYC Housing Authority, NYC Department of Finance, NYC Economic Development Corporation, NYC Administration for Children's Services, Bronx County Supreme Court, New Jersey Transit, NJ Transportation Planning Authority, to name a few.

Our mission is to continuously enhance the productivity of our customers by using Information Technology. Because of our belief that development and



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Sam Schwartz Engineering D.P.C.



integration are ongoing processes, we work with our clients to make sure they are prepared for future enhancements by using flexible, industry standard software. Stellar Services has received recognition for its performance and credentials with partners and within the IT Industry for capability and performance excellence. Our company's core is our team of highly educated and experienced IT professionals, whose broad range of specialties make developing effective solutions and integrations possible.

Sample customer reviews and testimonials received in the past three years:

"Stellar exceeded the technical requirements in many instances. Stellar consistently completed work on or before schedule."

----- NYC Human Resources Administration

"Stellar Services worked each individual situation as if it were for the commissioner of the authority. A 'can do' attitude and a 'whatever it takes' approach to the problem solving made every end-user extremely happy with the services and new systems."

----- NYS Housing Authority

"In the seven years as a project manager for DSNY Headquarters and dealing with over \$5 million in contracts, Stellar Services is the only vendor that I will write recommendations for."

"If this company (Stellar) were not dedicated to customer satisfaction, they would not get an exceptional rating from DSNY."

"Their performance was outstanding in the face of unexpected events and technology needs."

----- NYC Department of Sanitation

To read more about our people and projects, please visit www.StellarServices.com.

For more information, please contact us at Contact@StellarServices.com.

