



Advancing Women in Transportation
Greater New York Chapter



Issue: 50

September 2019

Upcoming Events

September 2019

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Conference

Sept. 10th, 7:30 AM -1:00 PM

The WTS Greater New York Chapter has partnered with the Engineering News-Record for the 6th Annual The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Conference: Reaching New Heights. Register [here](#)

Member Open House Workshop

Sept. 12th, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Please join us for the 2019 WTS-GNY Member Open House Workshop.

Chapter board members and committee chairs will be in attendance to discuss upcoming events and chapter activities. Learn about the GNY chapter and ways to get more involved. Help us plan for our future by offering your feedback.

Register [here](#).

2020 Board Nomination Information Session

Save the Date: September 18th, 5:30, WSP

Look out for the email with more details

October 2019

WTS GNY 2019 Annual Gala

Oct. 7th, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

2018 - 2019
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PARTNERS

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Woman of the Year: Denise M. Berger, Chief of Operations/Engineering, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Look out for additional details [here!](#)

APTA'S TRANSform Conference: Annual Meeting

Oct. 13th-16th

WEDNESDAY WAKE UP BREAKFAST: TRANSformational Influence- Women and Power- In conjunction with WTS

Oct. 16th, 7:00-9:15 AM

Register [here](#)

Emerging Women Leaders On-Site Training Series- 6 Ways to develop a Change Leader Mindset

Oct. 29th, 1:00-2:00 PM

Whether it's a large-scale disruption or an everyday adjustment to the status quo, becoming a transformational change leader starts with managing yourself and then, leading others. Acquire self-management tools to fearlessly navigate change, and coaching skills to guide and inspire others as they adapt. Speaker: Selena Rezvani, Vice President of Consulting and Research, Be Leaderly.

Register [here](#)

Book Club Meeting #2

Save the Date: *Oct. 29th, 6:00-8:00 PM*

Book title: *Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World* by Melinda Gates

WTS-GNY 2019 Annual Gala at Battery Gardens

October 7th, 2019, 5:30PM - 8:30PM

This year's WTS-GNY Annual Gala will be held on Monday, October 7, at Battery Gardens Restaurant in New York City where we will honor Denise M. Berger, Chief of Operations/Engineering, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, as the 2019 Woman of the Year. More than 400 industry leaders from agencies and transportation corporations throughout the metropolitan area will be represented at this event.

In addition to honoring Ms. Berger, WTS-GNY will present the 2019 Scholarship awards to exceptional students who demonstrate potential to excel in the transportation field. Scholarships awarded by the Greater New York Chapter include: the TransitCenter Transit Policy Innovator Graduate Scholarship, Leonard Braun Memorial Graduate Scholarship, President's Legacy Scholarship for Graduate Studies, Susan Miskowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship, Molitoris Undergraduate Leadership Award, Trade School and Community College Scholarship, Transportation YOU High School Scholarship, and the Susan L. Kupferman Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship.

Many of the scholarships mentioned above are funded in part by the raffle held at the Gala. The WTS-GNY Special Events Committee is currently seeking donations for the Gala raffle and have created a wish list of items, which can be accessed online via our Amazon Wish List. Monetary contributions are also welcome and can be used by the



Ruby



Emerald



Louis Berger



Special Events Committee to purchase items for the raffle, crediting you with the donation. Alternatively, monetary donations can go directly to the WTS Foundation Scholarship Fund. In 2018, the raffle raised over \$4,400, and with your help, we can achieve this and more in 2019!

Aside from acknowledging these extraordinary students and providing them with educational opportunities, donors who purchase wish-list items or offer monetary donations to buy items for the raffle are recognized throughout the evening via various media, including the Gala journal/program, curtain warmer presentation and other raffle-related graphics.

If you would like more information about making a donation to the WTS Foundation or otherwise supporting the Greater New York Chapter, please [Click Here](#).

To register for this event [Click Here](#). See you in October!

WTS GNY in Partnership with ENR & Port Authority of NY and NJ

ENR PORT AUTHORITY
Engineering News-Record of New York & New Jersey
CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 PIER SIXTY, CHELSEA PIERS | NEW YORK CITY

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS REGISTER NOW!

The Greater New York Chapter (GNY) of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) is excited to partner with the Engineering News-Record for the 6th Annual Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Conference: Reaching New Heights. The Conference is taking place on **September 10th, 2019** at Pier Sixty in New York City. Participants will hear about exciting opportunities on new and existing construction projects throughout our area, updates to the current plan, what the 2019 budget will cover, how MWSDBE firms can work on major projects and more.

With over 700 members in New York and New Jersey, the GNY chapter has secured a \$50 discount for members who register as an Association Member using promo code "WTSPA19". Don't miss this opportunity to network and learn about opportunities in the region!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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Spotlight: Sally Librera

By Jessica Murray (former WTS Scholarship recipient)



In May 2018, Sally Librera was promoted from vice president of the Staten Island Railroad to senior vice president of the New York City Subway, the first woman to hold either position. She has been with New York City Transit for 15 years in many different roles that have grown in complexity as she has been promoted.

Ms. Librera is a nontraditional head of subways in many ways. She initially became interested in transportation while working as a math teacher in San Francisco, where she became increasingly involved in working with her students' families and community and was inspired by the connection between public transit service and opportunities for her students to prosper. She left her early career to return to school for dual master's degrees in City Planning and Transportation Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley.

Ms. Librera sees her position as the first woman in charge of subways as important because it signals to people (no pun intended) that a woman can hold an executive position in this field, but also that people of other backgrounds can have leadership roles. While she acknowledges that her perspective as senior vice president of subways may be different because she is a woman, she thinks that increasing diversity in all forms will help to bring in many other perspectives to the decision-making process, ultimately improving the customer experience. Her advice for women who are considering a career in transportation: "Do it!" Her advice for women at all stages in their transportation careers: "work hard, be open to lots of different opportunities, especially early on, don't be afraid to ask a lot of questions, and don't consider any job out of your reach."

To read the full article, click [here](#)



Member in the News: Emily Gallo



In July of 2019, Emily Gallo was named the Northeast Division Government Relations Director at HNTB Corporation. Formerly, Emily served as the chief of staff for the New York City Department of Transportation and has extensive experience working with infrastructure stakeholders. She holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania - School of Design. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in American (Urban) Studies from Yale University. We congratulate Emily on her new position!

NJ Glass Ceiling

By Adrienne Zicklin-Kanter

On Monday, June 17th, WTS-GNY held its annual New Jersey spring dinner with a panel discussion inspired by the recently released report *Glass Ceiling: Women Who Have Broken Through*. This complemented a dinner a few weeks earlier held in New York City with the same theme, but with different speakers. It was a great evening with a dynamic and animated discussion filled with interesting and entertaining reminiscences and wisdom.

The moderator of the New Jersey panel was Yvonne Lopez-Diaz, vice president of Human Resources at HNTB, and chair of the Glass Ceiling report committee. Panelists included NJ Department of Transportation Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scacetti, NJ Transit Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Jeannie Kwon, Pivot Strategies CEO Flora Castillo, and Fitzgerald and Halliday President and CEO Susan VanBenschoten.

Ms. Lopez-Diaz is HNTB human resources director for the Central and West Regions, as well as the growth champion for the New York office and Northwest Division where she is focused on supporting the firm's strategic growth and development efforts. She has more than 35 years of experience in the human resources field, the last 19 of which have been spent in various leadership roles within HNTB, an employee-owned infrastructure solutions firm.

Ms. Gutierrez-Scacetti was confirmed as the 19th commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation in June 2018 after having started in an acting role at the beginning of last year. Prior to this, she was CEO at Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, a part of the Florida Department of Transportation during which time, she managed more than 460 centerline miles and a five-year capital program in excess of \$6 billion, supported by \$1 billion in revenue.

Since 2018, when she joined the agency as senior vice president and chief administrative officer for New Jersey Transit, Ms. Kwon has been responsible for human resources, contracting and purchasing, strategy and corporate planning, civil rights and diversity initiatives, equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. NJ Transit is the nation's largest statewide public transportation system, providing more than 895,000 weekday trips on 261 bus routes, three light rail lines, 12 commuter rail lines and Access Link paratransit service.

Ms. Castillo is president and CEO of Pivot Strategies, LLC. She is the longest-serving active member of the NJ Transit Board of Directors which she joined in 1999. She also was the youngest person and first Latina to serve on the Board when she began on the Board. In 2012, she became the first Latina elected chair of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

Ms. VanBenschoten, PE is the president/CEO and Board chair of Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc. (FHI) in Hartford, CT and New York City. She is a civil and environmental engineer with 33 years of professional experience, including the management of complex multidisciplinary transportation engineering projects for private developers, state agencies, transit agencies, municipalities, and institutions.

To read the full article, click [here](#)

Learn from a Leader: Veronica Vanterpool

By Adrienne Zicklin Kanter

On Wednesday, July 24th, WTS-GNY inaugurated its sixth season of Learn from a Leader hosted at WSP and with guest Veronica Vanterpool, deputy director of the national Vision Zero Network and board member of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, as well as former executive director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign.

Ms. Vanterpool was both enlightening and dynamic as she described her trajectory from high school student to her present roles. Before even touching on her own story, she impressed on the attendees the value of remaining authentic and committed to one's passions, themes to which she returned throughout her presentation.

In 2015, Mayor de Blasio recommended Ms. Vanterpool as a member of the MTA Board for which she was appointed by Governor Cuomo and approved by the New York State Senate in 2016. Introducing more women and minorities to decision-making has been a priority of the mayor and as a Hispanic woman, she contributes a unique perspective to a board that has historically been comprised of older, white men.

But it also has been her insistence that she vote based on the facts, issues and impact to the riding public rather than adhere to any political agenda. She demonstrated that independence when she published an opinion piece in the New York Daily News in support of congestion pricing, despite Mayor de Blasio's early opposition to the

concept.

In 2018, Ms. Vanterpool moved on to the Vision Zero Network, an organization committed to bringing together leaders in a variety of fields, including public health, engineering and law enforcement, to eliminate fatalities and severe injuries from traffic crashes and to assure safe mobility for all. She is also principal of V Squared Strategies, LLC, a consulting practice she launched in early 2018.

It is her role as an MTA board member that drew the most interest from the Learn from the Leader attendees. As she continued to discuss her role as a board member, Ms. Vanterpool's confidence in her work was clear - she describes having had an advantage when she first started on the board, having been a transit advocate at TSTC for so many years and having knowledge of and familiarity with the budget processes at the city, state, and agency levels as well as capital planning process, history of funding the MTA and current funding mechanisms. She also knew many of the decision makers. She added that to keep up with her responsibilities as a board member, she reads thousands of pages, participates in several meetings and calls and engages often with a variety of stakeholders - responsibilities she takes very seriously.

Many thanks to Lauren Antonelli, Bibi Khan, Sofia Berger, and Sheriza Majid for all their work in organizing this successful event!

To read the full article, click [here](#)

Membership Appreciation Event 2019

By Megan Young

Thank you to all who came out to the 2019 WTS-GNY Membership Appreciation Event on Monday, August 19th. We had a great turnout and perfect summer weather for the rooftop event that honored the continued support, enormous contribution, and immense dedication of the GNY members. We were thrilled to welcome guests April Rai and Haley Diamond from WTS International, who traveled from Washington D.C to join us. Guests were treated to a spectacular view of one of New York City's most iconic structures, the Empire State Building, as they mingled with friends and made new connections over warm-weather drinks and delicious hors d'oeuvres atop the gorgeous Monarch Rooftop Bar & Lounge.

Half-way through the evening, long-standing members, committee members, and past and present board members were acknowledged and thanked for all they do to make the WTS-GNY Chapter such a valuable and worthwhile organization. Our first Survey-Respondent Raffle Winner, Marcia Shapiro, was then presented with a \$50 Amazon gift card (so keep taking those monthly surveys for your change to win next time!). Raffle prizes, including WTS mugs, cocktail packages, entertainment serving arrangements, and oil and vinegar sets were auctioned off to deserving participants. New members of the organization were recognized and welcomed with a certificate, letter, and honorary WTS pin. The entire night was a huge success and the WTS Membership Committee wants to

wholeheartedly thank all members of the Greater New York for their hard work this past year.

The Committee looks forward to many more accomplishments in the upcoming year and celebrating again next summer!



See the photo album [here](#)

Transportation YOU High School Summer Internship experiences at the PANYNJ

Daphne Blot shares her experience with the Engineering Department

This summer internship was very much a fascinating opportunity. During my internship, I worked in the Engineering department. My job gave me a lot of exposure to what employees normally do daily in a public agency which is what I wanted from this internship because it shows what I see my future career as. It was a great experience working on financial reports, presentations, and collaborations with architects.

Click here to read the full [article](#).

Arielle Coombs shares her experience with the WTC/Major Capital Projects Department

My summer internship experience at the Port Authority was amazing! I had an opportunity to work for the Major Capital Projects/ World Trade Center Construction Department. During my internship, I planned department-wide events, tracked orders, filed documents, and sent emails. A few department members also trained me on budget software and vendor online ordering processes.

Click here to read the full [article](#).

Paule Ndoba shares her experience with the PATH/Rail Department

Ever heard the popular saying "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade"? Well, that saying really resonates with me as I am a young

woman who struggles with talking to new people, especially those who hold prominent roles. However, while at The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), one important thing that I took away from my experience was that your adversities should never stop you from prevailing.

Click here to read the full [article](#).

Sha-Dania Peterson shares her experience with the Planning & Regional Development Department

I loved my summer internship experience at the Port Authority. During my time there, I worked in the Planning and Regional Development Department. I had a variety of different projects and events in which I participated throughout this time. I made multiple presentations in front of the department; went to meetings with various people in departments throughout the agency; and updated the departments eNet website.

Click here to read the full [article](#).



Transportation Job Opportunities

WTS-GNY would like to be a resource for women seeking positions in transportation and firms looking for candidates. Visit our [Job Opportunities](#) page for latest updates!

If your firm would like to post a position, fill out our [job form](#). We will share your job opportunity on our LinkedIn Page and in our next Chapter News as well as our website.

September Opportunities (more on the [WTS-GNY Jobs Page](#))

Job Title Accounting Specialist, Accounts Payable

How to Apply [Website](#)

Deadline Open until vacancy filled

Employer MTA

Job Title Program Manager, Level 1

How to Apply [Website](#)

Deadline 9/11/2019

Employer AECOM

Job Title RAIL - SPECIAL PROJECT MANAGER,.

How to Apply [Website](#)

Deadline Open until vacancy filled

Employer The Port Authority of NY & NJ

Job Title Project Manager - Intra-Program Coordination

How to Apply [Website](#)

Deadline Open until vacancy filled

Volunteers Wanted and Appreciated!

WTS-GNY is always interested in volunteers to help the Chapter. Don't see anything of interest below, but want to help? Email us at wtsgny@gmail.com to find a committee that's right for you!

The **TransportationYOU New Jersey Committee** is looking for volunteers to serve as mentors for high school students.

Have exciting content for the next issue?

Article pitches, women in transportation news, member spotlights, discussion topic ideas: [Email us](#) by 9/20/2019.

Did your email address change?

If your email or mailing address has changed, log into

the [WTS website](#) and update your information in the "My Account" page.

Communications committee
WTS-GNY