



**Madeline Schmitt**  
President,  
WTS Iowa

**Hello WTS Iowa Members and Friends!**

I just wanted to start by briefly introducing myself. My name is Madeline Schmitt. I work for the Iowa Department of Transportation in the Location and Environment Bureau. My job is mainly in National Environmental Policy Act Compliance, but I also have the privilege of serving as Chair of the Iowa DOT Sustainability Working Group and now President of the Iowa WTS Chapter.

On a more personal note, my husband, Jacob, and I got married in July of 2020. Living through a global pandemic has certainly made for a unique start to our marriage. Jacob is an actuary at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, and we have been homeowners in Johnston since March of 2021. In our spare time, we do a lot of disc golfing, visit breweries, and go to trivia night with friends.

As we transition into 2022, we are also transitioning to a new WTS Iowa Executive Board and Board of Directors! Angie Poole is staying on as Immediate Past President, Brenda Durbahn has transitioned into the role of Vice President, Stephanie Hemberger has taken on the responsibility of Secretary, and Emily Gerald serves as our Treasurer. We also have several fantastic Directors at Large including Megan Anderson, Shawn Blaesing, Jennifer McCoy, and Mark Pierson. The new Iowa WTS Board of Directors is already hard at work brainstorming how we can continue to promote women in transportation, create events for our members, and make the WTS Iowa Chapter the best it can be. The WTS Iowa Board of Directors held their strategic planning session on January 21st, 2022. If you have any ideas or want to become involved with a committee, please contact our Committee Chairs, [Kristina Kuehling](#) (Communications), [Allison Sambol](#) (Membership), [Milly Ortiz](#) (Events), [Ashley Cook](#) (Sponsorship), [Eva Green](#) (Awards and Recognition), or [Steven Younkin](#) (Finance).

I hope to see you all soon, and I look forward to what this year holds for our chapter.

Thank you,



Madeline Schmitt

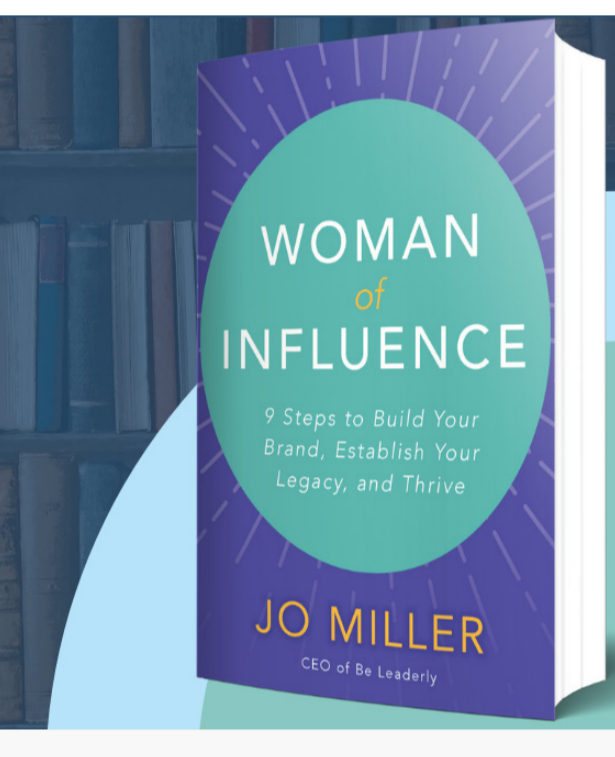
WTS - Iowa Chapter President



**Gala Success**

The first Annual WTS Iowa Gala held at the District at Prairie Trail in Ankeny, Iowa was a great success with 72 guests. Barbara Stinson, President of the World Food Prize, was the keynote speaker and we were able to raise \$700 for scholarships. It was such a great evening to get dressed up, socialize with our peers, recognize our award winners, and hear from many great speakers.

Planning is already underway for next year and we're looking for additional committee members. Please reach out to [milly.ortiz@iowadot.us](mailto:milly.ortiz@iowadot.us) if you'd like to join in on the fun.



**Book Club**

Our latest Book Club meetings were a success! We had a great time reading and discussing *Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle* by Emily and Amelia Nagoski. Our next book is *Woman of Influence: 9 Steps to Build Your Brand, Establish Your Legacy, and Thrive* by Jo Miller. Jo is a Cedar Rapids, IA author, who will join us by Zoom for one of our book club meetings! We plan to kick off the Book Club in the coming months so watch for updates in future emails and on social media.

**Members Only Event**

**An Overview of Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation in Iowa**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
**ZOOM**

Learn more about the consultation process to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties during the planning and development of transportation projects. Our speaker is Brennan Dolan. Brennan is the Cultural Resources Section Team Lead and the Tribal Liaison for the Iowa Department of Transportation.

[Register here!](#)



**Sponsor Spotlight:**

*WTS Iowa sponsors help us reach our goals!*

Hg Consult founded in 2010, is a minority-owned full-service transportation planning and design firm committed to the highest quality. From small municipal and private development projects to large-scale DOT highway and bridge projects, we deliver. Hg Consult is a 100% work-from-home firm that offers all employees, women and men, the flexibility to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

Hg Consult is proud to support WTS Iowa because supporting women in transportation improves the industry for everyone.



**WTS Iowa Membership**

WTS Iowa connects you to a network of local transportation professionals through communities, events, and training. Involvement in WTS fosters:

- Career advancement
- Strengthened leadership skills and
- Positive impacts to the transportation industry with tools and networking with WTS International

WTS's Mission is to attract, sustain, connect and advance women's careers to strengthen the transportation industry. Our future forward Vision is "equity and access for women in transportation". [Join us today](#) to help lead the way to making that vision a reality.

**Sponsor Opportunities**

The WTS Iowa Chapter had a great year in 2021 despite the challenges of the pandemic. That was made possible by YOU – your participation, your energy and passion, and your **sponsorship**. Please consider sponsoring WTS in the new year – every little bit counts and it provides great benefits for your company. [View the sponsorship opportunities](#) and reach out to Ashley Cook at [acook@hntb.com](mailto:acook@hntb.com) for more information!



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Join our efforts to advance women in transportation. **Become a sponsor today!**



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Join us on social media to learn about great industry resources, connect with other members, and share your experiences!