

From: WTS Central Florida <gina@wtscentralflorida.ccsend.com> on behalf of WTS Central Florida
<wtscentralflorida@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 4:05 PM
Subject: WTS Central Florida Newsletter - April 2021 Issue



**Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Central Florida**

NEWSLETTER

April 2021

Central Florida Chapter Officers

Amy Windom, PE, President | Snehal Ambare, PE, Vice President | Ivannia Bok, Secretary |
Lizette Martinez, PE, Treasurer | Christina Colón, PE, Immediate Past President

Message from our President

Hello Central Florida!

While it has been exciting as vaccines are rolling out and we see a future getting back to in-person events, the near-term remains virtual for the next WTSCFL program - ***A Walk in Her Shoes*** on April 29th. Click on [AWIHS](#) for more information about the fantastic line up.

In addition, the WTS International Annual Conference will be virtual this year from May 11th-14th. WTSCFL has a sponsorship program to support members who would like to attend on behalf of our chapter. Click [HERE](#) for the application and instructions. Applications are due April 18th and will be notified after the April 21st Board Meeting.

We started Saturday bike rides and a casual way to meet and interact with other members and get exercise. The next one is April 24th - let us know if you plan to join. Click on [BIKE](#) for more information in this newsletter.

Finally, thanks to everyone who was able to participate in Swings for Scholarships - a great afternoon out in the open air - check out our winners at [SWINGS](#). The great news is, the scholarship cycle just started again. Please spread the word to college women in transportation. Click on [SCHOLARSHIP](#) for more information.

Hope to "see" you soon!

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Amy Windom
President, WTSCFL



*THANKS to our sponsors
and their efforts for
advancing women and
advancing transportation.
We value the continued
support from our 2020
firms and welcome new
2021 sponsors. For more
information click on
[SPONSORSHIP](#).*

A Walk in Her Shoes

WTS Central Florida Chapter's 8th Annual

A Walk in Her Shoes

a Virtual Event

Thursday, April 29, 2021
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM EST

zoom

Moderator



Carla Bell Johnson, AICP
Orange County, FL Government
Assistant County Administrator



Alison Stettner, AICP
Director of the Office of
Policy Planning
Florida Department of
Transportation



Betsy VanderLey
Former Orange County
Commissioner and
Sr. Director of Business
Development of OHL Building



Lily Elefteriadou, Ph.D
Barbara Goldsby Professor of
Civil Engineering
Director, University of Florida
Transportation Institute



*Join us as this dynamic panel shares experiences
and challenges they have faced, while at the
same time paving the way for emerging leaders
in transportation.*



**Advancing women
Advancing transportation**
➤ Central Florida

Please register for a *Walk in Her Shoes* here:

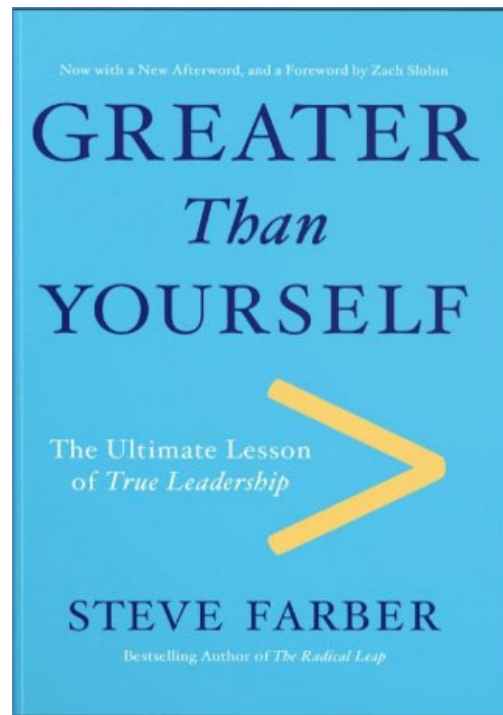
[A Walk in Her Shoes Registration](#)

2021 Book Club

Save the Date for the first book club on May 24 530-630pm.

The book club events are at no cost to WTS members with an option to purchase the book through WTSCFL via Kindle or hard cover. A registration fee will be applied for non-members.

Based on the survey results, one of the three books we will cover this year is *Greater than Yourself*. We are thrilled to announce that the author, Steve Farber, will join us! He will start the event with a few insights and be available for questions. Registration information will be available soon!



Swings for Scholarship - 2021 Event Sold Out



A beautiful Friday afternoon for hitting golf balls to raise money for our scholarship program.

Congratulations to our individual and team winners. The individual winners were Sarah Matin (\$100), Bob Windom (\$75), and Jeff Kipfinger (\$50). Each are pictured below with Fundraising Co-Chairs Ivannia Bok (left) and Brian Kirwan (right).

**1st Place: Sarah Matin
S&ME**



Ivannia Bok Sarah Matin Brian Kirwan

**2nd Place:
Bob Windom
Younkins-Windom**



**3rd Place:
Jeff Kipfinger
HNTB**



Our top teams of the day based on average score per bay are shown below.

Top Teams 2021

**1st Place:
Volkert QAM Team**



**2nd Place
Tierra SF – Fehr & Peers – HDR**



**3rd Place
PGA – RK&K**



The team members were:

1. **Volkert QAM** Team (\$100):
Teresa Driskell, Alan Dickson, Vernon Hackett, Grady Andrews, Leo Santana, and Rick Meeks.
2. **Tierra SF** - Fehr & Peers - HDR Team (\$75): Raj Krishnasamy, Amy Guisinger, Fred Choa, Crystal Odoh, Mackenzie Bland
3. **PGA - RK&K** Team (\$50): Michelle Buitron, Fabio Osorio, Paul Wai, Mike Lausier, Chas Starr, Walt Lang

The group pictures include team members and WTSCFL Fundraising Co-Chairs Ivannia Bok and Brian Kirwan and President Amy Windom.



We certainly appreciate our event and annual sponsors. Click [here](#) for links to each firm for more information on the outstanding work they have in transportation. In appreciation of our sponsors, we had a drawing for a TopGolf 3-Month Corporate Membership. Christina Colon selected the winner (top left photo of the adjacent collage), which was Platinum Annual Sponsor Jacobs! Jessica Dean and Angela Shepard (top right photo) were two of the golfers from Jacobs. Jessica Dean accepted the award (bottom photo).



Scholarship Applications Available



WTS Central Florida Invites All Aspiring Women Studying Transportation-Related Fields

For additional information or to
apply for one of the scholarships,
please contact:

Francina Gil, PE
Scholarship Chair
WTS Central Florida Chapter
1511 East SR 434, Suite 1001
Winter Springs, FL 32708
Phone: (407) 957-1660
Email: fgil@consoreng.com

Sherry Ann Tulloch
Scholarship Co-Chair
WTS Central Florida Chapter
P.O. Box 620804
Oviedo, FL 32762
Phone: (407) 349-3198
Email: stulloch@mandoconsultants.com

Or visit our website:
www.wtsinternational.org/centralflorida

APPLY FOR ONE OF FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS

- ◆ Frankee Hellinger Memorial
Leadership Graduate
Scholarship \$3,000
- ◆ Frankee Hellinger Memorial
Graduate Scholarship \$2,500
- ◆ Frankee Hellinger Memorial
Leadership Undergraduate
Scholarship \$2,500
- ◆ Frankee Hellinger Memorial
Undergraduate Scholarship
\$2,000

**APPLICATION
SUBMISSION DEADLINE
MAY 31, 2021**

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

International Women's Day

On March 8th, WTSCFL hosted a lunch chat about being an ally and took a moment for participants to raise their hand in support of the #IWD2021 theme - #ChooseToChallenge.



Check out a few of the YouTube videos we listened to about being an ally!

[5 Tips For Being An Ally](#)

[3 Ways to be a Better Ally in the Workplace | Melinda Epler](#)

2021 Transportation You Engineers Week

Engineers Week 2021 was quite different from that of prior years, but even with social distancing, we made a difference! We helped over 150 students discover engineering, and realize engineers invent, design, and create things that matter.

WTSCFL, along with Nicola Liquori, Paul Satchfield, Angela Starke, Christina Colón, Susan Sadighi, Jennifer Stults, Jazlyn Heywood, Heather Roberts, Stephanie Sharp, Erin Yao and Snehal Ambare prepared a video to be distributed with students, on Thursday, Feb 25th - Girl Day.



The video was shown to students, that we know of, and remains on YouTube to inspire others. Their teachers and mentors have expressed tremendous gratitude to the team for providing their students educational interactions with working professionals and executives.

Here is a link to the video :[Engineers' Week 2021 Video](#)

2020 Emerging Professionals Graduation

On February 4th, at WTSCFL Annual Open House event, the Emerging Professionals Committee held graduation for our 2020 Protégés. We recapped the year of events which included a "Speed Networking and Matching" event, followed by two training activities: How to get the Most out of Mentoring and Talking to Leadership.

Our 2020 graduates include:

- Jennifer Rader
- Emily Wigle
- Ellie Wilson
- Yasmin Moreno
- Christine Plasencia
- Courtney Orlando
- Nakeisha Lyons
- Lilli O'Steen
- Ulrica Diamond
- Nicole Henry
- Caitlin Smith
- Kierra Zuokemefa

A special thank you goes out to our 2020 mentors:

- Gail Woods
- Lori Treviranus
- Amy Hunter
- Abra Horne
- Kelly Eger-Smith
- Hannah Hart
- Yassi Myers
- Snehal Ambare
- Dawn Ratican
- Lizette Martinez
- Amy Windom
- Brian Kirwan

And, of course, the Mentor of the Year!

Snehal Ambare
2020 WTSCFL Mentor of the Year

“

Over the last 10 months, Snehal has been a cheerleader, a confidant, a mentor and a friend. Snehal challenged me to challenge myself.

LILLI O'STEEN

Protégé - 2020 WTSCFL
Emerging Professional
Program



On March 2nd, the Emerging Professionals Committee held its 2021 "Speed Dating and Networking" event. We look forward to another successful year!

Virtual Open House

On February 4th, we held an evening to our share with existing and prospective WTS members the benefits and FUN of joining one of our many committees. It takes a dedicated team to make our chapter great and plan high quality events to help us stay connected, advance us professionally, give back to the community, and explore transportation projects in our region. If you are interested in being a part of any of our 13 committees, please reach out to WTSCentralFlorida@gmail.com.



- Banquet Committee
- Community Relations
- Diversity
- Emerging Professionals
- Fundraising
- Media Relations/Website
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Professional Development
- Programs
- Recognitions
- Scholarship
- Transportation You

Check out the video interviews with each committee chair / co-chair being posted weekly to our

[YouTube channel.](#)

Member Spotlight!

Kelda Senior
HNTB

Kelda Senior is a A/E/C industry marketer and accredited public relations (PR) professional. For over 10 years, Kelda has served as a communications and outreach specialist for private and public agencies, implementing both traditional and digital PR strategies to inform audiences and move them to action. She holds a bachelor's in journalism and a master's in public administration - both from the University of Central Florida. Kelda is an active member of WTS Central Florida Chapter, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) - Orlando Chapter and Black Orlando Tech



WTSCFL Newsletter caught up with Kelda and had a little chit chat with her and here is what she had to say....

What has your career path looked like? How did you get to where you are today?

I'm fortunate to have had diverse opportunities in my career so far. My inquisitive personality and love for non-fiction writing led me to studying journalism. My love for public service led me to studying public administration on the graduate level.

A career in communications has allowed me to collaborate with nearly every department of the organizations I've worked for. As a result, I've been able to learn a little about many different disciplines from really smart people.

From working as an aid for a senior U.S. Senator, to serving as a police department spokesperson, to now supporting the marketing efforts for one of the nation's leading engineering firms, I have gotten to where I am in my career by constantly working on my craft and embracing opportunities outside of my comfort zone.

Who has been a mentor in your career and what has been their biggest impact on you?

I have not ever really had a formal mentor, but I have had many advocates who have both challenged and supported me professionally.

What is an achievement that you've always been proud of?

I've always been proud of my openness to try new things professionally and stretch myself.

What attracted you to join WTS?

Certainly the opportunity to connect with like-minded, motivated women initially attracted me to WTS. I've given to the organization, and it has given so much back. I have grown personally and professionally through WTS and I look forward to seeing what amazing things our chapter accomplishes in the future.

What kinds of things are you doing during travel restrictions to stay connected?

Definitely participating in virtual events. I've also maximized the quarantine to spend more time with and offer more support to my family.

Sponsorship

2021 Sponsorship Opportunities

We are thankful for the new and continued support. Because of the continued support of our 2020 sponsors we have extended their sponsorship through the end of 2021 and are offering NEW 2021 sponsors packages at a discounted rate - 25% Off.

We hope you will join the many firms who proudly serve as sponsors and support WTS Central Florida.

New 2021 Annual Sponsors:

- Silver: [wood.](#)
- See our full list of annual sponsors below!

2021 Event Sponsors - Swings for Scholarships:

Partner

- [Volkert QAM](#)
- [Younkins-Windom](#)
- [WGI](#)
- [Avant Engineering Group](#)
- [Conzor](#)

Supporter

- [Burgess & Niple](#)
- [The Balmoral Group](#)



2021 Annual Sponsors



Platinum Annual Sponsors

- [Volkert](#)
- [HNTB](#)
- [Jacobs](#)
- [Tierra](#)

Gold Annual Sponsor

- [Stantec](#)
- [TLP](#)
- [Dewberry](#)

Bronze Annual Sponsors

- [Transystems](#)

Silver Annual Sponsors

- [HDR](#)
- [Fehr & Peers](#)
- [PGA](#)
- [Tierra South Florida](#)
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- [Aim](#)
- [Wood](#)
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- [Aerostar](#)
- [M&O Consultants](#)
- [RS&H](#)
- [Scalar](#)
- [VHB](#)
- [DRMP](#)
- [KN Engineering](#)

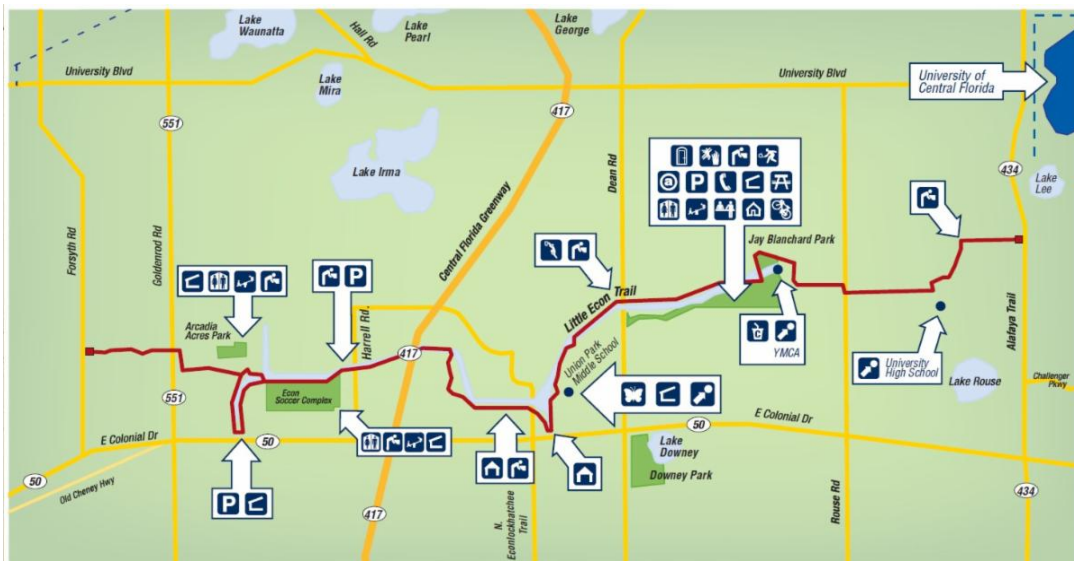
Interested in Being a WTSCF Sponsor for 2021? Please use this form:
[WTS Central Florida 2021 Sponsorship Form](#)

Sponsorship Questions? Contact:
 Ivannia Bok and Brian Kirwan - Fundraising Co-Chair

- ivannia.bok@volkert.com || Direct Phone: 321-274-4766
- brian@KNEngineer.com || Direct Phone: 321-236-0423

Let's Ride (or Walk)!!

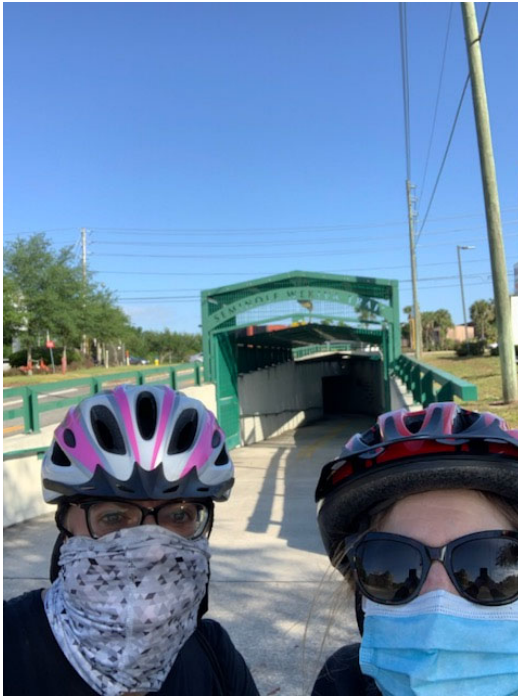
Saturday April 24th at 8am will be our next ride! This time we will explore the Little Econ Greenway Trail, which is about 11.4 miles round trip. [Little Econ Brochure](#)



- Meet at: Little Econ Greenway Trailhead at 7951 E. Colonial Drive

- Please email WTSCentralFlorida@gmail.com by Tuesday April 20th so we can get contact information - we want to make sure we don't leave anyone behind!
- If you would prefer walking to riding a bike - speak up - if we can pair up walkers in addition to riders, we will add that second transportation mode!

Check out pictures from our last two rides!



Amy Windom (left) and Kathrin Tellez (right) out for an Easter Saturday tour of the Seminole-Wekiva Trail on May 3rd.



Left to Right: Stacey Russel, Kathrin Tellez, Megan Garcia, and Lizette Martinez on the Cady Way trail looking over Semoran Blvd on February 27th.

Save the Date

- **Saturday Bike Ride - April 24th**
 - **Board Meeting - April 21st**
 - **Annual A Walk in Her Shoes - April 29th**
 - **Board Meeting - May 5th**
 - **WTS International Conference- Virtual - May 11th-14th**
-

Kudos & Announcements

Welcome to our new Diversity Committee Co-Chairs

- Erika Booker, Division Marketing Director/Associate Vice President, [HNTB](#)
- Gail Woods, P.E. Vice President and Corporate Diversity Co-Chair, [Transystems](#)



Erika Booker



Gail Woods, P.E.



Sarah Larsen
Maribel Guzman
Melissa Caruso
Lauren Farrell
Charlotte Davidson
Jeremy Sewell
Jeffrey Begovich
Jaclyn Cyr
Teresa Driskell
Candice Luc
Nicole Gough
Elizabeth Suarez
Kim Horlander
Justin Christensen
Jennifer Marshall
Maria Bolivar

Want to join the Board? Ask us how!

Job Opportunities

If your organization has an employment opportunity, we would be happy to post!

Click [here](#) to advertise an available position in the next newsletter.

Contact Us:

Email: WTSCentralFlorida@gmail.com

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Join WTS International today and begin to enjoy the benefits of membership. By joining, you will become one of more than 8,500 members--both women and men--participating in professional activities, networking opportunities, and unparalleled access to industry and government leaders.

<https://www.wtsinternational.org/about-wts/member-types/>

Sincerely,

Jessica Dean ([Jacobs](#))
Newsletter Co-Chair

Abigail Osei-Asamoah ([CDM Smith Inc.](#))
Newsletter Co-Chair

**JOIN
OUR MAILING LIST**

STAY CONNECTED



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