

THE JERSEY CONNECTION

July 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Growth continues with the support of our Corporate Partners. Over 35 organizations and counting have committed to partnering with WTS NJ on the advancement of women in the industry. Chapter membership has blossomed to over 110 strong today. Throughout the remainder of the year, we will spotlight our partners through our various social platforms. We jointly spotlight all of our partners with an in-person Corporate Partner Networking Event with DBE Expo in October.

There will be so much to join at a physical location this year. We have already hosted two events at Corporate Partner locations - on May 10th, WSP welcomed us for our Mentoring Program "Speed Match" event and on June 14th, Naik hosted a members only skill development for members to gain some tips and tricks on how to work better with others, while networking in a small group. We also networked with several of our partners at the NJ TransAction Conference in Atlantic City, where the chapter sponsored a panel on "Moving Forward – Agency Actions."

Moving forward this year, our Virtual Technical Series will continue with – "Executive Presence for Women in Transportation" in July, "WBE Your Own Boss Lady" in August, and "Women in Transportation Safety" in September. Also, there will be a Summer Social and we will continue "Swings for Scholarship" during our second 18-hole Golf Outing in August. We hope to see you there! Stay tuned for more to come - upcoming events schedules can be found at: <u>Upcoming Events | WTS (wtsinternational.org)</u>

We always make time to be in tune with the needs of our membership. Whether it is guidance on having difficult conversations; topical talks about aviation, rail, freight, bridges, sustainability, active transportation, operations, finance, the Gateway; insights about self-promotion, work-life balance, transitioning positions or career; or checking in with your peers at a yoga class, with meditation techniques or at a painting session. Tell us what you will tune in for. This is your WTS NJ. We are listening.

Thank you for connecting!

Zeneta I. Filh

Zenobia L. Fields



CHAPTER CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

WTS NJ has come a long way since being ratified in November 2020. At the 2023 WTS Annual Conference, our chapter was awarded the Silver Circle of Excellence Status! A special thanks to our leadership team, members, and sponsors for making this happen. Next year, we are aiming for gold!



2023 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM IS OFF TO A GREAT START

The WTS New Jersey 2023 Mentoring Program is off to a great start. After an application process, six mentees were accepted into the 2023 Mentoring Program. The first gathering which was the kickoff speed matching session was held on May 10th. After mentor/mentee pairs were chosen, they all took the Clifton Strengths Top 5 Assessment and came prepared to discuss their results at the next gathering on June 14th. Candid discussions were held on how to use your top 5 strengths in order to define and achieve career goals. The next gathering, held on July 11th, was a more informal summer soiree. The evening focused on networking and tips for developing elevator pitches. The committee, mentors and mentees are excited for future meetings which will include topics such as self-care, building confidence, presentation skills and surprise guest speakers.









WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! (as of 7/7/2023)

Naa -Adzeley Addo-Garrison Zohra Aslam Rena Barta Liza Betz Aubrey Blackman Shayna Bramley James Carr Tarah Coward Melissa Dawson Beth DeAngelo Lesya Delyaur Janice Drace Gary Etter Jennifer Frick Jean Go Stephanie Grubb Joanna Guarda Amanda Hauske Laura Hazen Jasmine Hosni Nicole Khan Auiola Kopali Monserrate Lockward Salendria Mabrey Chaitra Manjunath Dennis Martin Lorraine McAteer Lauren Ohotzke Deborah Poniatowski Susan Quackenbush Jami Roblejo Marie Samson Shavona Schenck Amanda Sebesta Nicole Seymour Anne Sinagra Janine Smolinski Chelsea Stachura Payal Thukral Stephanie Trevenen Olivia Wilkens Sarah Zunaed

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

WTSI MEMBER MEETUP

WTS Member Meetups are monthly events exclusive to WTS members, designed for networking and collaboration on topics such as chapter events and initiatives; innovations in the transportation industry; recruitment and retention; and more! Every meeting provides breakout rooms so attendees can also ask questions and provide tips, suggestions, and advice to other WTS members. These meetings are open to all WTS members from all chapters, and there are additional member meetups for students. We would love to have more representation from our growing New Jersey Chapter at these meetings.

For additional information and to register for the WTSI Member Meetups, please log-on to your member portal at https://www.wtsinternational.org/, and visit the "Member Resources" section under My WTS Communities.

MEET OUR HONORARY MEMBERS

WTS Chapters have the opportunity to offer two honorary memberships each year. This is an opportunity for chapters to attract key individuals who are not currently members of WTS and who have been identified by the chapter as a key or emerging leader in the local transportation industry. The chapter may also choose to award an honorary membership to a professional who represents a mode, sector, or profession in the industry that is not well represented in the chapter.

At the 2022 Annual Meeting, our chapter extended honorary membership to Valeriya Remezova and Jennifer Marandino. Please join us in welcoming them!



Valeriya Remezova (FHWA)

Valeriya Remezova is the Maryland Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as of May 2023. Since November 2017, Valeriya has served as the Deputy Division Administrator for the New Jersey Division, where she was responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the New Jersey Division Office, as well as leading a diverse staff of transportation professionals responsible for the stewardship and oversight of New Jersey's \$1.6 billion Federal-aid highway program. Valeriya began her FHWA career in 2005 as Area Engineer in the New York Division, FHWA.

Jennifer Marandino is the Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO). Mrs. Marandino began with SJTPO in March of 2011, previously serving as Team Leader of Capital Programming and Safety. Prior to her working at SJTPO, Mrs. Marandino worked in the traffic and transportation engineering field for 10 years. Mrs. Marandino has over 20 years of experience in the transportation industry.



If you know anyone who should be awarded a 2023 Honorary Member, please submit your upcoming nomination this Fall 2023.





EVENT RECAP



2022 Holiday Party

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Advancing Company Culture & Recruitment





WTS Knockouts: Women's Kickboxing

Feb

NJ Board Retreat





Moving Forward - Agency Actions (NJ TransAction)

WTS - ITE Social Networking Event







Women Takeover Transportation: Virtual Series- Executive Presence for Women in Transportation

Click here for Additional Photos

MOVING FORWARD - AGENCY ACTIONS APRIL 19, 2023 4PM TO 6PM

How are agencies playing a role in keeping people and goods moving in a safe, efficient and reliable manner? This was a discussion about major capital investment at the NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, NJ Turnpike South Jersey Turnpike Authority and PANYNJ. The session offered an opportunity to learn about potential impacts with the new infrastructure BIL, major initiatives, project delivery, partnerships and what is on the horizon.

Moderators: Zenobia L. Fields, WTS NJ President and Jacqueline Rooke, WTS NJ Vice President

Speaker: Parth Oza, NJDOT, Assistant Commissioner, Capital Program Management

Speaker: Jennifer Buison, NJ TRANSIT, Assistant Director of Capital Planning

Speaker: Michael Garofalo, NJTA, Chief Engineer

Speaker: Stephen M. Mazur, SJTA, Chief Engineer/Director of Engineering

Speaker: Cathleen Mahoney, PANYNJ, Chief of Project Delivery, Engineering Department





2023 WTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success. The 2023 Women's Transportation Seminar's (WTS) Annual Conference in Atlanta was an exciting, enriching, and "great intersection" of a meeting of the minds. There was something for every attendee as the conference provided workshops that spoke to communities as a whole and to the individual, focusing on equity, leadership development, and health and wellness. The plenary sessions and keynote speaker were powerful and inspirational, and they charged the atmosphere with an emphasis on not only growing individually but also providing shoulders for others to stand on. The WTS NJ chapter was well represented with several officers, board members, and members. The chapter also hosted dinner at Poor Calvin's Restaurant to connect with all WTS NJ attendees. We can do a little alone, and the WTS conference shows how much strength and power we have when we come together.









NEW!!! ADVISORY COUNCIL

For 2023, the board has implemented a new committee, Advisory Council Formation Committee, which will be led by Beth DeAngelo (Chair), Rena Barta (Vice Chair), and Judy Bowen (Director at Large, liaison to the Advisory Council Formation Committee).

The Council has three (3) initiatives for their term:

- 1. Developing framework for creating an executive Advisory Council with primary initial focus on enhancing public sector engagement/benefits,
- 2. Researching potential benefits / framework for public agency partnerships to optimize the benefits of WTS engagement to public sector staff, and
- 3. Collaborating with other industry professional organizations to promote career development benefits for public sector staff.

If you would like to provide any feedback to the Council, please email Beth DeAngelo.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (HIGH SCHOOL, TRADE SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE)



"I am so grateful to WTS NJ for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. Along with helping me financially pursue my masters, the scholarship afforded me invaluable opportunities. At the 2022 Gala, WTS members introduced me to other professionals in the industry. I even had the chance to talk to WTS NJ's 2022 Woman of the Year recipient."- Taylor Danson, Structural Engineer, H&H. Vice Chair Mentoring Committee



Scholarship Applications are due September 15, 2023. Download applications here.





OASIS - A HAVEN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN



In the spirit of giving during the holidays, last year, WTS NJ decided to support Oasis, A Haven for Women and Children, located in Paterson, New Jersey. Their mission is to change the lives of women and children in need by breaking the cycle of poverty through compassionate programs designed to feed, clothe, educate, and empower. This organization aligns with our mission of attracting, sustaining, connecting, and advancing women. WTS NJ is focused on supporting women not only in the transportation industry, but women from all walks of life to achieve success in everyday life. For more information on Oasis, please visit https://oasisnj.org.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Help our Chapter grow! The Membership Committee is looking for volunteers to champion events focused on collaboration with other New Jersey organizations and helping to establish networks for women across the industry. Reach out to Vanessa Rios (Vanessa.Rios@collierseng.com) or Tara Bencivenga (Tara.Bencivenga@wsp.com) for more information!

RECOGNITION

Let's give our CONGRATULATORY cheer for these members who have received industry awards and/or living the mission.

- Tara Bencivenga, WSP, (Director at Large-Liaison to Membership Committee) ACECNJ Young Professional of the Year Award
- Melissa Dawson, WSP, (Chair of Mentoring Committee)- PESMC Young Engineer of the Year
- Aimee Hurst, NJDOT, (Vice Chair of Programs Committee)- NJDOT Public Service Recognition Award
- Nancy Arqueta, Gannett Fleming, (Vice Chair of Corporate Partners Committee) sworn in to Peace Corp Peru as a Water Resources Specialist Response Volunteer

What an inspiring group of leaders we have!!













UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday, August 3, 8:00am – 4:00pm WTS NJ Golf Outing

Wednesday, August 30, 12:00 – 1:30pm Women Takeover Transportation: Virtual Series, 3rd session

- WBE Your Own Boss Lady

Thursday, September 7, TBD WTS NJ Member Appreciation- Wine and Dine

Wednesday, September 21, 6:00 – 8:00pm 2nd Annual Swings for Scholarship - Top Golf

Wednesday, September 27, 12:00 – 1:30pm Women Takeover Transportation: Virtual Series, 4th session

- Women in Transportation Safety

Friday, October 13, 9:00am - 12:30pm Corporate Partners Networking Event

Thursday, November 9, 5:30 – 8:30pm WTS NJ Annual Event

Wednesday, December 13, 5:30 – 8:30pm WTS NJ Holiday Party

For further details, please visit our website for updates.

Save the Date - WTS NJ Wine & Dine

Come and join us for an evening of member appreciation at the Hopewell Valley Vineyards! On Thursday, September 7, 2023, we will be gathering to enjoy local New Jersey wines and have a great conversation about the efforts of sustainability in our community. Seats are limited, so keep your eyes open for that registration link!



SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

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We thank all of our steadfast Corporate Partners.

The generous donations of our Corporate Parntners contribute to the success of our chapter's endeavors. Some of the benefits of partnership includes recognition during our various events throughout the year, attendance at members-only events, recognition on our website and a hyperlink to the firm's website, and a complimentary annual membership for an employee of the firm.

If you would like to become a Corporate Partner and share in the many benefits of parntership. please contact Kristen Ahlfeld, Corporate Partners Chair.

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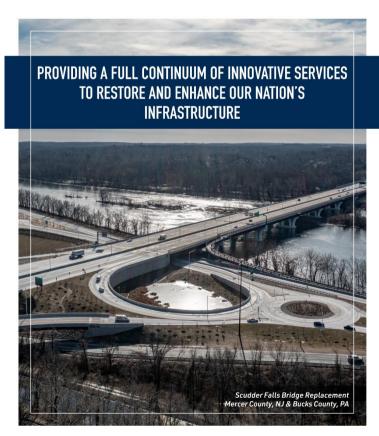


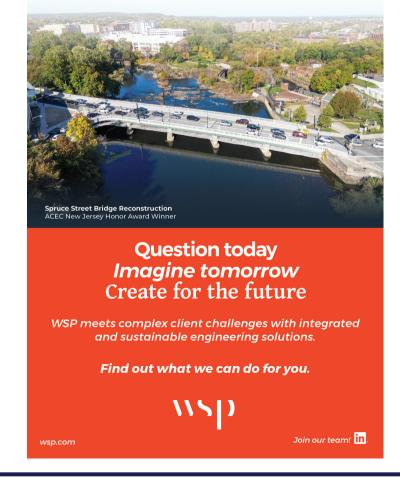














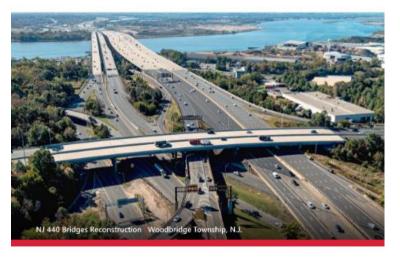






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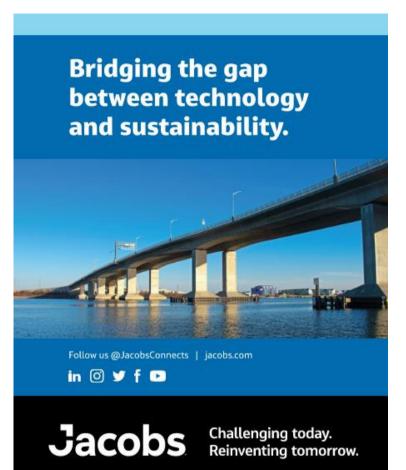
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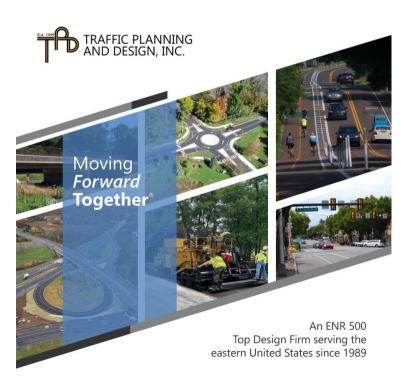


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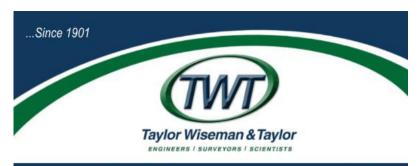


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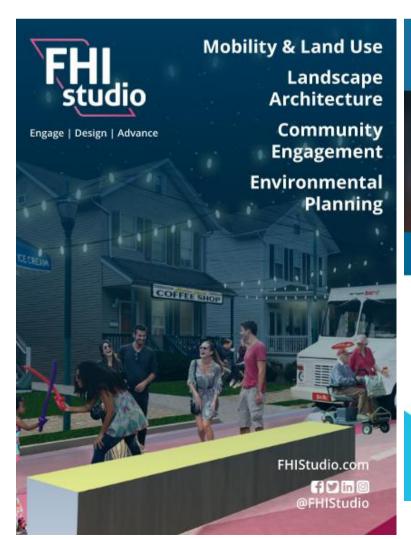
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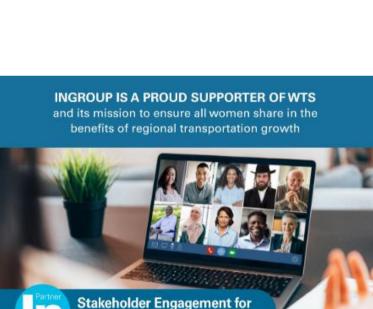
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