



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Atlanta

FALL/WINTER 2023



A Season of Gratitude

On behalf of the WTS Atlanta chapter president and board, we acknowledge this season of gratitude and would like to extend gratitude to our corporate partners, committees and volunteers, because we could not deliver these programs and events without each of you! The next few pages represent our appreciation for your participation and support, highlights from our annual Scholarship Luncheon and annual holiday party, as well as next year's WTSI member opportunities. Be on the lookout for the upcoming membership drive event and ways to get involved with our chapter in 2024 whether it is through your attendance at our events or joining our various committees. We hope you have a happy and prosperous New Year!

WTS ATLANTA
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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A Message from our 2023 Diamond Sponsor

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

Michael Baker International, a leading provider of engineering and consulting services, including design, planning, architectural, environmental, construction and program management, has been solving some of the world's most complex infrastructure challenges for more than 80 years with a legacy of expertise, experience, innovation and integrity.

Based in Pittsburgh and with nearly 100 offices nationwide, we partner with clients on everything from roads, bridges, tunnels, mass transit, and airports, to water treatment plants, arctic oil pipelines, environmental restoration and specialized overseas construction. We serve as a trusted adviser to the communities we serve, making them safer, more accessible, more sustainable and more prosperous.

We provide visionary leadership in facilitating transformational change for our clients. Our work delivers differentiating innovations and dedicated experts who challenge the status quo and share a world of diverse experience and an impassioned entrepreneurial spirit. We deliver quality of life.

We Make a Difference.



Thank

TO OUR 2023
CORPORATE PARTNERS!

you

2023 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners

Thank you to all our corporate partners!

2023 Presenting Partner

HNTB

2023 Diamond Partners

Arcadis

Atkins Realis

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Michael Baker International

WSP

2023 Platinum Partners

CERM, LLC

Hatch LTK

Intellectual Concepts

JAT Consulting Services, Inc.

True North 400

VHB

2023 Gold Partners

Atlanta Beltline

Barge

Benesch

Croy

Dewberry

Edwards-Pitman

HDR

Heath & Lineback Engineers, Inc.

Kapsch

KCI

Modern Mobility Partners

Neel Schaffer

Pont Engineering

RS&H

2023 SBE/Non-Profit Partners

Blue Cypress Consulting

Perimeter Community Improvement Districts

SJH Engineering PC

United Consulting

2023 In Kind Partners

SRTA/GRTA

Odonnell Company

Impact Public Affairs

Atlanta Regional Commission

Thank

TO OUR 2023
COMMITTEES
& VOLUNTEERS!

you

2023 WTS Atlanta Committees

Thank you for your support and leadership this year!

Programs Committee

Chair: Deborah Mobula

Alania Stewart
Ashley Baumann
Grace Olaleye
Kizzy Grier
Laura Piff
Maria Yesenia Trejo Hughes
Monica Sagastizado
Sai Gazula

Communications & Publicity Committee

Co-Chairs: Bianca George and Cara Vojdani

Heather Collins
Maria Yesenia Trejo Hughes
Nicole Lenti

Scholarship and Awards Luncheon Committee

Chair: Nicole Neeley

Amanda Von Oldenburg
Beth Ann Schwartz
Bianca George
Charlotte Weber
Dania Aponte
Deborah Mobula
DeLois Babiker
Emerald Smith
Faye Lyons-Gary
Heather Fatzinger
Janine Payne
Jean Yu
Katrina Knight

Kenyata Smiley
Laura Cook
Leigha Stephenson
Melany Reynolds
Nicole Hall
Nicole Lenti
Sherl White
Susan Johnson
Tamae Partain
Tonya Saxon
Victoria Guobaitis
Wendy Dyson

2023 WTS Atlanta Committees

Thank you for your support and leadership this year!

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Chair: Sherl White

Alice O'Brien
Anna-Kay Sinclair
Dania Aponte
Danielle Schwanke
Keri Lee
Krystal Stovall-Dixon
Nykita Hurt

Student Chapter Engagement Committee

Chair: Emerald Smith

Beth Ann Schwartz
Bianca Wilson-Price
Cain Williamson
Charlotte Weber
Lori Sand
Mae Williams
Maria Yesenia Trejo Hughes
Nicole Hall
Raymell Shannon

Membership Committee

Chair: Iris Ortiz

Kyethea Clark
Ligia Florim
Maria Yesenia Trejo Hughes

2023 WTS Atlanta Committees

Thank you for your support and leadership this year!

2023 WTSI Annual Conference

Planning Committee Co-Chairs: Malika Wilkins & Regan Hammond

Programs Committee Chair: Lori Sand

Amy Windom	Janelle Robertson	Lyssa Leitner
Barbara Arens	Jon Ravenelle	Sirisha Pillalamarri
Cain Williamson	Kaitlyn Rimol	Stacey Sinclair
Elizabeth Barnes-Hanson	Kelly Cheeseman	Zenobia Fields
Harley Hubbard	Krystal Stovall Dixon	

Poster Session Committee Co-Chairs: Kylie Vacko & Molly Rea

Hospitality & Volunteers Committee Co-Chairs: Sherl White & Tonya Saxon

Aileen Daney	Danena Gaines	Josshe Palm	Raymell Shannon
Alania Stewart	Danielle Schwanke	Keri Lee	Rona Swann
Alice O'Brien	December Weir	Kim Ajy	Sarah Beddington
Amanda von Oldenburg	DeLois Babiker	Krystal Stovall-Dixon	Shontay Rose-Bell
Anna Peterson	Elizabeth Davis	LaKenya Rapely	Susan Johnson
Anna-Kay Sinclair	Gloria Neal	Leticia Caviness	Tara King
Benecia Dennard	Heather Collins	Lina Campuzano	Tara Wad
Blane Solomon	Jenny Jenkins	Mackensie Barbee	Tuesday Thompson
Candace Foster	Jill Goldberg	Mai Trang	Tori Brinkley
Cindy Jenkins	Julie Goldberg	Melda Hickman	Yolande Stover
Christy Jeon	Jordyn Jones	Monica Rossell	Yvonne Douglas
Dania Aponte			

Tours & Transportation Committee Co-Chairs: Jean Yu & Tonia Brown

Aileen Daney	Danielle Schwanke	Kenniece Godfrey	Shawn Pinnock
Allison Bell	Faye Lyons	Lee Boatright	Susan Jin
Ashley Chan	Irene Velez Londono	Ligia Florim	Tara Wad
Audra Rojek	Jordyn Jones	Rona Swann	Tori Brinkley
Bianca George	Julie Trowbridge	Sara Beddington	Ye Hansen
Chelle Hengglar	Katrina Knight	Sara Lynch	Yolanda Stover
Cindy Jenkins			

Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee Chair: Daveitta Jenkins Knight

Claudia Bilotto
Kristin Winzeler
Rukiya Thomas
Shelley Lamar

Student Engagement Day Committee Chair: Qiana McKoy

Blue Ribbon Committee Chair: Rhonda Briggins



2023 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

by Rukiya Thomas

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Scholarship Luncheon Committee, and our membership, we appreciate the support of our local WTS Chapter and, more importantly, our Scholarship Program and mission this year. The mission of WTS is to attract, sustain, connect, and advance women's careers to strengthen the transportation industry. This primary focus allowed us in November to award scholarships to four deserving students and celebrate some very deserving leaders in the region. These individuals are the current and future success of WTS.



Photo (above): WTS Atlanta President presenting on stage

Photo (top): WTS Atlanta Annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Georgia Aquarium

In addition to these individuals, the reward for the board is that we lead a top performing chapter that consistently receives the Circle of Excellence honor and remain an invaluable asset to our local industry over the last 40 plus years now. We of course could not do it without the leadership of the WTS International Board and Foundation with three local leaders at the international level. The planning of the 2023 Scholarship Luncheon was led by Nicole Neeley of HNTB, and the board was extremely pleased with the committee's success this year.

As president, I would like to share the year in review by beginning with a shout out to our over 375 members of

WTS Atlanta reaching the largest membership in the history of the chapter by over 60%. We had a crazy idea for our 40th to increase our membership to 400 members after being around 200 for years, and we are roughly 25 away!!! We aimed to demonstrate this year that Membership has its benefits! Our corporate partners are the absolute best in the country. They not only support us with corporate dollars, but they also show up with leaders for programming and employees as volunteers in the chapter year after year. When we raised the bar last year to elevate our scholarship luncheon to an evening affair for our 40th Anniversary, our corporate partners not only met us at our increased sponsorship levels but exceeded our overall goal by 64% percent. This year, many returned without hesitation to support our chapter's growth by helping us to meet 100% of our fundraising goal before the end of the first quarter. We honestly can't do what we do without this support each year and for that, we thank each and every sponsor at every level, starting with our presenting sponsor HNTB.

I am more encouraged than ever with our progress this year on many fronts. If you haven't noticed, we have the most dynamic board in the 40-year history of WTS Atlanta. I am biased of course. Seventy percent of our board represents people of color with 40% of that representing African/African American and 30% representing Latina. Transportation leadership should be as culturally diverse as its users...right? Thirty percent of our board leadership are thriving professionals at 40 years of age and under, so our board leadership spans about 30 years. The diverse generational perspectives keep us open and adaptive. Only fifty percent of our board leadership are engineers with the other half representing diverse non-engineering careers in our industry. We need our environmental

teams, our marketing proposal teams, our finance, contracts and business development teams as well for the industry to be fully supported and thrive. Lastly, as if our board isn't dynamic enough, 70% of us are working moms balancing careers and family while serving WTS Atlanta...showing younger professionals that women do have more options now.

We are reaching new heights in growing diverse membership as well! We are excited that our overall membership currently is more reflective of our dear city. In Q1 of this year we were at 33% people of color to 29% majority of those that disclosed. Now in Q4, we have grown to 38% people of color to 28% majority of those that disclose, which around 70% do. Where we need work is in increasing our male membership, which has remained pretty flat at 3% all year. We need more male membership. Women can't advance women alone. The goal is always to achieve more balance in the industry.

WTS Atlanta's programs have been dynamic under the leadership of our VP of Programs, Deborah Mobula. Our first event of the year was our membership kick-off event held at the SRTA/GRTA/ATL headquarters in downtown Atlanta and attendance was maxed out. Jannine Miller, our guest speaker, discussed how her previous role at GDOT and current role enables her to help bring all aspects of transportation effectively together. Special thanks to SRTA/GRTA/ATL for hosting our membership kick-off this year.

The Women of the Year Panel Discussion was priceless. Marsha Anderson Bomar, Chairwoman Lisa Cupid and Erica Parrish shared intimate detail and wisdom from their journeys in transportation and politics. This was a members-only event that was truly invaluable.

Members toured The National Center for Civil and Human Rights in February to study how significant the role of transportation was in the advancement of civil rights in America as well as stood together with other industry organizations for Transit Equity Day.

We were very thrilled to launch a Professional Development Series in April...and plan to incorporate more in 2024.

We had two key student engagement activities. For example, the Georgia Regional Future City Competition was addressing climate change in a city 100 years from now. Iris Ortiz, VP of Membership, served as a judge with multiple WTS members volunteering to make this program a success. Also, every year we take advantage of the opportunity to participate in ACEC's Introduce a Girl to Engineering at Kennesaw State, and our members always enjoy the competition as much as the girls.

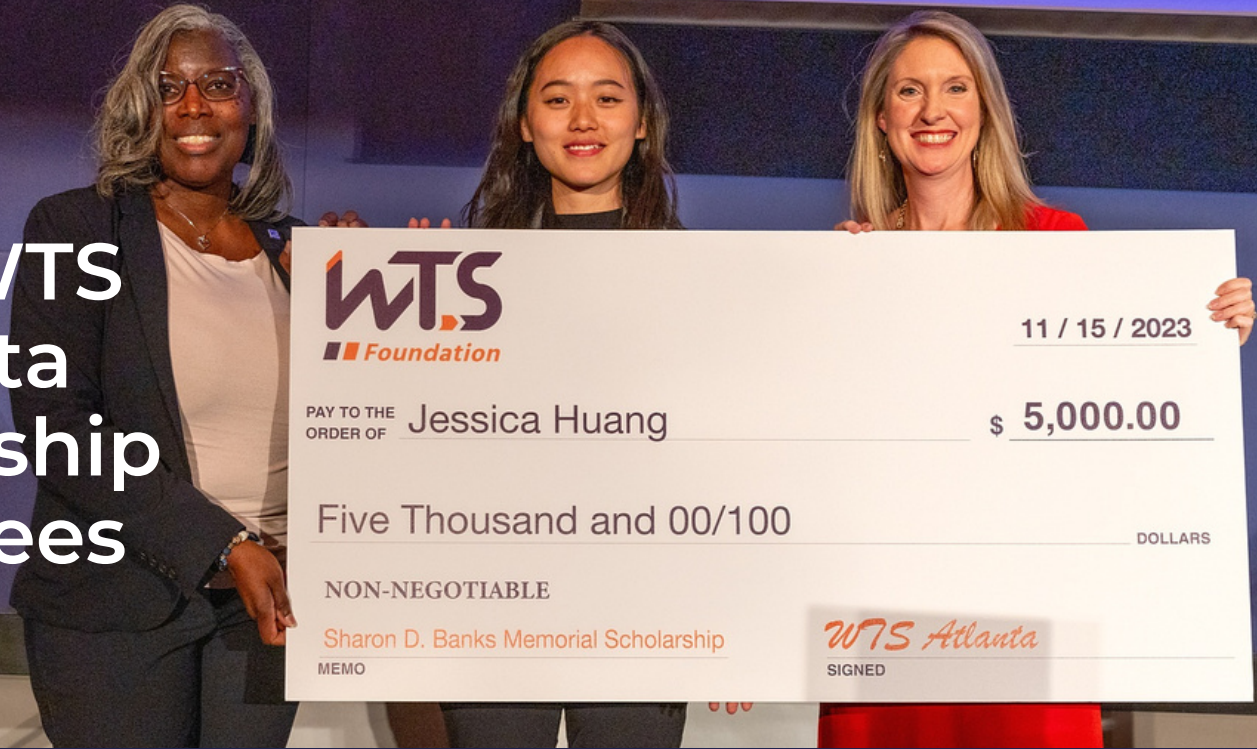
WTS Atlanta Chapter was proud to host this year's International Conference with our local conference planning team under Chairs Malika Reed Wilkins and Regan Hammond. It was quite a lift, but we delivered exceptionally. We have had record attendance in the history of all WTS International conferences. We raised over \$100,000 locally, earning the chapter additional financial support for our collective efforts. The Blue Ribbon Commission Reception turned out to be an impressive list of transportation leaders. Our menu of tours and projects across our great city were of such interest that they sold out prior to the conference launch. Finally, what really warmed our hearts is that our very own Marsha Anderson Bomar, a WTS Atlanta charter member, won Woman of the Year for her contributions to the industry and WTS at the International level. It was truly an overall success.

And then the work continued with Board member Sherl White escorting a local future engineer to our nation's capital for the WTS International Capital Summit to learn all about the excitement and fulfillment of pursuing a career in transportation.

Finally, WTS Atlanta could not do anything without our transportation partners on the public and private side. You partner with us by contributing your dollars, your leaders, your volunteers, your knowledge and it helps move us all forward together. Thank you to GDOT and the State Transportation Board for showing up annually. Thank you to the ARC for hosting, Mobility Atlanta, Atlanta Beltline, The Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport, MARTA and the City of Atlanta ADOT for making the Multimodal Exchange a success. And thank you to our transportation partner organization COMTO for helping us to deliver the Prime DBE Mixer where we heard from top Primes and top DBEs on teaming successes and challenges.

It has been my pleasure to lead this great local organization. I hope our corporate sponsors see that their financial contributions are invested well. Thank you and we hope to aim higher in 2024.

2023 WTS Atlanta Scholarship Awardees



**Helene M. Overly Memorial
Scholarship (\$5,000)**

ADAIR GARRETT
Georgia Institute of Technology



Scholarships

- Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship
- Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship
- Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates
- Jannet Walker-Ford Leadership Legacy Scholarship for Graduates

Silent Auction, Industry Leadership Highlights and Special Guests





Member of the Year Award
Katrina Knight



Uncovering our Legacy Award
Dana Lemon



Employer of the Year Award
Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta
International Airport

2023 WTS Atlanta Chapter Awardees



Diversity Leadership Award
Atkins Realis



Man of the Year Award
Balaram Bheodari



Woman of the Year Award
Keli Kemp

2023 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners





SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

PHOTOS NOW AVAILABLE!!!

[View Full Photo Gallery](#)
([Large Format](#)) [Here](#)

[View Full Photo Gallery](#)
([Small Format](#)) [Here](#)





2023 WTS ATLANTA HOLIDAY PARTY

by Rukiya Thomas



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his year the Atlanta Chapter decided to shake things up for the holidays! We hosted our annual holiday party at the Main Event in Cobb County so we could eat, drink, be merry and have a little fun with our family and friends in transportation. It was a festive occasion on us for a select number of members in celebration of such a successful year that we could not have had without each of you. We extend our gratitude to sponsors, committees and members for helping the board to deliver on the mission of WTS Atlanta each and every year. It was quite a treat to meet the husbands, wives and children of those that we have been working together with in the industry for so many years. I hope that everyone had an opportunity to celebrate throughout the season and we hope to see you in 2024!



Photo (above): Donations for Restoration House

Photo (top): WTS members and board members







Connect with
us on our
LinkedIn Page



Out with OLD...IN with the NEW
Don't forget our new public LinkedIn page is
WTS Atlanta



Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
➤ Atlanta



2024

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Registration: 11:30 am - Noon
Program: Noon - 1:00 pm

SRTA Boardroom
245 Peachtree Center Avenue NE, Suite 2300
Atlanta, GA 30303

[REGISTER HERE](#)

2024 WTS Atlanta Upcoming Events Calendar



[View Events Here](#)

Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)

Member Opportunities

WTS Atlanta Mission

WTS Atlanta seeks to close the workforce gap in the Atlanta regional transportation industry by promoting lifelong careers in transportation for women. By attracting, retaining and advancing women in the industry, WTS Atlanta will be the most recognized network of transportation subject matter experts.

Get Involved!!

There are many ways to get involved this year! From joining a WTS Atlanta committee to participating in local events throughout the year. Register to attend the 2024 membership drive event below.

Want to learn more about our amazing benefits, like professional and leadership development, networking, educational programming, volunteering and mentorship, and events? Please contact our Vice President of Membership, Iris Ortiz at iortiz@hntb.com.

[Attend 2024
Membership Drive](#)

Connect with WTS Atlanta

We love connecting with our WTS community on social media. Please follow, like and share WTS Atlanta!

Also, check out our industry [job postings here.](#)



Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)

Member Opportunities

WTS International Vision

Equity and access for women in transportation.

WTS International Mission

WTS attracts, sustains, connects and advances women's careers to strengthen the transportation industry.

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Get Involved!!

Check out these WTS International events for 2024:

WTS International Chair's Reception at TRB Annual Meeting

WTS Workshops & Webinars

Distinguished Speaker Series

WTS Member Meetups

WTS Spring Policy Symposium

WTS International Annual Conference

WTS Capital Summit

WTS Signature Leadership Training

WTS Chapter Leadership Development

For more information on these events:

[View Events Here](#)

Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)

Member Opportunities

Get Scholarships!!

Check out these WTS Foundation scholarships for 2024:

Strategic Partner Scholarships

Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates

**Jannet Walker-Ford Leadership Legacy
Scholarship for Graduates**

Junior College/Trade School Scholarship

WTS Transportation YOU High School Scholarship

For more information on these scholarships:

[View Scholarships
Here](#)

Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)



Help WTS Atlanta Raise \$40,000 for Scholarships for Our 40th Anniversary



To celebrate WTS Atlanta's 40th Anniversary this year, our chapter has set a goal to raise \$40,000 for our scholarship program to support women pursuing transportation careers. Please help us reach this goal by scanning this QR code to donate.

Track our progress on the donation thermometer here:
[Fundraising Wall](#) | [WTS Foundation](#) | [GiveSmart Fundraise](#)

In 2022, WTS Atlanta awarded 5 scholarships for a total of \$15,000.

Your donation today will help us raise \$40,000 to expand our scholarship program in 2023.

Thank you for your donation and support!