



> New Jersey

Advancing women
Advancing transportation

THE JERSEY CONNECTION

March 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring has sprung! It is hard to believe our chapter is in the 4th year of bloom. Thanks to the efforts of our leadership team, we have several activities and partnerships taking root. We look forward to encouraging the new talent that will blossom with the kick-off of our mentorship program as well as showcasing other events, scheduled for at least twice a month through July. Everyone has something to offer in terms of experience. Please let us (wtsnewjersey@gmail.com) know how you would like to share your knowledge during one of our mentor or program events.

Growth continues with the support of our Corporate Partners. Over 30 organizations and counting have committed 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.

In partnership with other industry associations and agencies, we look forward to co-hosting several events. So far this year, we have already co-hosted a panel discussion on “Artificial Intelligence in Transportation” with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and a “Meet the Women Leader at DRPA” panel. On May 1st, there will be another panel discussion showcasing the capital programs and major initiatives of agency partners at NJ TransAction. On May 22nd, our annual Top Golf “Swings for Scholarship” will take place, with the 18-Hole event in August. This year, our Programs Team will host another virtual Tech Series every month through September. Stay tuned for more to come - upcoming events schedules can be found at: [Upcoming Events | WTS \(wtsinternational.org\)](#).

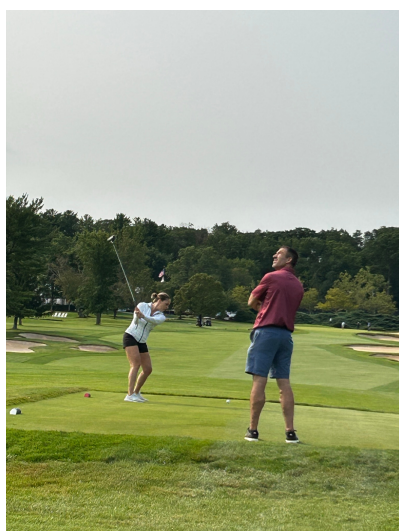
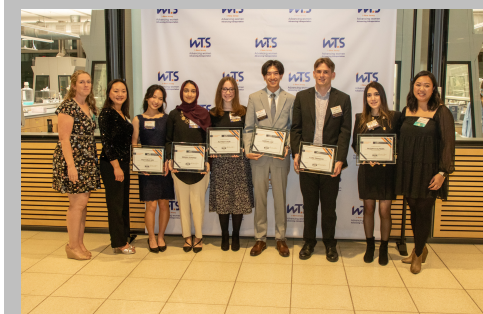
What conversations will you tune in for: work life balance, manage leave request and career advancement, leadership styles, topical talks about safety, aviation, rail, freight, bridges, sustainability, active transportation, operations, finance, the Gateway? The ones without words involving a yoga class, meditation techniques or painting session? This is your WTS NJ. We are listening.

Thank you for connecting!

Zenobia L. Fields

EVENT RECAPS

- Thursday, August 3 WTS NJ Golf Outing
- Wednesday, August 30 Women Takeover Transportation: Virtual Series, 3rd session - WBE Your Own Boss Lady
- Thursday, September 7 Member Appreciation- Wine and Dine
- Wednesday, September 21 2nd Annual Swings for Scholarship - Top Golf
- Wednesday, September 27 Women Takeover Transportation: Virtual Series, 4th session - Women in Transportation Safety
- Wednesday, October 10 Rutgers Career Fair
- Friday, October 13 Corporate Partners Networking Event
- Thursday, November 9 Annual Awards Event
- Wednesday, December 13 Holiday Party
- Thursday, February 21 Artificial Intelligence Transportation Event with NSBE
- Wednesday, March 20 Women's History Month Panel Discussion: Women in Transportation
- Tuesday, March 26 WTS Advisory Committee: Meet the Women Leaders at DRPA



Click [here](#) for Additional Photos



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

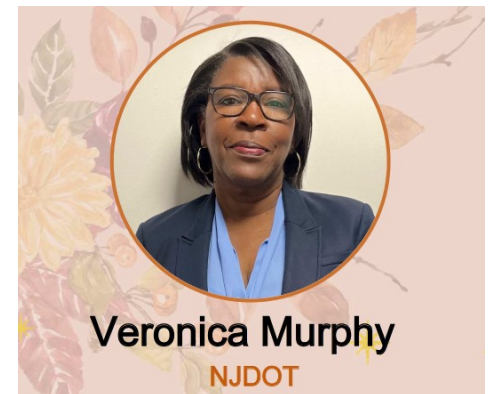
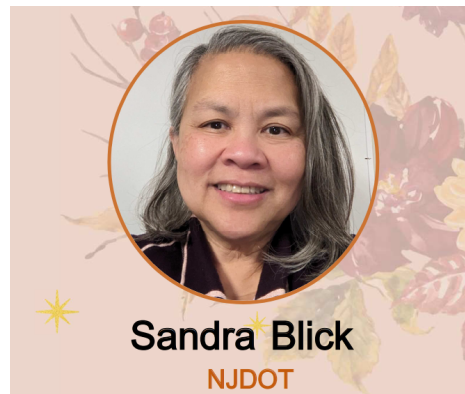
WTSI MEMBER MEETUP

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. In 2023, WTS NJ selected Sandra Blick (NJDOT) and Veronica Murphy (NJDOT) as the Honorary Members. Congratulations to both!



If you know anyone who should be awarded a 2024 Honorary Member, please submit your upcoming nomination this Fall 2024.

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).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! (as of 3/01/2024)

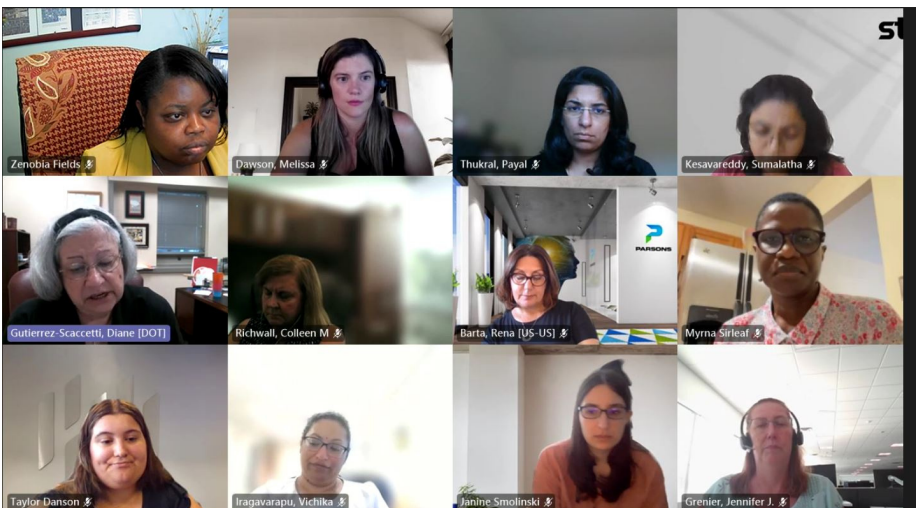
- Earlyne Alexander
- Pratima Poplai
- Nisha Patel
- Monica Zabroski
- Karam Choudhary
- Marissa Guadagno
- Andrew Tunnard
- Laura Baldacchino
- Stephen Dilts
- Akshita Saini
- Jackie Keogh
- Holtisa Jovani
- Deborah Hyman
- Sarah Zunaed
- Noshin Saiyara Ahmad
- Alison Cucco
- June Kibe
- Justine Angela Recio
- Ruofan Chen
- Jullian Cunha
- Teresa Thomas
- Janet Campbell-Lorenc
- Lenora Issac
- Andrea Tortoreto
- Halima Alsayed
- Erin Shea

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES

We're thrilled to share the success of the WTS NJ 2023 Mentoring Program! It's been an incredible journey starting from our kickoff speed matching session on May 10th, where mentor/mentee pairs were established. Following this, participants embarked on a journey of self-discovery by taking the Clifton Strengths Top 5 Assessment, paving the way for insightful discussions on leveraging their strengths to define and achieve career goals at our gathering on June 14th. Our July 11th summer soiree provided a relaxed setting for networking and honing elevator pitches, fostering connections and valuable skills alike. As we look ahead, for our 2024 Class, we are excited to continue building relationships between our committee, mentors, and mentees. Here's to another year of growth, learning, and empowerment together!



Mentoring





ADVISORY COUNCIL

WTS NJ recently formed its first Advisory Council to support the WTS NJ chapter's mission to promote the advancement of women in transportation. Advisory Council members are industry leaders who can serve as bridges to their various transportation sectors and agencies, allowing for a more integrated and effective approach to achieving broader engagement and awareness of WTS activities. For 2024, the Advisory Council Formation Committee will be led by Rena Barta (Chair), Jihane Fazio (Vice Chair), and Judy Bowen (Director at Large).

The Advisory Council is comprised of leaders from the following agencies:



WTS NJ Gives Back to STEM



In the spirit of giving during the holidays, last year, WTS NJ decided to support the Rutgers Chapter for Engineers in Action. Formerly known as Bridges to Prosperity, Rutgers's Engineers in Action Chapter aims to engage students, providing resources and opportunities to use academic training to provide essential infrastructure for villages suffering from rural isolation. See the video from last summer's construction of the Mandlakhe Post Bridge in Eswatini: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17NA5kDoq57BJsnyf_vsfRd0NHmhYsx12/view



Engineers in Action



MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

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

- Nia Joseph started a new career from NJ Transit to Compliance & Safety Manager PATH, at the PANYNJ
- Tam Sillick, PE, PMP was promoted to Office Lead for the WSP Lawrenceville Office
- Janet Keiser, PE, PTOE, has joined Terracon, a leading national consulting engineering firm comprised of engineers, scientists, architects, facilities, experts, and field professionals. She has been named Vice President and National Director for Transportation and Infrastructure. Read all about her new journey: <https://www.terracon.com/2023/11/16/terracon-names-janet-keiser-vice-president-and-national-director-for-transportation-and-infrastructure/>

What an inspiring group of leaders we have!!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, April 17, 12:00 pm Tech Series: Women Power - Electrical Engineering

Thursday, May 22, 5:00 pm Top Golf Event

Wednesday, June 5, 12:00 pm Tech Series: Advocates for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Wednesday, July 10, 12:00 pm Tech Series: Emergency Response

Thursday, August 1, 7:30 am Swings for Scholarships

Thursday, September 19, 9:00am Field Day

Wednesday, October 9, 12:00 pm Tech Series: Design Build Projects

Friday, October 11, 9:00 am 2024 Corporate Partner Networking Event

For further details, please visit our [website](#) for updates.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

We thank all of our steadfast Corporate Partners.

The generous donations of our Corporate Partners 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 partnership, please contact [Kristen Ahlfeld](#), Corporate Partners Chair.

DIAMOND PARTNERS



PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



M/W/S/DBE PARTNER

