

President's Message

Dear WTS Members,

The Autumnal Equinox has just past and with it a reminder of a beautiful metaphor I once heard about Fall leaves. The falling of leaves is nature's way of reminding us to let go of the past and make ready for the future. As the trees let their leaves go, the foliage gathers on the ground, and if left as nature intended to decompose, it becomes part of the soil - adding richness that fuels future growth. The regenerative process cycles through dormancy until new growth begins each Spring. We humans are not much different. We must let go of some things to grow and take on new opportunities, with our past fueling our roots and inner growth. And sometimes we need a dormant period (a Winter) to renew our energy for new growth. No wonder Autumn is a natural time for retrospection, introspection and goal setting!

Therefore, I challenge us all to reflect on what we can let go of with the Autumn leaves and imagine what our next Spring might look like. What new thing can be learned, shared, implemented, and applied to your life? What role could WTS Iowa play in these personal and professional goals? Additionally, what can our Chapter let go of to recharge or fuel up, and grow?

- Allison Sambol

Iowa Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT
21

TRAILBLAZERS IN TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING

Women Entrepreneurs Share Their Journey** Join us on October 21st at 12:00 PM for a special panel discussion featuring Carrie Falkenrath, PE, and Teva Dawson, as they share their inspiring success stories as women entrepreneurs in transportation. This webinar is free for members and non-members. [Register here!](#)

OCT
24

BOOK CLUB, PART 1

Join us from 4-5 PM for a virtual book club. We'll be reading "Girl, Stop Apologizing" by Rachel Hollis. RSVP to Jennifer.mccoy@bolton-menk.com

NOV
04

WTS IOWA BOARD MEETING

NOV
21

BOOK CLUB, PART 2

Join us from 4-5 PM for a virtual book club. We'll be reading "Girl, Stop Apologizing" by Rachel Hollis. RSVP to Jennifer.mccoy@bolton-menk.com

DEC
02

WTS IOWA BOARD MEETING

DEC
06

SAVE THE DATE! MEMBER IN-PERSON EVENT: CHARTING A NEW PATH

Join us for a member event at The Cellar Winery from 5:30-7:00 PM in Madrid, Iowa. There will be a presentation by John Barber, engineer turned winery owner. We'll also have headshot photography available for a fee.

DEC
09

WTS IOWA ANNUAL VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Meet the WTS Iowa board and dedicated committee members at our Annual Business Meeting. We'll also honor our scholarship and award winners. Stay tuned for more details about this event!

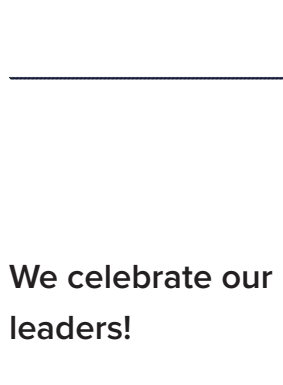
JAN
10

WTS IOWA ANNUAL GALA

Save the date! Our Annual Gala is on January 10th, 2025, at the DSM Botanical Garden. This elegant evening is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our achievements, network in business cocktail attire, and look ahead to the coming year with dinner, drinks, music, access to the dome after dark, and great company.

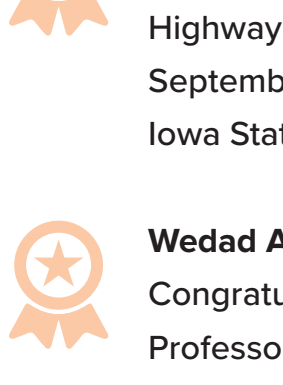
WTS IOWA SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to Anna and Alaina, our 2024 WTS Iowa Scholarship recipients!



Anna is a Junior at the University of Iowa, majoring in Civil Engineering. She is very interested in improving our public transportation and bike trail systems after studying abroad in Spain and witnessing what that country has to offer.

Awarded \$1700



Alaina is a Junior at Iowa State University, majoring in Civil Engineering with a minor in Urban Studies. Alaina is an active member of the ASCE student chapter, where she serves as the secretary. Not only does Alaina enjoy the intricate detail of design work, she's very concerned with transportation and its ability to keep people safe.

Awarded \$1700

Cheers to Success!

We celebrate our members achieving great things and inspiring the next generation of leaders!



Shawn Blaesing, GISP

Shawn Blaesing gave a great presentation on digital delivery at the International Highway Engineering Exchange Program (IHEEP) conference in Des Moines on September 18. Shawn is a Geospatial Coordinator for Iowa DOT and lecturer at Iowa State University.



Wedad Abu Adi, Ph.D., M.Sc. CAPM-PMI

Congratulations to Wedad for starting a new position as Visiting Assistant Professor in Construction Management at Purdue University (Fort Wayne).



Stephanie Hemberger

Congratulations to Stephanie for her promotion to Iowa Practice Leader at HNTB!



Renee Jerman

Congratulations to Renee on graduating from the Leadership Iowa Class of 2023-2024, a program by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry! As Iowa DOT's State and Federal Relations Compliance Officer, she's embraced an incredible opportunity for both professional and personal growth.

We love recognizing the achievements of our members! You worked hard and you deserve the recognition. [Fill out the form here.](#)

WTS on the Move!

WTS Iowa members had a great time at the Bike Ride & Social with Iowa Section ITE in August.



WTS Iowa was thrilled to host a fun, interactive booth for STEM Day at the Iowa State Fair



WTS Iowa hosted a dinner to connect with members and other transportation professionals at the Iowa ACEC Conference.



Sponsorship Spotlight

Michael Baker

INTERNATIONAL

At Michael Baker International, We Make a Difference is more than a tagline – it is ingrained into the very fabric of the company. We Make a Difference for clients, partnering with them to solve some of the world's most complex

infrastructure challenges. We Make a Difference for communities, helping to enact transformational change and improve quality of life. We Make a Difference for colleagues, working closely as a team to innovate and achieve shared goals. We Make a Difference for the industry, encouraging employees to be active in WTS and contribute to the organization's important work in adding value to the transportation industry.

Michael Baker International's commitment to the mission of WTS is well-established. Locally, Ashley Cook, a bridge project manager for Michael Baker based in Iowa, is a part of the WTS Iowa board and Sponsorship Chair. More broadly, Michael Baker has been involved with WTS for nearly 20 years and currently has more than 100 active members across the country. The firm shares WTS' mission of advancing women and transportation and is committed to strengthening the transportation industry through recruiting, retaining and advancing women in the industry. Partnering with WTS has contributed to Michael Baker's overall success by offering members education, programming, training and advocacy opportunities. [Learn more.](#)

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more sustainable, better connected, and more efficient. Simply put, we work to leave the world better than we found it. Though our philosophy hasn't changed since John E. Olsson opened our doors many years ago, we have certainly lived, adding dozens of Top 100 engineering firm status in 2018 (currently No. 74 on Engineering News-Record's Top 500 Design Firms national list), proving that tenacity, teamwork, and a philanthropic mindset is indeed a winning combination.

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