









45 YEARS OF WTS PHILADELPHIA

1979-2024



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A WORD FROM OUR 23RD PRESIDENT

As we celebrate 45 years of advancing women in the transportation industry, I am deeply honored to reflect on our shared journey and the extraordinary strides we've made together. What began as a mission to create a space for women to network, learn, and grow has cultivated into a powerful movement – WTS Philadelphia.

Over the past four and a half decades, we have worked to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create pathways to leadership for women. Through mentorship, education, and opportunities, we have empowered countless women to rise, excel, and make their mark in the transportation industry.

While we celebrate these incredible accomplishments, we know there is still much work to be done. The need for diversity, equity, and inclusion in transportation remains as important as ever. Our mission is clear: to continue driving change, opening doors, and ensuring that every person, regardless of gender or background, has an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive.

Thank you to everyone who has been an integral part of our story—our members, sponsors, partners, and leaders. Your dedication, passion, and perseverance have been essential in shaping our success. Together, we will continue to drive change, inspire new generations, and lead the way forward.

Onward & Upward,

API APPULINGAM, PE, AAE PRESIDENT, WTS PHILADELPHIA

OUR HISTORY

"WTS Philadelphia is one of the most vibrant chapters in an international organization linking more than 40,000 transportation professionals."

WTS International, originally named Women's Transportation Seminar, launched in 1977. Women were largely discouraged from participating in professional associations - unless the activities were deemed educational. So a group of pioneers whipped up a plan to escape the office - typically during lunch under the guise of attending a seminar. The goal: to advance women who worked in all levels of transportation, as well as the very industry itself. Sure, there was a learning component, but there was an even greater emphasis on forging connections. WTS Philadelphia emerged two years later on June 21, 1979.

Over the decades, the chapter grew steadily, attracting women and men throughout the five-county Delaware Valley Region. WTS Philadelphia built a reputation for delivering superior networking opportunities, cutting edge programs, and relevant professional development sessions. Today we have more than 70 corporate and agency partners and over 350 members.

The execution might have changed a bit over the years, but the goals remain the same – advancing women and advancing transportation.



THE CHAPTER WAS FOUNDED BY 12 LOCAL WOMEN

wts philadelphia 2024 SNAPSHOT





5,600+ PROFESSIONALS IN NETWORK

> 71 CHAPTER SPONSORS

65+ EVENTS

\$25,000 AWARDED IN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD



PRESIDENT API APPULINGAM, PE, AAE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION



VICE PRESIDENT ALEXIS WILLIAMS, AICP, PP *STV*



TREASURER JACLYN WHELAN, PE CONRAIL



PRESIDENT ELECT

ABBEY GANCZ, PE, LEED AP URBAN ENGINEERS



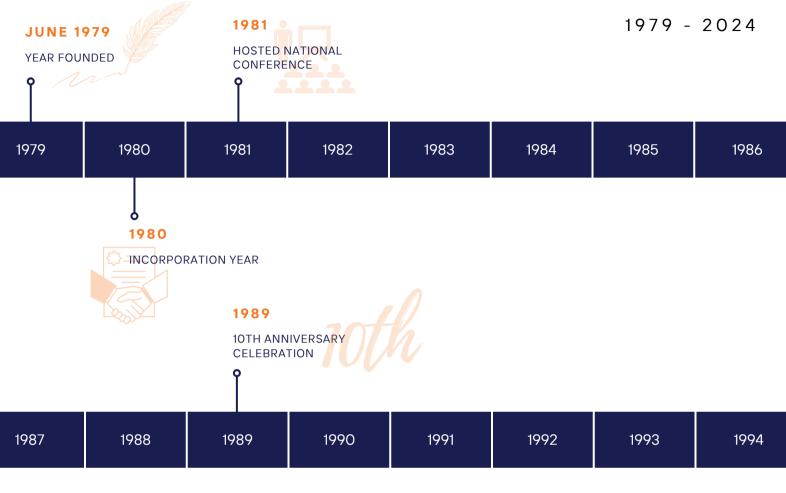
SECRETARY TAMARA NICHOLSON, PMP, PGMP UNICORN CONSULTING SOLUTIONS, LLC



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

ERICA ANTOINE, PE BURNS ENGINEERING

WTS PHILADELPHIA THROUGH THE YEARS

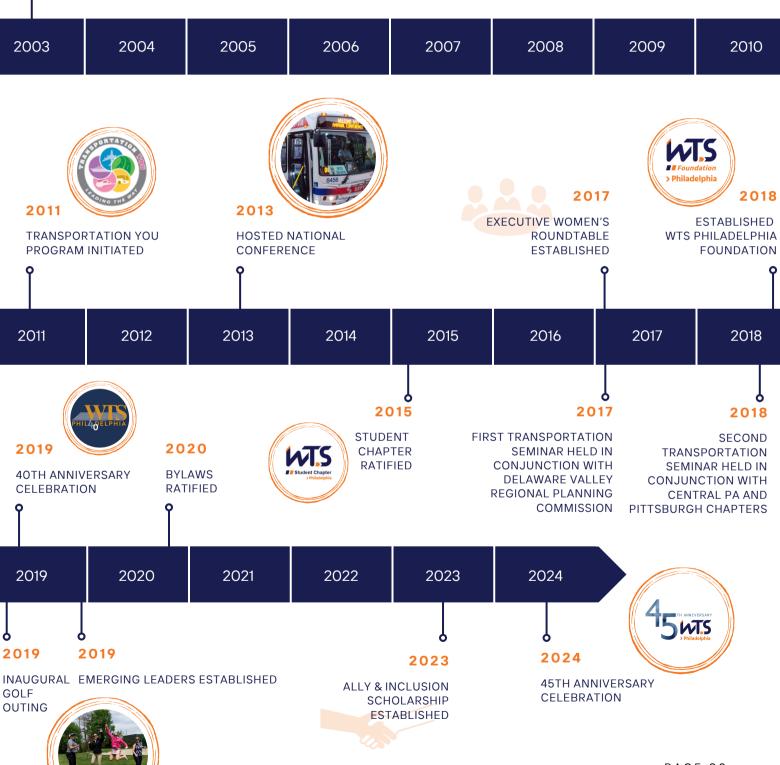


1996



WTS PHILADELPHIA THROUGH THE YEARS

1979 - 2024 CONTINUED



2003

PROGRAM

INTRODUCED MENTORING

PAGE 08

2024 COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

COMMITTEES

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Director: AnnMarie Vigilante Chair: Briana Pampuch

CHAPTER RELATIONS

Director: Lindsey Graham Dixon Membership Chair: Lori Piscopo Sponsor Recognition Chair: Kristen Weber VIP Event Co-Chair: Alex Atiyeh VIP Event Co-Chair: Paige Braude

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Director: Jen Waters Communications Chair: Mia Held M/W/DBE Expo Co-Chair: Colleen Meiswich M/W/DBE Expo Co-Chair: Rose Rinker

EMERGING LEADERS

Director: Caitlin Cavanagh Co-Chair: Lauren Kujawa Co-Chair: Jessica Herman

EXECUTIVE WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE

Director: Kiera Crenny

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Director: Elyse Conti Chair: Danielle Kauffman

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Director: Faye Majekodunmi WTS Works Co-Chair: Kirsten Kennedy WTS Works Co-Chair: Tara Hofferth TECHnique: Lee Wolfe LFAL Co-Chair: Shiny Mathew LFAL Co-Chair: Claudia Aliff

PROGRAMS

Director: Kelly Freeman Chair: Melissa Cranford

STUDENT OUTREACH

Director: Danielle Schroeder TRYOU Co-Chair: Gina Venuto-Gabriella TRYOU Co-Chair: Madelyn Marquardt Scholarship: Theresa Loux Student Chapter Co-Chair: Cory Wyffels Student Chapter Co-Chair: Blaire Miran

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

45 IN 45

Chair: Melissa Chapman Co-Vice Chair: Allyson Radford Co-Vice Chair: Jen Duval

LEHIGH VALLEY ANNEX

Chair: AnnMarie Vigilante Co-Vice Chair: Briana Pampuch Co-Vice Chair: Silvia Scheuermann

NORTHEAST REGION

Patti Gibson May

PAST PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Erica Antoine

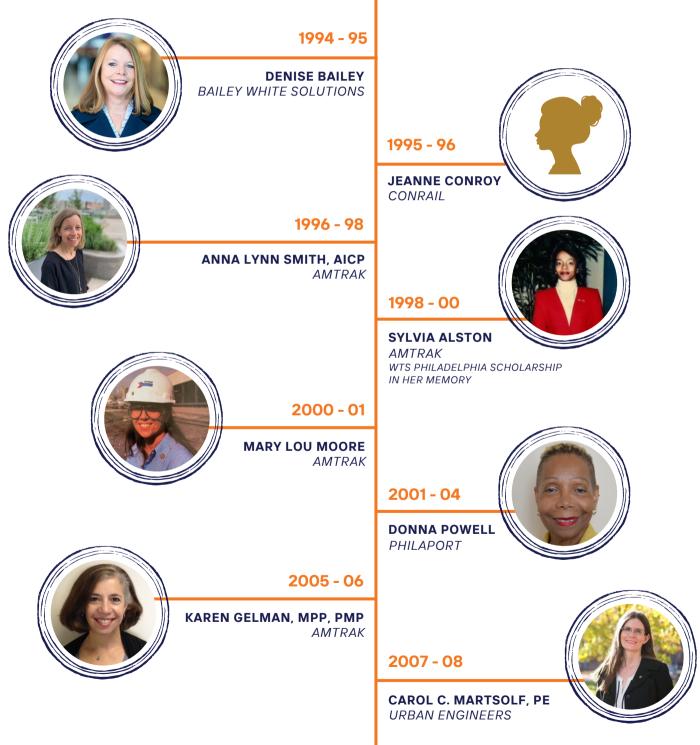
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Chair: Jenn Walsh Co-Vice Chair: Lexy McDowell Co-Vice Chair: Ty McGilberry

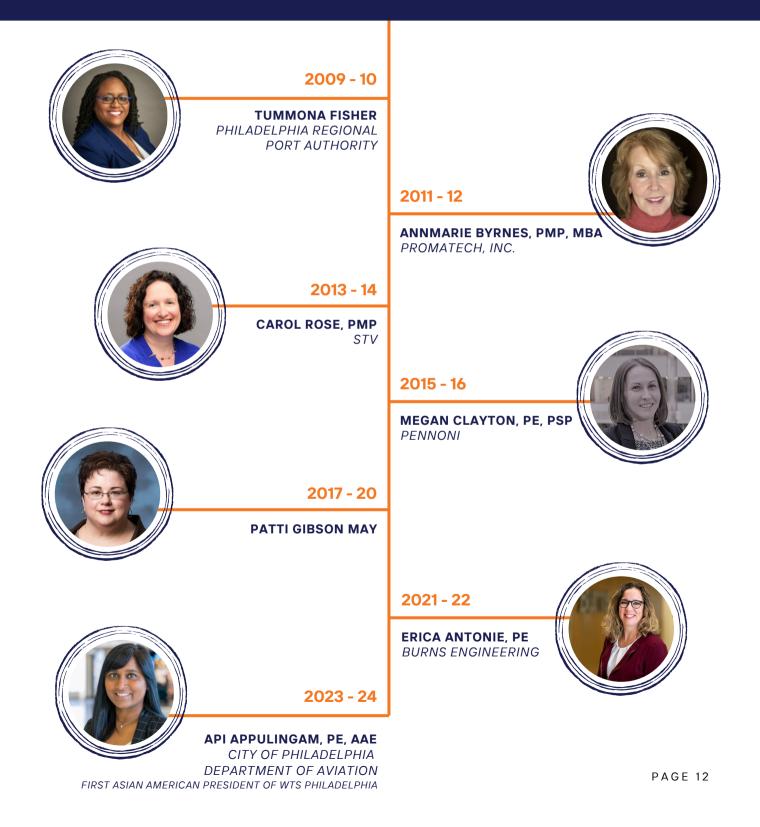
WTS PHILADELPHIA
PRESIDENTS

1979 - 80 LINDA SARIS FOUNDING PRESIDENT LEAP FOR EDUCATION	1980 - 82
<image/> <image/> <section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header>	BARBARA THOMAS HARDER FOUNDING MEMBER 1984 - 87 DIANTHA L. STEVENS CONRAIL 1989 - 91
Т	PAT SMITH-GREEN PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INST AFRICAN AMERICAN PRISIDENT OF WTS PHILADELPHIA PHILADELPHIA INTERST OF WTS PHILADELPHIA

WTS PHILADELPHIA
 PRESIDENTS



WTS PHILADELPHIA
 PRESIDENTS



WTS PHILADELPHIA FOUNDATION

The WTS Philadelphia Foundation awards scholarships to women from high school to graduate school who are interested in pursuing careers in transportation. The scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant's specific transportation goals, academic record, transportationrelated activities, and other relevant skills. The WTS Philadelphia Foundation is committed to the inclusion of differences and similarities related to ethnicity, age, and gender identity. In 2023, the Ally and Inclusion scholarship was established to recognize individuals pursuing a degree in a transportationrelated field who have demonstrated support of women in their personal, professional and/or academic lives.

WTS PHILADELPHIA CIRCLE OF CONTINUITY

Danielle Schroeder

Transportation Engineer - Gannett Fleming

Scholarship Awarded: 2016 Years in WTS Philadelphia: Since 2018

"As a previous winner of one of WTS Philadelphia's scholarships, I can note firsthand how life-changing receiving one of these scholarships can be. Now as the Director of Student Outreach, I oversee the scholarship program, along with our Transportation YOU and Student Chapter and love working with all our WTS Student Outreach volunteers and leads to support our future generation of Transportation professionals."

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In the past 30+ years, **over 100 students** have benefited from this program and \$200,000+ has been awarded. In 2023 and 2024 alone, WTS Philadelphia Foundation granted 25 scholarships which totaled \$46,000.

SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDE:

- Carmen E. Turner Graduate
 Scholarship
- Sylvia Aston Graduate Scholarship
- Suzanne Axworthy Undergraduate Scholarship
- WTS Philadelphia Future of Transportation Award
- WTS Philadelphia Ally and Inclusion Scholarship
- WTS Philadelphia Circle of Continuity Award Scholarship





SCAN OR CLICK HERE TO DONATE TO THE FOUNDATION TODAY!

WTS PHILADELPHIA FUNDRAISING EVENTS

WTS Philadelphia's fundraising efforts benefit future women and minority leaders; the WTS Foundation, our 501(c)(3), was established to aid in developing and championing the next generation of professionals who will lead the transportation industry. We strive to make an impact by raising funds via programming, sponsorships, donation, leaning on our volunteers, mentors, and industry leaders to provide valuable professional opportunities and scholarships for students.



















WTS PHILADELPHIA MENTORING PROGRAM

WTS Philadelphia began its long history of facilitating a mentoring program in 2003 with just four mentor-mentee pairs. In 2005, the popularity of speed-dating at the time led to a "speed-matching" event, where interested mentees could rotate around the room and have a few minutes with each potential mentor. Pairs were developed by the committee after reviewing confidential rankings of the speed-matching encounters. While the program has not been in continuous operation since its inception, many relationships fostered as part of the WTS Philadelphia Mentoring program have continued well beyond the formal mentoring period.

In 2024, WTS Philadelphia, in partnership with the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Philadelphia chapters, hosted a 6-month mentoring program. The program aimed to promote crosscollaboration in the industry by bringing together professionals from various regional organizations, fostered meaningful relationships between mentors and protégés, and provided both entry and mid-year professionals with guidance and support outside of their existing networks.

WTS PHILADELPHIA CIRCLE OF CONTINUITY

Mentor/Mentee Spotlight

Elizabeth (Liz) Smith, PE, PMP Chief of Staff, SEPTA

"I have always believed that as a leader, and especially as female leaders, as we climb the corporate ladder we have a duty to turn around and offer a hand to those climbing behind us. I am deeply grateful to have the opportunity to do this as part of the WTS mentoring program."

Adrienne Zevin

Project Designer, Sowinski Sullivan Architects

"Liz has helped me with goal setting and making actionable items to achieve them. Liz has taught me to think not one step ahead, but more about overall growth in my current and future roles. I'm excited to share my future accomplishments with Liz, even when the program is over, as she has helped lay the framework for my professional goals and development."

WTS PHILADELPHIA MENTORING PROGRAM

CONTINUED

The program supported 25 mentee-mentor pairs and facilitated monthly one-on-one discussions centered around career development and personal goal setting. In addition to the one-on-ones, WTS Philadelphia hosted group mentoring sessions to encourage personal growth and career development.

EVENTS

To aid mentees and mentors gain a deeper understanding of themselves and how their personality traits can influence their personal and professional growth, we hosted a group workshop session led by a certified Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Professional, "Discovering Your Personality Type," which allowed participants to understand their motivations, different communication styles, and how to leverage their dominant traits to influence both their personal and professional growth.

The group also hosted "**Constructive Criticism and Feedback**," a group workshop to provide a platform for open dialogue to aid mentees and mentors to create relationships that inspire continuous improvement through feedback and reorient our perspectives regarding criticism and feedback. The panel featured esteemed panelists from industry-leading organizations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



WTS PHILADELPHIA EMERGING LEADERS



WTS PHILADELPHIA CIRCLE OF CONTINUITY

Lily Reynolds, AICP

Director of Federal Infrastructure Strategy City of Philadelphia, OTIS

Years Participated in Emerging Leaders Program: 2021 - 2022

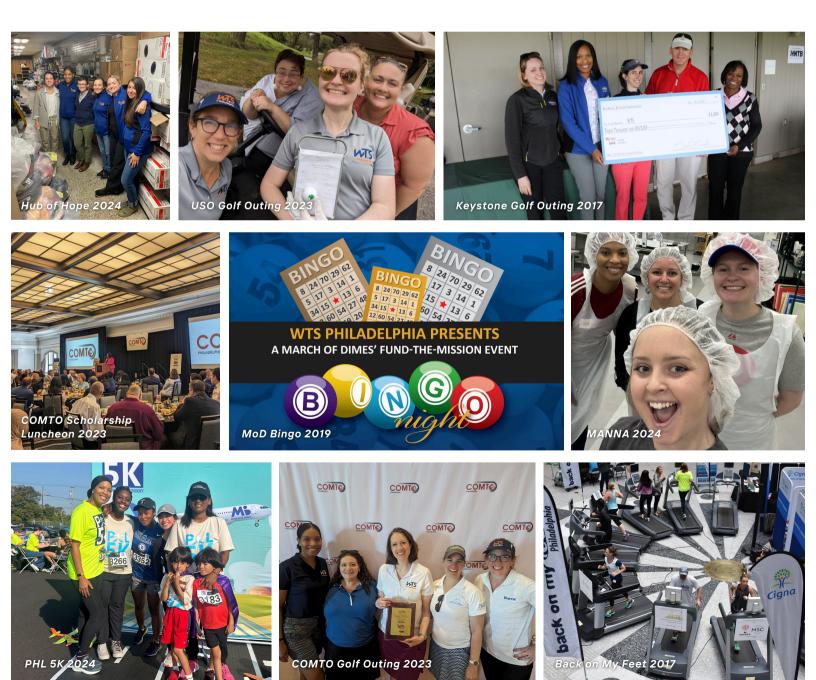
Years in WTS Philadelphia: Since 2019

"WTS provides meaningful connection to other leaders at different career stages in a welcoming environment. From the first WTS event I attended I thought, 'wow, this is different, it really is about centering women and celebrating diversity'." Established during WTS Philadelphia's 2019-2020 term, Emerging Leaders is a forum for professional women in the early stages of their careers. This intimate cohort group is selected at the beginning of each term and meets regularly to discuss topics of relevance related to professional and personal development.

Participants include engineers, planners, researchers, marketing gurus, admin specialists, financial experts, architects, construction managers, train conductors, etc. The diversity of this group is what adds an extra layer of value.

WTS PHILADELPHIA GIVING BACK

We recognize the importance not only of fundraising, but also giving back to and providing support for other groups that need an extra boost. We take pride in the connections we have built with organizations whose values align with WTS's mission. Examples of other organizations and initiatives we formally support include: Back on My Feet, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), Hub of Hope, Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA), March of Dimes (MoD), and United Service Organizations (USO).





WTS PHILADELPHIA TRANSPORTATION YOU

Transportation YOU is a hands-on, interactive, and free mentoring program that offers young women ages 13-18 an introduction to a wide variety of transportation careers. Through the program, WTS chapters work to make a difference in the lives of young girls by offering programs and activities that will spark their interest in all modes of transportation, encouraging them to take courses in math, science, and technology, which are the stepping stones to exciting careers that can change the face of the transportation industry. Our program is led by over 30 professional women (engineers, planners, marketing, and finance professionals) who volunteer their time as mentors.

Throughout the program year, both mentors and mentees have the opportunity to explore what makes the transportation industry so important and learn about how it impacts their every lives.



WTS PHILADELPHIA CIRCLE OF CONTINUITY

Madelyn Marquardt, EIT Engineer in Training - Bridge, Urban Engineers

Years Participated in TrYOU: 2015 - 2016

Years in WTS Philadelphia: Since 2021

"In a male-dominated profession lacking in female peers and role models, it is often organizations and events such as TrYOU and the Capital Summit that make a major difference in a young woman feeling capable and supported. Having the chance to now help lead a program that I was once a mentee in is a unique opportunity for me to be a role model for students who find themselves in a situation similar to myself not all that long ago. I hope to replicate the safe space and like-minded community for pursuing your goals that was created for me through the dedication of time by others."

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WTS PHILADELPHIA STUDENT CHAPTER



"My exposure to WTS in high school was a key reason that I chose to pursue engineering in college. I've continued to be involved in the student chapter and have learned so much about the transportation industry, polished my leadership skills, and made invaluable connections and friends."

Emily Simkovich

WTS Student Chapter Vice President, 2021 - Present Drexel University, B.S./M.S. Mechanical Engineering The WTS Philadelphia Student Chapter was established in 2015 with a mission of supporting and mentoring women in post-secondary school with an interest in transportation. Through intentional outreach and dedication from past and present Student Chapter Co-Chairs, membership has grown to 12 schools (including trade schools) and over 60 members! Along the way, we began holding sessions conducting resume workshops and sharing a yearly Resume Book with chapter sponsors. Additionally, each semester, we host professional development, networking, and project site visit events for students. The Student Chapter also shares guarterly newsletters and manages active social media accounts.

In 2020, the Student Chapter established a yearly Mentor Program. This year, we supported 20 mentee/mentor pairings - a record for the program. Student Chapter representatives work closely and partner with TrYOU, Scholarship, and WTS Works to continue the pipeline from high school to college, provide students with access to scholarships, and assist in pairing students in summer internships and shadowing opportunities.



WTS PHILADELPHIA STUDENT CHAPTER

CURRENT PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



"WTS adds so much value for me! In addition to the great networking opportunities and professional development activities, WTS also offered me a chance to get mentored by a transportation professional with whom I was matched based on my interests and future goals. Most importantly, WTS provides me a proven fact about what women can add to the transportation field profession and how balanced and equitable it gets with them involved."

WTS PHILADELPHIA AWARDS GALAS

Celebrating our successes and our second-to-none award recipients, is our favorite way to end each year. Shining a light on the individuals, organizations, and teams that have propelled women and helped create a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable industry is something we will never outgrow. Thanks for joining us for all of these amazing events!



2019

PHILADELPHIA AWARD

Honors an individual, group, or organization for extraordinary efforts to promote the transportation industry and people within the Philadelphia area.



HAPPY FERNANDEZ CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, 1994

Philadelphia City Council Woman from '92 - ' 98 and first female mayoral candidate



FAYE MOORE SEPTA, 2007

First woman and the first African American to serve as General Manager of SEPTA

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Honors a WTS Philadelphia member who has made extraordinary contributions to the success of the organization.



SYLVIA ALSTON

AMTRAK, 1996

Sylvia Alston dedicated her life to transportation and supporting women in transportation. Sylvia spent over 20 years at Amtrak. She had an extraordinary commitment to WTS. The Chapter honors her commitment to WTS by naming a graduate scholarship in her name.



PATTI GIBSON

2010

Patti Gibson May has been an integral member of WTS Philadelphia, providing a lasting impact on recruitment, standard operating procedures, and the mission of advancing women and minorities in transportation. Ms. Gibson May is a member of the WTS Philadelphia Board, and served as our 21st WTS Philadelphia President.

CONTINUED

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Honors a woman who is an outstanding role model and has contributed to the advancement of women and minorities in transportation.



RINA CUTLER

PENNDOT (AT THE TIME OF AWARD), 2005

Served as Senior Director of Major Station Planning for Amtrak, Deputy Mayor for Transportation for Mayor Michael Nutter, Deputy Secretary of Administration for PennDOT and Executive Director of the Philadelphia Parking Authority for Mayor Ed Rendell.



LESLIE RICHARDS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONER (AT THE TIME OF AWARD), 2013

Served as the CEO & General Manager of SEPTA, was a member of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and was Secretary of PennDOT. Leslie was also recognized by WTS International as Woman of the Year in 2014.

INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION AWARD

Salutes an innovative transportation project led by a woman or group of women that improves the quality of life for its users and the community.



RACK 'EM UP

PHILADELPHIA PARKING AUTHORITY, WTS PHILADELPHIA, OTIS, DVRPC, PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, 2021

This friendly design competition promoted innovation and creativity in regard to the development of a bike corral design that maintains fire hydrant access.



DELDOT APP STATE OF DELAWARE, 2013

The Web Team created a DelDot application for SmartPhones and mobile devices. This application makes all features shown on the department's website - deldot.gov - available via on iPad, iPhone or Andriod.

CONTINUED

SECRETARY RAY LAHOOD AWARD

Honors a man who is a leader in transportation and has contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities in the industry.



MICHAEL CARROLL, PE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, OTIS, 2017

Serves as the Deputy Managing Director for Philadelphia's Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (oTIS). Michael is a creative and nationally respected leader with more than 25 years of experience in transportation.



JAMES MALONEY, PE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, JMT, 2023

As JMT's Regional Manager for Pennsylvania and Ohio, Jim leads a team of 400 individuals whose skillsets span transportation, construction management, water, buildings and facilities, and natural/cultural resources.

ROSA PARKS DIVERSITY I FADERSHIP AWARD

Honors an individual, group, or organization that has made significant contributions in promoting diversity and cultural awareness within their organization, the transportation industry, or in a project or activity that supports the goals and mission of WTS.



BEVERLY HARPER AND PORTFOLIO ASSOCIATES 2008

Portfolio Associates is a recognized expert in private and public sector community relations and public information programs. Founded in 1969 by Beverly A. Harper, Portfolio is minority-owned and -operated.



сомто

2018

Their mission is to ensure opportunities and maximum participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, veterans, people with disabilities and certified MWDBE businesses through leadership training, professional development, scholarship and internship funding, political advocacy, partnership building and networking opportunities.

CONTINUED

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Honors a company, non-profit, association, or government agency for recruiting, retaining, and advancing women and minorities.



MILLIGAN AND COMPANY, LLC

1996

Milligan & Company solves the most complex financial, accounting, operational and management challenges for small and medium businesses, public corporations, not-for-profit organizations, government entities and individuals.

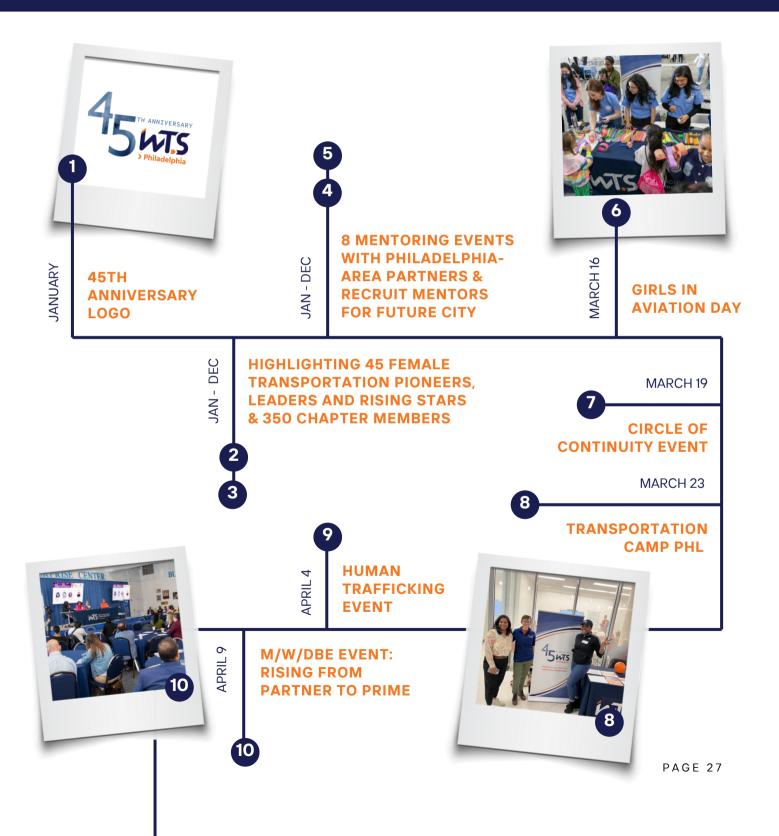


PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 2011

Philadelphia International Airport is the primary international airport serving Philadelphia. It served 28 million passengers annually in 2023, making it the busiest airport in Pennsylvania. The airport offers nearly 500 daily departures to more than 130 destinations worldwide.

WTS PHILADELPHIA 45 IN 45

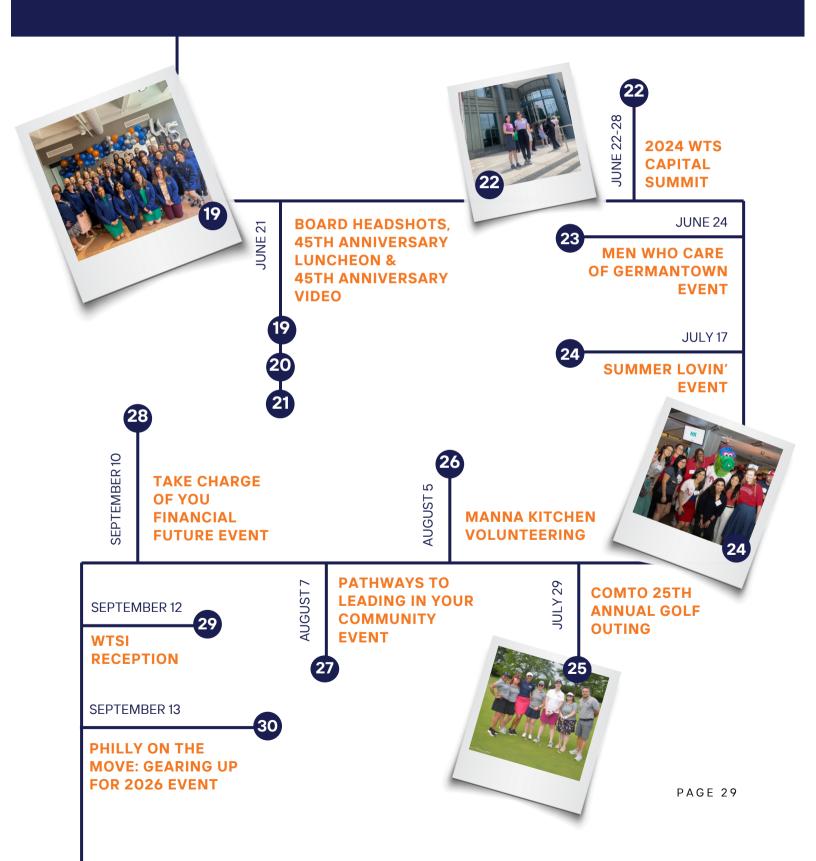
A Campaign Created to Celebrate Our Achievements



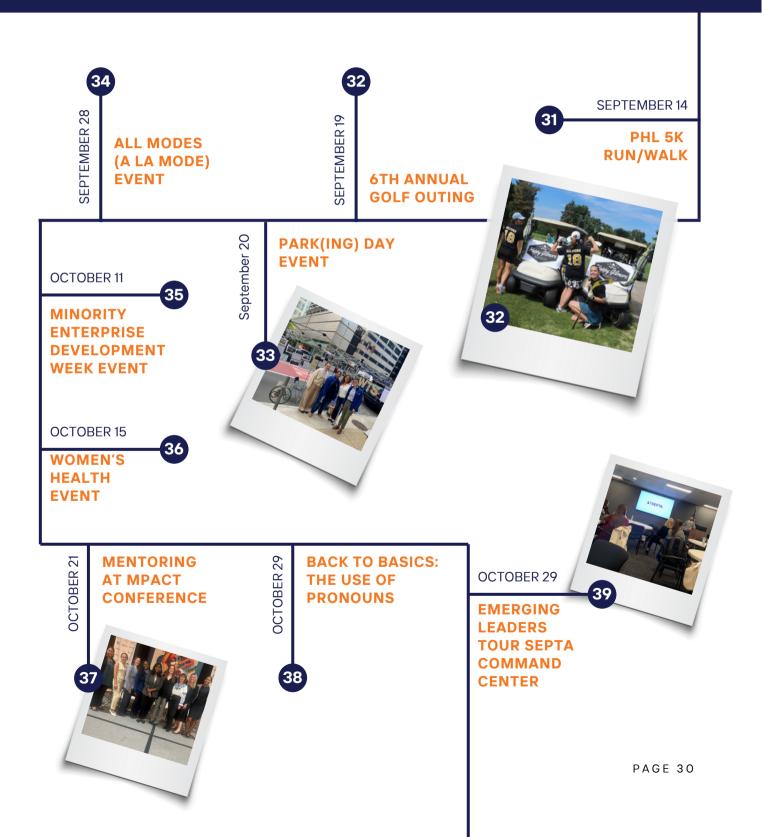
WTS PHILADELPHIA 45 IN 45



WTS PHILADELPHIA 45 IN 45



WTS PHILADELPHIA
45 IN 45



WTS PHILADELPHIA
45 IN 45



WTS PHILADELPHIA 2024 SPONSORS

SAPPHIRE

