



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Atlanta

SUMMER/FALL 2024



WTS Atlanta in Action!

WTS Atlanta had a busy and fruitful second half of the year hosting exciting events for all our members with the annual GDOT Board Breakfast, the DEI Committee's Generational Diversity in the Workplace webinar, and the WTSI Capital Summit trip to Washington, DC for our Transportation YOU high school members. We rolled right into fall with even more valuable offerings including our Multimodal Exchange Lunch, New Members Webinar, Mentor-Protégé graduation, and a new semester for Transportation YOU in October. Check out this newsletter to be sure you don't miss a minute of WTS Atlanta's networking, professional development and learning opportunities!

WTS ATLANTA
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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welcome

TO OUR 2024
CORPORATE PARTNERS!

2024 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners

Thank you to all our partners and welcome to our newest corporate partners!

2024 Presenting Partner

HNTB

2024 Diamond Partners

 **ARCADIS** **AtkinsRéalis**

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2024 Platinum Partners

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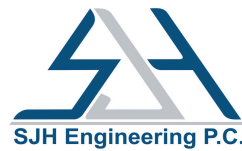
2024 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners

2024 Gold Partners



2024 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners

2024 SBE/Non-Profit Partners



2024 In Kind Partners

SRTA/GRTA

Odonnell Company

Atlanta Regional Commission

Niti Systems Consultants

ENGINEERING A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR PLANET AND ITS PEOPLE

Closing the gender gap in engineering is a top priority for us. Every day we strive to be more inclusive, more collaborative and more innovative in how we drive change. It is why we set out revised gender targets to be met by the end of 2025.

These diversity targets are as follows:

- Commitment from the Board to maintain at least 30% representation by women
- Female representation among executives by 2025 – 25%
- Female representation in managers and senior professionals by 2025 – 25%
- Female representation in all regular staff by 2025 – 33%

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR A



Holiday Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

LOCATION: PONCE CITY MARKET
@ THE ATRIUM

COST: FREE FOR MEMBERS
& \$25 FOR NON-MEMBERS



Advancing women
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> Atlanta

[REGISTER HERE](#)

2024 WTS Atlanta

Upcoming Events Calendar

January	February	March
Membership Meeting (1/18)	Tour + Conversation w/ MARTA Black History Month Event (2/29)	WTS Past Presidents Breakfast (3/28)
April	May	June
New Member Webinar (4/24)	WTS Annual Conference (5/8-10, New Orleans)	GDOT Board Breakfast (7/18)
July	August	September
GDOT Board Breakfast (7/18) New Member Webinar (7/24) Generational Diversity in the Workplace Webinar (7/25)	No activities	No activities
October	November	December
Multimodal Exchange Lunch (10/3) New Member Webinar (10/23)	Scholarship and Awards Luncheon (11/6) WTS/COMTO DBE Webinar (11/19)	Holiday Party (12/16)

[View Events Here](#)

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



by Sherl White

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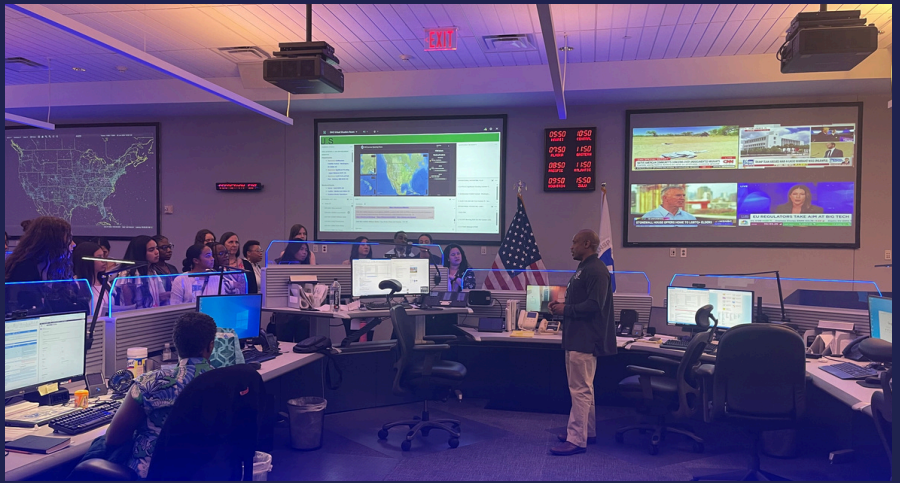
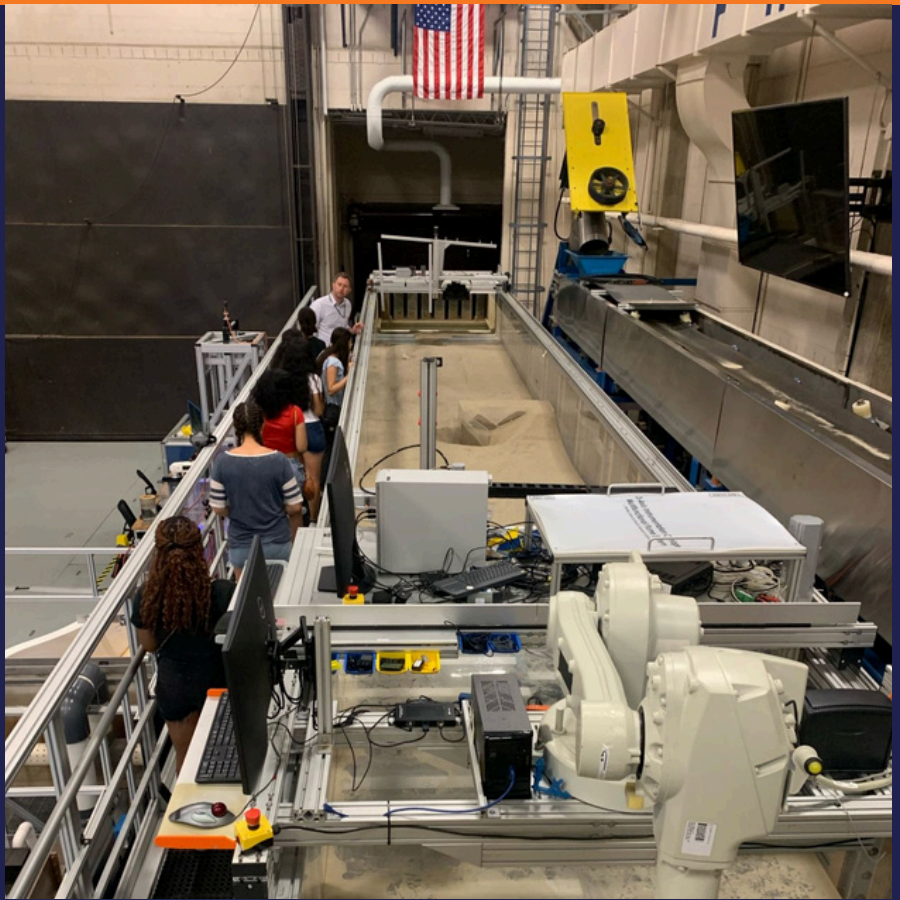
he WTS Atlanta Chapter had the incredible opportunity to participate in the 2024 WTS International Capital Summit in Washington, DC held on June 22 – June 28, 2024. The summit serves to expose young women to different careers in transportation. It was an inspiring week for both mentors and mentees to hear from influential women in the transportation industry. We participated in an educational and fun-filled week hosting 24 high school students and 18 mentors from across the U.S. at the University of Maryland.



Photo (above left to right): Board Member Sherl White with students, Angelic Ponder and Kennedy Robinson, at this year's Capital Summit

Our six days included eight transportation tours, seven mentor-led workshops, one sweltering ropes course, two states and our nation's capital, multiple guest speakers, and a lot of walking!!! Some highlights included visiting the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Capitol, rock climbing at the University of Maryland College Park, rider cruise on the Potomac River, and visiting Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Carmen Turner Facilities. Thank you to WTS Atlanta Chapter for supporting the Transportation YOU (TYOU) Committee and Booker T. Washington High School students Kennedy Robinson and Angelic Ponder for this amazing opportunity.

Photo (top): 2024 WTSI Capital Summit participants





by Ligia Florim

The WTS Atlanta Chapter celebrated its annual 2024 GDOT Board Breakfast on Thursday, July 18th at Signia by Hilton Atlanta. Attendees were excited to network with GDOT Board members, senior members and industry colleagues in a new location. The headliner was a pleasant surprise as the Chapter hosted a candid conversation between WTS Atlanta Chapter President, Rukiya Thomas and GDOT's Chief Engineer, Meg Pirkle who enlightened the audience with lively and informative conversation about the Department of Transportation and the industry. Topics covered included AI, carbon emissions, EV infrastructure, data analysis, vendor qualities, talent development, leadership and key upcoming projects.

To view full gallery from this event, click the link below:

[VIEW PHOTOS](#)



Photo (above): GDOT Board members

Photo (top): GDOT Board members and WTS Board members



Meg Pirkle, GDOT
Chief Engineer and
Rukiya Thomas, WTS
Atlanta President









GENERATIONAL DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE WEBINAR

by Krystal Stovall Dixon



Photo (above): Abigail Davis, Senior Manager of Learning and Development at Goodwill of North Georgia

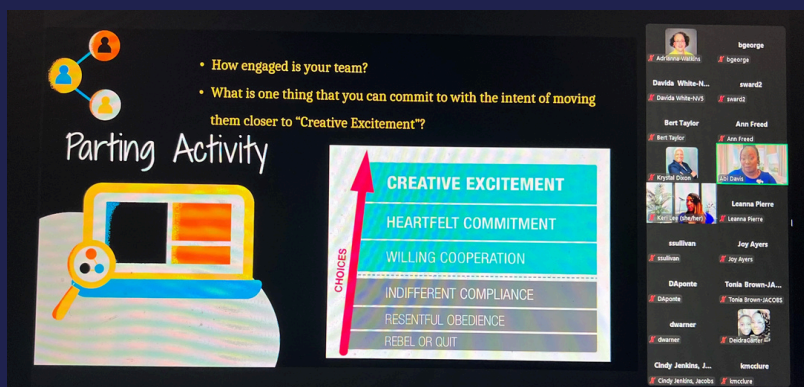
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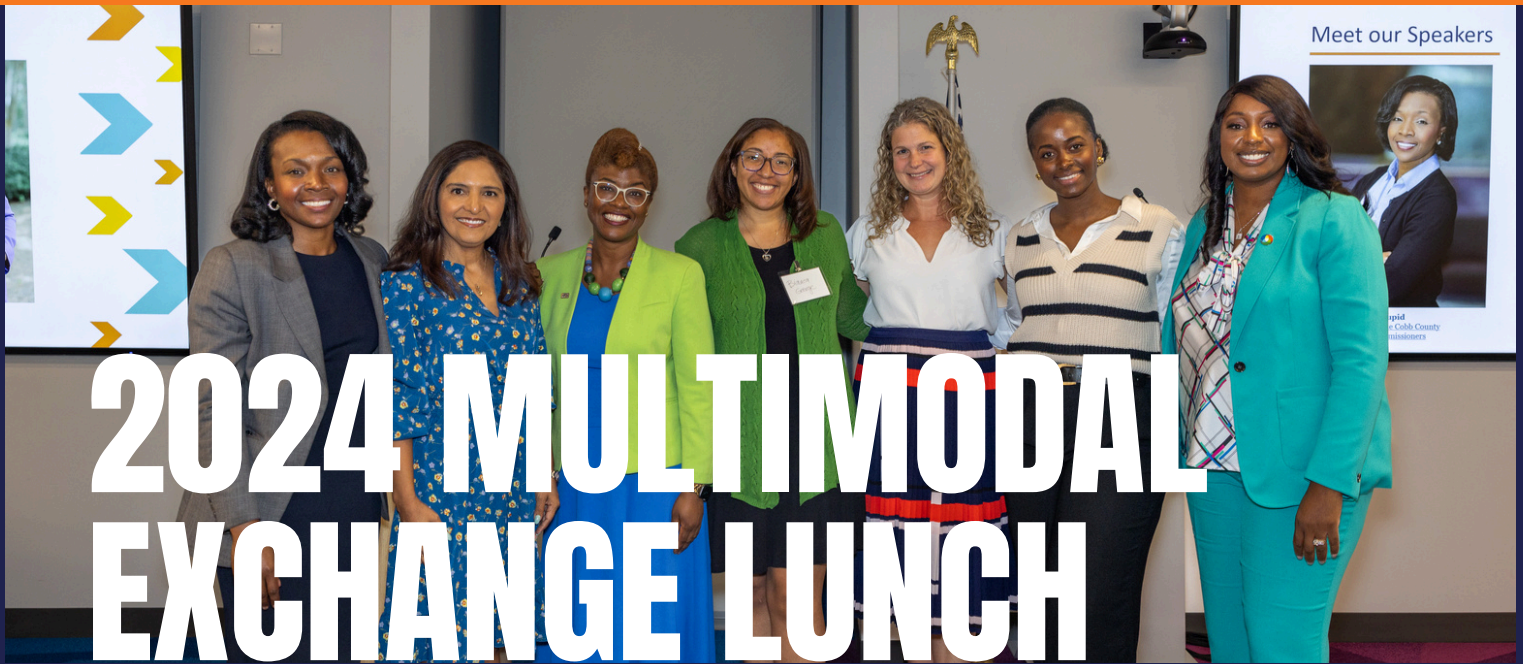
n Thursday, July 25, 2024, WTS Atlanta's DEI Committee hosted the Generational Diversity in the Workplace webinar featuring Abigail Davis, Senior Manager of Learning and Development at Goodwill of North Georgia. Attendees left with valuable tools to use to foster better working relationships across the various generations in the workplace. Follow the link to view slides from the presentation and useful tips, plus the link to the webinar recording:

[VIEW WEBINAR TIPS](#)

[VIEW WEBINAR RECORDING](#)

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2024 MULTIMODAL EXCHANGE LUNCH

by Ligia Florim

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he WTS Atlanta chapter hosted its second annual Multimodal Exchange event at the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) on October 3rd. Our special guests, Cobb County Chairwoman Lisa Cupid and Gwinnett County Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson, discussed their respective county's referendums and the impact on the regional transportation system.

To view full gallery from this event, click the link below:

[VIEW PHOTOS](#)



Photo (above): Cobb County Chairwoman Lisa Cupid and Gwinnett County Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson

Photo (top): Chairwoman Lisa Cupid, Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson and WTS Board members







2024 MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM

by Ligia Florim

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he Mentor-Protégé Program stands as one of the most distinguished initiatives hosted by the WTS Atlanta Chapter, boasting deep roots in some of WTS's most enduring and impactful relationships. This year, we were proud to continue our tradition of delivering a high-quality program, featuring 11 pairs of dedicated professionals. Participants identified key priorities for their development, including networking and personal branding, the advancement of women leaders, salary negotiation strategies, and achieving a healthy work/life balance. The program included a series of in-person and virtual sessions that started in Spring 2024 and wrapped up on October 16th with a graduation ceremony.

Congratulations to all our graduates and mentors!



Photo (above): Kickoff meeting

Photo (top): Mentor-Protégé program participants

Mentors

Helen McSwain
Malika Reed-Wilkins
Danena Gaines
Sherl White
Sherl White
Lori Sand
Beth Ann Schwartz
Rebecca Hester
Amanda von Oldenburg
Tonia Brown

Protégés

Olivia Wineski
Trang Mai
Elizabeth Hartzog
Martika Johanson-Murray
Kimberly Steele
Jenny Guadalupe
Rebecca Hester
Luke Derochers
Julie Shorey
Archie Chen





2024 TYOU - SOUTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL

by Sherl White

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ur first Transportation YOU meeting, which launches our 2024-2025 program, was held on October 30, 2024 at South Atlanta High School. The young ladies really enjoyed the presentation on the TYOU program as well as a fun Halloween "Ice Breaker" discussion activity. Our many thanks again to Ms. Miller for her dedication to serve as our TYOU STEM teacher sponsor. Each month the TYOU Committee will meet with the young ladies for hands-on activities, keynote speakers, career speed dating as well as a couple of transportation related tours.



Photo (above): South Atlanta High School

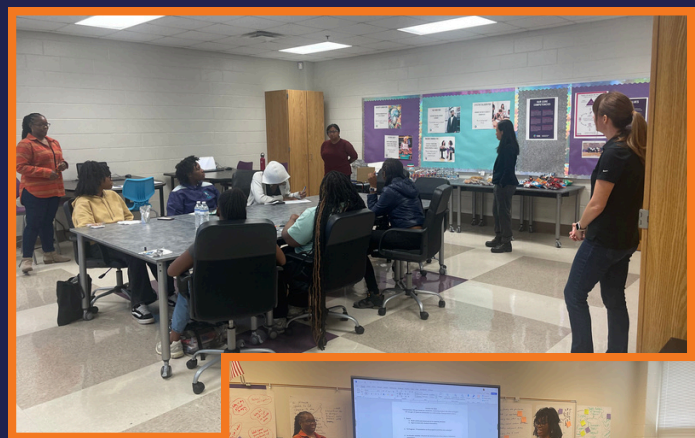


Photo (top): TYOU 2024-2025 students and TYOU committee members



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.

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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. If you were unable to attend this year's membership event, take a moment to view the presentation 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.

[View Membership
Presentation Here](#)

[Volunteer Sign up
Sheet](#)



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)

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)