



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Atlanta

SPECIAL EDITION - WINTER 2025



Happy New Year!



WTS ATLANTA
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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— *Message from the Past President* —

I had a blast spreading some holiday cheer at the end of my term with everyone! The Atrium served as the perfect location for our WTS ladies, and everyone seemed to enjoy all the delicious food and fancy drinks. As I raised my glass to a toast, the smiles and mood in the room that lingered throughout the night was everything to me towards ending an amazing experience together.

The last two years brought pure joy to my life in multiple ways, and my WTS Atlanta Chapter family has been a huge part of that. I am so grateful to serve and lead with an amazing group of ladies on the most diverse board in the history of the chapter. Our dynamic membership grew to an all-time high of 375 members and leveled off towards the end around 300, still serving as the highest membership count in the history of the chapter. Together we also raised more financial support than ever with the help of our corporate sponsors while exceeding fundraising goals annually. Lastly, the Atlanta Chapter was indeed proud to host the WTS International Conference in 2023 helping to raise over \$100,000 to support the delivery of a successful conference that yielded more attendees than the international conference had seen in its history.

With Iris Ortiz as my successor, I can only expect the Atlanta Chapter board under her leadership to take things to an even higher level of success across our local industry!



Rukiya Thomas

WTS Atlanta Immediate Past President

— *Message from the President* —

Happy New Year!

I am really excited for the opportunity to serve as WTS Atlanta Chapter President over the next two years. WTS has been a constant in my career, since 2005 when I joined the WTS Boston Chapter. Twenty years later, here I am, still committed to the advancing women in transportation and looking forward to continuing serving the WTS Atlanta Chapter with the same passion I have since I moved here in 2017.

I want to thank Rukiya Thomas, the 2023-2024 WTS Atlanta Board and the committees for all the great work during their term in service of WTS and the Atlanta transportation community. It was an honor to serve with them the last two years, and I look forward to building on their great accomplishments.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the 2025-2026 WTS Atlanta Board of Directors. This dynamic and diverse team of transportation leaders is dedicated to the vision and mission of WTS. I am incredibly excited about the opportunities ahead. We met on January 14th to start charting our path to 2025, with the promise of providing value to our members through existing and new programs, and with the intension of attracting more transportation professional to join our Chapter. Together, we will continue to inspire, connect, and support transportation professionals and the students who represent the future of the industry. Join me in welcoming our new board members as we embark on an exciting year of growth, innovation, and collaboration. Here's to a successful and impactful year ahead!



Iris Ortiz

WTS Atlanta President



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
➤ Atlanta



2025

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



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2025 WTS Atlanta

Upcoming Events Calendar

January	February	March
Membership Meeting (1/30)	Black History Month Event - John Lewis "Good Trouble at the Rialto Center for Arts" (2/21)	Women's History Month Event (TBD)
April	May	June
Community Service & Outreach Event - Atlanta BeltLine Cleanup (TBD) ACEC Introduce a Girl to Engineering (4/19)	WTS Annual Conference (5/7-9, Toronto) 100th Anniversary of Hartsfield- Jackson Atlanta Airport Event (TBD)	GDOT Board Breakfast (6/12)
July	August	September
Professional Branding Webinar (TBD)	DBE Social Event w/ D&I Committee (TBD)	Multimodal Exchange Event (TBD)
October	November	December
(TBD)	Scholarship and Awards Luncheon (TBD)	Holiday Party (TBD)

[View Events Here](#)

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



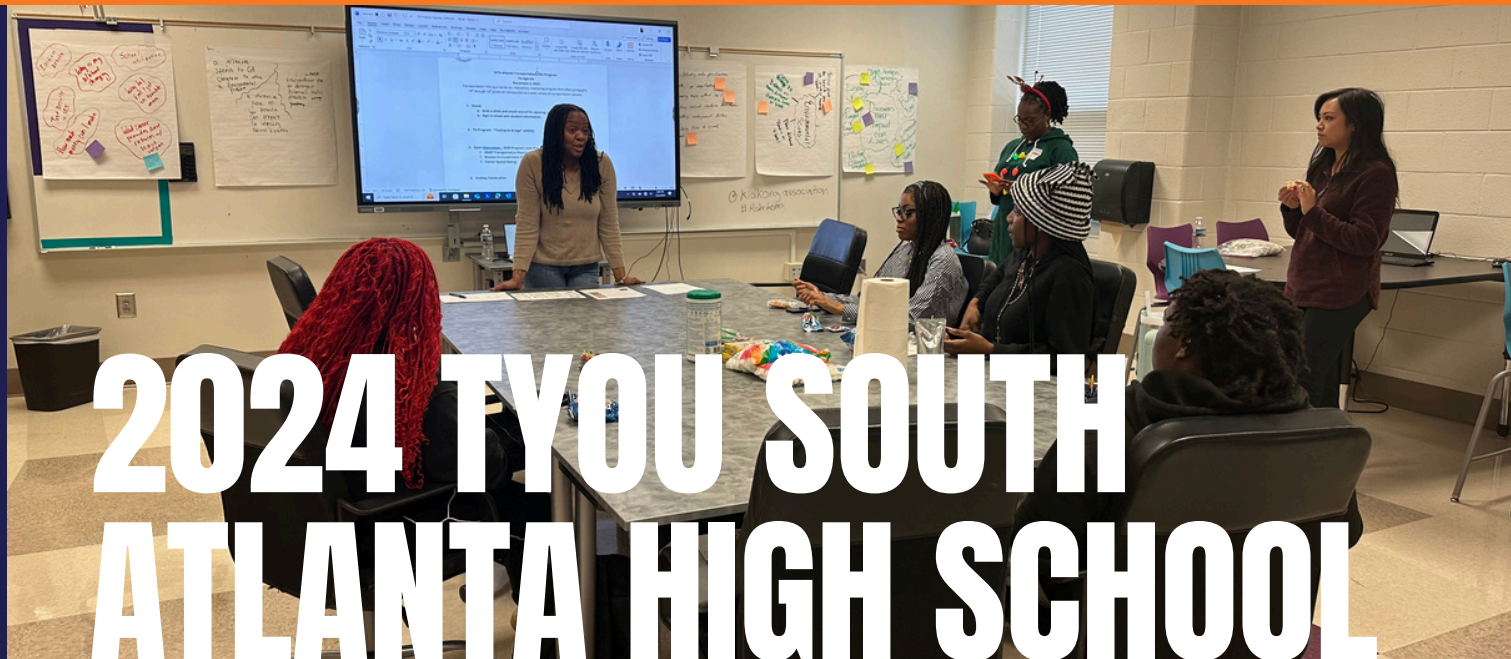
by Iris Ortiz

W

TS Atlanta closed 2024 with its Holiday event on December 16th. The event provided an opportunity for WTS members and non-members to network and connect before the holiday break, and to celebrate the accomplishments by the 2023-2024 WTS Atlanta Board of Directors. Thanks to Rukiya Thomas and the 2023-2024 WTS Atlanta Board for all the great programs and opportunities for engagement with the Atlanta transportation community.



Photos: Attendees at the Atrium in Ponce City Market

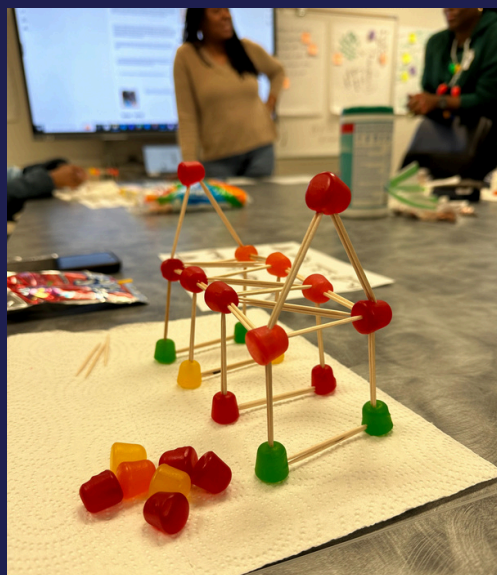


by Sherl White

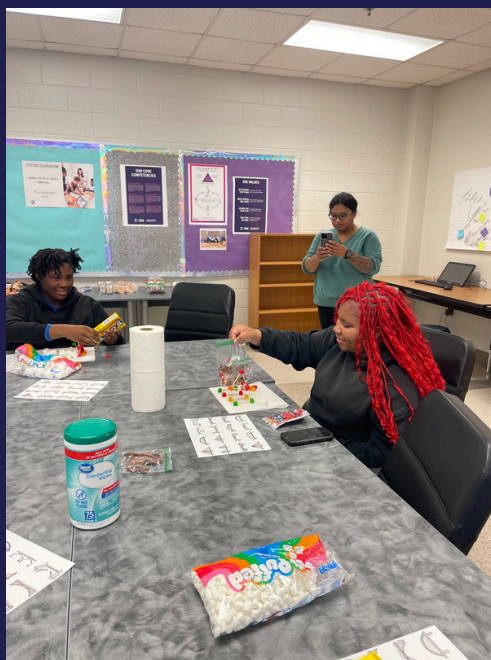
T

he Transportation YOU meeting in December required the girls to build a bridge utilizing marshmallows, gumdrops, and toothpicks. Each bridge was tested for strength by applying bags of pennies representing weight. This hands-on activity provided insight on how engineers use weight to design the entire structure of the bridge. This "toothpick bridge" activity was informative as well as tasty!!!

Our 2025 program will start again in mid-January and ends in May.



Photos: TYOU 2024-2025 students and TYOU committee members



WTS ATLANTA & COMTO ATLANTA MEMBERS ONLY EVENT



by Bianca George

T

he WTS Atlanta chapter's D&I committee and COMTO Atlanta chapter hosted a members-only event highlighting local DBE leaders including Al Edwards, CEO and President of CERM, Keli Kemp, Co-Founder and CEO of Modern Mobility, and Cedric Clark, President of Southeastern Engineering in a virtual panel discussion about successes, challenges, and how they have supported each other by sharing their lessons learned through their experiences in the industry. Additionally, special guest Julian Bailey, from the Department of Administrative Services shared information on the State of Georgia Business Certification Program.



Julian Bailey
State of Georgia



Cedric Clark
Southeastern Engineering



Keli Kemp
Modern Mobility



Al Edwards
CERM



by Ligia Florim

W

TS Atlanta celebrated its annual Scholarship Luncheon at the fabulous Georgia Aquarium with Shailen Bhatt of AtkinsRéalis as the keynote speaker. The successful event serves as a fundraiser for college students and brings together industry leaders to celebrate the accomplishments of the local Chapter. WTS Atlanta awarded five scholarships to well deserving students in Georgia pursuing a degree in transportation and presented awards to individuals and organizations making an exceptional impact in the industry.



Photo (above): Ocean Ballroom at the Georgia Aquarium

Photo (right): Keynote speaker Shailen Bhatt

Photo (top): WTS Atlanta President presenting on stage at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon



2024 WTS Atlanta Scholarship Awardees



Molitoris Leadership Scholarship
Natalia Graham



Junior/Technical College Scholarship
Jaelyn Chavez



Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship
Caroline Muhit



Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship
Claudia Boero



Bridgette Beato Leadership Legacy
Scholarship
Pruma Dutta

Scholarships

Sharon D. Banks Memorial
Undergraduate Scholarship

Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate
Scholarship

Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for
Undergraduates

Bridgette Beato Leadership Legacy
Scholarship for Graduates

Junior/Technical College Scholarship



Silent Auction, Industry Leadership Highlights and Special Guests





Member of the Year Award
Iris Ortiz



Employer of the Year Award
Michael Baker International

2024 WTS Atlanta Chapter Awardees



Diversity Leadership Award
Edwards-Pitman



Uncovering our Legacy Award
Jo Ann Tuttle



Man of the Year Award
Albert Edwards



Woman of the Year Award
Joy Rohadfox

2024 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners



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Scholarship Luncheon

| November 6, 2024

PHOTOS NOW AVAILABLE!!!

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([Small Format](#)) [Here](#)

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, Amanda von Oldenburg at Amanda.vonOldenburg@atkinsrealis.com.

[View Membership
Presentation Here](#)

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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 2025:

WTS International Chair's Reception at TRB Annual Meeting

WTS Workshops & Webinars

Distinguished Speaker Series

WTS Connects: Member Meetups

WTS Fall Women Business Owner's Roundtable

WTS International Annual Conference

WTS Capital Summit

WTS Signature Leadership Training

WTS Chapter Leadership Summit

For more information on these events:

[View Events Here](#)

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

Member Opportunities

Get Scholarships!!

Stay tuned for scholarship opportunities coming out
Summer/Fall 2025!

Strategic Partner Scholarships

Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates

**Bridgette Beato 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](#)

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



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