

# NEWSLETTER



## President's Message

Hello Central Florida transportation community,

I am honored and excited to step into the role of President for the WTS Central Florida Chapter in 2025!

This first quarter has already been incredibly rewarding, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of our fantastic members, volunteers, and sponsors. We kicked off the year with impactful events like our Annual Open House, Transportation You E-Week celebrations, the Quarterly Program focused on AI in Transportation, Coffee and Conversations discussions on motherhood and careers, and our beloved Annual Swings for Scholarships event.

I'm particularly proud to share that our recent events saw record participation and engagement. The momentum we've built is inspiring, and there's so much more in store!

As always, our chapter remains dedicated to empowering women in transportation through professional growth, networking opportunities, and community involvement.

Whether you choose to support us as a sponsor, attend our dynamic events, or engage with us online, your involvement makes a tangible impact.

I look forward to connecting with each of you as we advance women in transportation together.

Warm regards,

*Sarah Larsen*

Sarah Larsen  
2025 President, WTS Central Florida



## 2025 BOARD

PRESIDENT: Sarah Larsen | VICE PRESIDENT: Negaar Minaei | SECRETARY: Fatema Hoque Frazana | TREASURER: Courtney Cortez | ADVANCEMENT: Amanda Woods | DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY: Shemania Accema | DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP: Margelis Rangel | DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Annie Gennaro | DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS: Kenza Sersouri

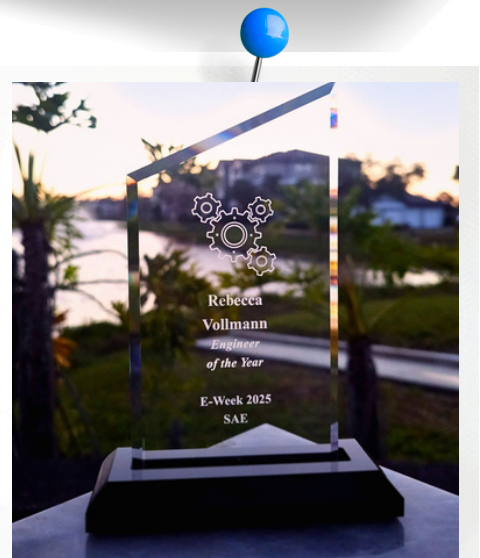
## 2025 CHAPTER OPEN HOUSE

We started the year strong with our Annual Open House, where members and guests connected with the new board and committee chairs, sharing goals and excitement for the year ahead.



## Transportation You E-Week Celebrations

In February, we celebrated Engineers Week with a series of engaging events and presentations that sparked excitement about careers in transportation and engineering. This year, we're proud to congratulate Rebecca Vollmann on being named Engineer of the Year during National Engineers Week. It's a well-deserved honor that reflects her outstanding contributions to the field and her commitment to shaping the future of transportation.



# Welcome to our Newest Members!

## Joined January 2025

- Allison Black – Rawlins Infra Consult
- Suzette Diaz – TransCore
- Kourtney Dinkins – City of Orlando
- Nicholas Finch – HNTB
- Gabriela Garrard – Student
- Chloe Elizabeth Gouda
- Michelle Lynn Guard – DRMP
- Zhenlu Huang – Student
- Neida López – HNTB
- Signe Nielsen – VHB
- Melissa Ortiz – TransCore

## Joined February 2025

- Taylor Braden – Central Florida Expressway Authority
- Mia Halperin – DRMP
- Macey Hatton – Kimley Horn
- Rebecca Hittner – Fehr & Peers
- Cristian Santiago – BCC Engineering

## Joined March 2025

- Nichole Anderson
- Sandra Lorena Herdocia – HNTB
- Ishne Hobbs – HNTB
- Kathryn Krebs – HNTB

# Recent Activities

## UF WTS Complete Streets Symposium



From dynamic panels to inspiring sessions, the event showcased the next generation of transportation leaders in action. Huge kudos to the UF WTS Board for creating a standout experience that embodied mentorship, momentum, and meaningful connections.

## New Members Breakfast



We warmly welcomed new members at our Spring Breakfast event hosted by DRMP. Attendees had a wonderful time networking with board members and fellow professionals, marking an inspiring start to their involvement with our chapter.

## Quarterly Program: AI in Transportation



On March 28, transportation professionals gathered to discuss the transformative potential of AI. Attendees enjoyed thought-provoking presentations and practical insights for streamlining workflows in transportation.

## MLK Day of Service: U.S. Hunger Million Meals Packed



WTS Central Florida proudly volunteered at the U.S. Hunger Million Meals Packed event in honor of MLK Day of Service. It was an incredible opportunity for our members to come together and make a meaningful impact, supporting communities in need.

# ANNUAL SWINGS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS





### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORKING EVENT

**APRIL 17, 2025 | 5:30–7:30PM**

Connect, learn, and grow! Join industry leaders and peers to build meaningful relationships and advance your career. Perfect for professionals at any stage seeking mentorship and networking.



### 12TH ANNUAL A WALK IN HER SHOES

**APRIL 23, 2025 | 5:30–7:30PM**

**LOCATION: LEU GARDENS, ORLANDO**

**Join us for our annual A Walk in Her Shoes Event** – an evening of networking and inspiration as we hear from women who have blazed trails, climbed ladders, and led the way for women in transportation. Take a ‘walk in her shoes’ as we hear the stories behind their success.

Wear your fiercest shoes, and consider bringing gently worn shoes to donate to Dress for Success Greater Orlando.

**Monetary donations can be made here:**

<https://greaterorlando.dressforsuccess.org/get-involved/donate/>



**Join us for the first-ever WTSI Annual Conference held in Canada!** This event promises insightful sessions, impactful networking, and opportunities to collaborate with transportation professionals worldwide.

[More Information](#)

# Join WTS

We would love to have you join us! To start your membership with WTS, go to our website using the QR code or URL below.

## SCAN QR CODE OR USE URL:

<https://www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/central-florida>



**CLICK ON JOIN WTS BUTTON**

(UPPER RIGHT CORNER)

**OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW**



## Follow us on Social Media

Stay connected with all things WTS Central Florida by following us on all social media. Be sure to use the hashtag #WTSCFL in any of your chapter- related posts! We love to see and share your WTS content.



**WTSCFL Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/wtscentralflorida>



**WTSCFL Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/55161918824>



**WTSCFL Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/wtscentralflorida/>



**WTSCFL Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/wtscentralfla>



**WTSCF LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wtschl>