



> New Jersey

Advancing women
Advancing transportation

THE JERSEY CONNECTION

July 2025

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WTS NJ. [Join Now](#)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear WTS New Jersey Community,

Busy. Busy. Busy. As we transition from Q2 into Q3, our WTS New Jersey leadership has been diligently working to provide high-quality events and programs aimed at elevating your transportation career. I encourage you to actively participate in our initiatives to foster professional growth and contribute to the advancement of the transportation industry.

How can you impact our WTS New Jersey community?

Become a Member: WTS International connects you to a local New Jersey network and over 9,000 transportation professionals through regional and international communities, events, and training. Members receive access to a suite of tools designed to enhance professional development, leadership skills, and career progression.

Become a Corporate Partner: Your support enables the cultivation of professional development, leadership, and networking events that further the WTS mission of attracting, sustaining, connecting, and advancing women's careers to strengthen the transportation industry.

Become a Mentor or Mentee: Our Mentoring Program offers a platform for emerging professionals in transportation to develop the skills necessary for success in both their professional and personal lives. Benefits for mentors and mentees include networking, candid conversations, long-term relationships with industry leaders, and confidence building.

Attend Our Programs and Events: Learn new technical skills or be inspired by compelling stories from female leaders at our virtual series programs. Connect with clients at our collaborative events. Engage in enjoyable activities and networking opportunities at our scholarship events. Celebrate and recognize colleagues at our Annual Event.

Support Our College Outreach: We provide exclusive opportunities for aspiring transportation professionals through outreach and encouragement of internships and full-time employment in the non-profit, public, and private sectors. We will provide over \$30,000 in scholarships to support high school and university students.

Lean In on Our Advisory Council: Advisory Council members are industry leaders who bridge various transportation sectors and agencies, facilitating broader engagement and awareness of WTS activities.

Build Up Our Transportation YOU Community: We aim to inspire young girls aged 13-18 by offering programs and activities that spark their interest in transportation and encourage them to pursue courses in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

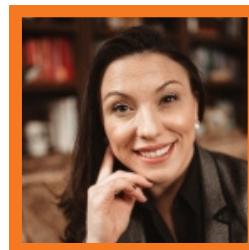
Get the Word Out: Share the positive impact WTS has had on your career. Our Communications team ensures clear, consistent, and effective messaging across various channels, including media, social platforms, and internal communications. Stay informed and updated on what's next with WTS New Jersey.

What will your WTS New Jersey legacy be?

Thank you again for your continued dedication to the
WTS New Jersey Chapter!

Jacqueline Rooke

President, WTS New Jersey Chapter





EVENT RECAPS

March - July 2025

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Tuesday, April 1 | Technical Series - Beyond the Blueprint: Women Engineering the Future of Flight |
| Tuesday, April 8 | Say Cheese and Crackers! Member Networking Event |
| Wednesday, April 16 | NJ TransAction Session - Moving Forward Agency Actions |
| Wednesday, April 23 | Technical Series - Beyond the Blueprint - Women Engineering the Future of Flight |
| Wednesday, May 28 | Joint Happy Hour with ITE Met Section |
| Wednesday, June 11 | Technical Series - Addressing Highway Safety through AI analytics |
| Wednesday, June 25 | Strikes for Scholarships |
| Wednesday, July 9 | Mentoring Summer Soiree |
| Friday, July 11 | Gallops and Gatherings at Monmouth Park Racetrack |

Say Cheese and Crackers!

The WTS NJ Membership Committee recently hosted a fantastic event at Stratosphere Brewing Company, where members had the opportunity to update their professional headshots with a skilled photographer who donated their services. Thank you so much to Stokes Creative Group for always coming through for us. We enjoyed networking and connecting with more than 25 attendees as we prepared for our photos, followed by sharing snacks and refreshments together.

We extend our sincere thanks to Stratosphere Brewing Company in Mount Holly for graciously hosting us and to everyone who joined us. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!



Click [here](#) for Additional Photos

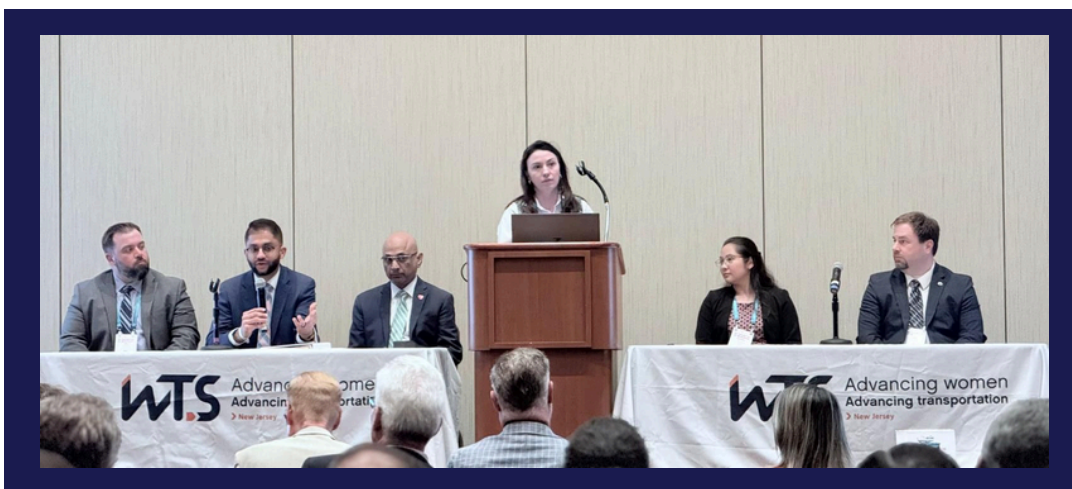
NJ TransAction Session: “Moving Forward: Agency Actions”

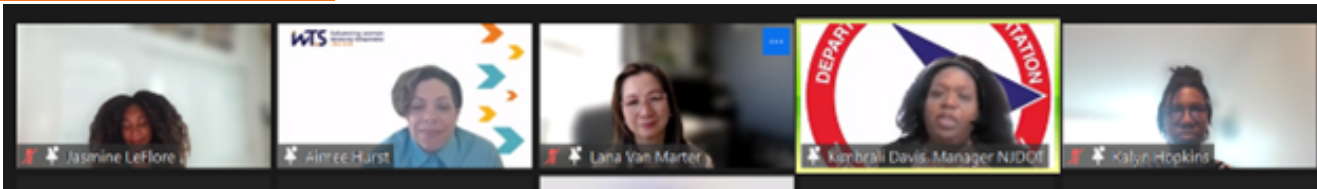
WTS NJ was honored to host the “Moving Forward: Agency Actions” double session panel at TransAction. The session was packed with energy, candor, and forward-thinking ideas—led by some of the region’s most influential transportation leaders.

Each speaker delivered powerful perspectives on how their agencies are navigating challenges, delivering critical infrastructure, and shaping the future of mobility in our region.

Special thanks to these trailblazers for sharing their time, expertise, and vision:

- Parth Oza – Assistant Commissioner, Capital Program Management, New Jersey Department of Transportation
- Jennifer Buison – Director of Capital Planning, NJ TRANSIT
- Dan Hesslein – Chief Engineer, New Jersey Turnpike Authority
- Daniel Corrigan – Chief Engineer / Director of Engineering, South Jersey Transportation Authority
- Rizwan Baig – Chief Engineer, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey





Kicked off the Technical Series with NSBE Collaboration

WTS New Jersey's Programs Committee held a virtual technical series in collaboration with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Region I Professionals and NSBE Aerospace SIG (Special Interest Group) on Tuesday, April 1 at 6 PM. The event was titled "Beyond the Blueprint: Women Engineering the Future of Flight" and featured women in the aviation/aerospace industry from engineering design to daily operations. The panelists included Kalyn Hopkins, Systems Safety Engineer at Blue Origin; Jasmine LeFlore, MSE, MBA Advanced Technology Engineer at Collins Aerospace; Lana Van Marter, Deputy General of New Jersey Airports; and Kimbrali Davis, Manager, Bureau of Aeronautics and Modal Grants, NJDOT.

Statistically, the aviation industry has a gender gap, with fewer than 20% of aviation roles held by women. This is particularly evident at the leadership level and in the diversity of these roles. According to the Women in Aviation International Industry Stats and Source: FAA's Aeronautical Center (December 31st, 2020 data), there are 8.4% women pilots (Student, Recreational, Sport, Private, Commercial, Airline Transport, Rotorcraft, Glider, Flight Instructors, and Remote Pilots) and 30.2% women in non-pilot roles (Mechanic, Repairmen, Parachute Rigger, Ground Instructor, Dispatcher, Flight Navigator, Flight Attendant, and Flight Engineer). These numbers have been gradually increasing, and the visibility of women in the industry has become more noticeable since the first woman commercial pilot, Helen Richey, in 1934, and the first female space shuttle commander astronaut, Eileen Collins, in the 20th century.

The mission of the NSBE Aerospace Special Interest Group (SIG) is to promote active engagement within the community, particularly focusing on the Black community, both within and outside the engineering profession, in space-related endeavors. The SIG aims to embed space technology within the Black community through a series of engineering research and development projects. These technical initiatives are independent investigations by NSBE that seek to enhance the technological expertise and capabilities of the United States. Additionally, they facilitate technical exchanges among African American aerospace professionals and provide direct apprenticeship and outreach opportunities for youth.

Our panelists were very transparent in their responses to the rewards and the challenges they faced as they navigated their careers, which resonated with our attendees.

Happy Hour with ITE Met Section

Despite the rain, approximately 45 transportation professionals attended the networking happy hour on Wednesday, May 28, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM EST at Surf City Bar - Jersey City Beach Bar and Restaurant, 1 Marin Blvd, Jersey City, NJ. Each organization was well represented, offering insights into their mission and future programs. The evening provided ample opportunities for industry peers to connect and discuss membership.



For more information on how to get involved with the Institute of Transportation Engineers, Metropolitan of New York and New Jersey Transportation Professionals, please visit their website: <https://www.ite-metsection.org/about>.

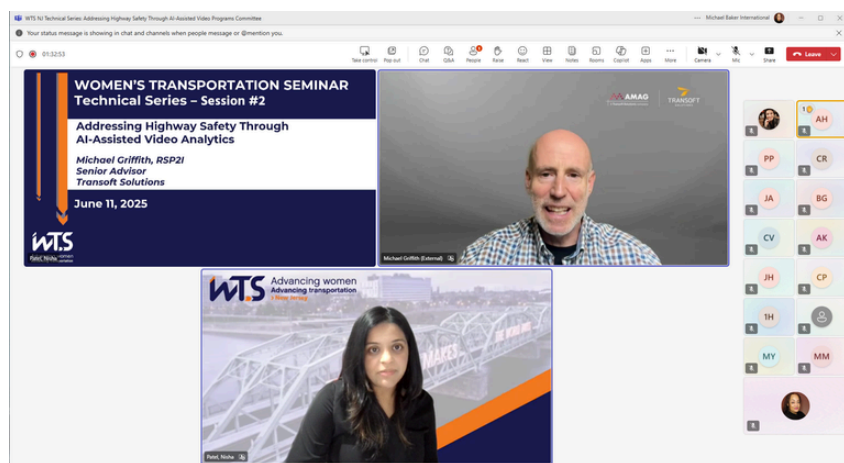
Spotlight on Innovation: Addressing Highway Safety Through AI-Assisted Video Programs

On June 11th, WTS NJ welcomed Michael Griffith, Senior Advisor at Transoft Solutions, for a compelling technical session on how artificial intelligence is transforming highway safety. With decades of experience in transportation safety and operations, Michael shared how his team—led by transportation professionals—has been pioneering the use of AI-powered video analytics to enhance road safety across the globe.

Michael introduced Transoft's approach to leveraging existing traffic camera infrastructure to deliver real-time and post-processed data. This technology enables agencies to detect near-miss events, analyze conflict patterns, and generate comprehensive risk profiles of intersections—ultimately helping predict and prevent future crashes.

Key highlights included:

- **Real-Time Monitoring:** Agencies can receive alerts for unusual events and trends, enabling timely interventions.
- **Validation and Accuracy:** Emphasis was placed on rigorous validation processes to ensure reliable detection of road users and accurate speed and trajectory measurements.
- **Privacy and Security:** The system is designed to obscure license plates and faces, aligning with agency data retention policies.
- **Collaborative Implementation:** Michael stressed the importance of cross-departmental collaboration—especially between IT and traffic management—for successful deployment.
- **Case studies:** The session featured case studies from Australia, the City of Bellevue, and Georgia DOT, showcasing the measurable impact of AI analytics on roadway safety outcomes.



Strikes for Scholarships

WTS NJ Programs' Committee recently hosted the newly reminted annual fundraising event now deemed 'Strikes for Scholarships' at Bowlero North Brunswick on Wednesday evening June 25. Participants and members enjoyed a night of bowling, food, drinks, and nonstop fun, all while supporting a great cause for the WTS NJ Chapter Foundation Scholarships raising over \$2,000.

Cheers and comradery amassed throughout the night each time a fellow bowler threw their shot, lending to final awards being given for highest score, the KingPin, and best spirit award, the Big Lebowski, Owen Regehly, MBI and Rishika Padnani, GPI, respectively. We would like to thank all our sponsors for donating to such a fun filled night of fundraising [Dewberry, GFT Inc. (Formerly Gannett Fleming TranSystem), Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., and Michael Baker International], and Bowlero host & manager for their commitment to supporting our event throughout the evening. We hope all those who join us had a blast and look forward to seeing you at our future events!

NEWS

Fred Berger Endowed Scholarship

The WTS NJ Chapter is honored to introduce the Fred Berger Endowed Scholarship (\$50K), which will provide financial support toward scholarships for students pursuing a transportation-related career. WTS International and the WTS Foundation are deeply grateful for the Berger Charitable Foundation and their instrumental work in strengthening communities worldwide by expanding equitable access to STEM education. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Berger Charitable Foundation.



We are pleased to announce that the New Jersey Chapter has achieved Gold Chapter status for the second year in a row!

The WTS International Chapter Circle of Excellence Awards, awarded since 2014, recognize the outstanding achievements of WTS Chapters throughout North America. The criteria for earning annual Circle of Excellence recognition are based on achievements in the following areas:

- Chapter Membership Growth
- Chapter Governance
- Chapter Programming
- Chapter Communications
- Chapter Scholarships/Awards
- Chapter Support of Transportation YOU

This recognition is a testament to our incredible members, sponsors and leadership team! Looking forward to the year ahead.



Student Connections: On April 21, 2025: WTS NJ Board members and committee members attended the NJIT SWE End of Year Gala. WTS NJ was honored and recognized for 2 awards, Partnership Award and Best Networking Nights Partner Award. Attendees included Jacqueline Rooke (WTS NJ President), Kyrra Hana Mosley (WTS NJ Vice President), Elaine Hughes (Director/Liaison of College Outreach), Shayna Bramley (WTS NJ College Outreach Committee Chair), and Megan Sattur (WTS NJ Membership Committee Chair).

WTS-NJ takes Toronto by storm!

Our chapter members attended the WTS International Conference in Toronto May 9-12, 2025. From moderating panels to attending sessions-memories and connections were made by all. At the conference, WTS NJ was pleased to accept the Gold Chapter Circle of Excellence Award and announce the Fred Berger Endowed Scholarship to the attendees.





MEMBERSHIP CORNER

WTSI MEMBER MEETUP

WTS Member Meetups are monthly events exclusive to WTS members, designed for networking and collaboration on topics such as chapter events and initiatives; innovations in the transportation industry; recruitment and retention; and more! Every meeting provides breakout rooms so attendees can also ask questions and provide tips, suggestions, and advice to other WTS members. These meetings are open to all WTS members from all chapters, and there are additional member meetups for students. We would love to have more representation from our growing New Jersey Chapter at these meetings.

For additional information and to register for the WTSI Member Meetups, please log-on to your member portal at <https://www.wtsinternational.org/> and visit the "Member Resources" section under My WTS Communities.

ANNUAL CHAPTER AWARDS

WTS NJ continues to commemorate partnership, mentorship, promotions, networking, skill development and leadership and continues to be coined as one of the most diverse chapters in WTS's history. We have expanded our awards to distribute to our colleagues that have been exceptional. Let's recognize these contributors to our industry by nominating them for one of these prestigious awards. ***Nomination period will be open from June 30 – Aug 31. It is live now!*** We will announce and award at the annual event in November as we celebrate 5 years!

Below are all the links to nominate:

- 2025 Woman of the Year:
<https://forms.office.com/r/CY3T7tqKhe>
- 2025 Employer of the Year:
<https://forms.office.com/r/K8xm2mepkM>
- 2025 Member of the Year:
<https://forms.office.com/r/A0S487XR1w>
- 2025 Honorary Member of the Year:
<https://forms.office.com/r/6Df12zWvwR>
- 2025 Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership:
<https://forms.office.com/r/g9wW97PUDG>
- 2025 Honorable Ray LaHood Recognition Award:
<https://forms.office.com/r/3URdH2NBnC>
- 2025 Innovative Transportation Solutions Award:
<https://forms.office.com/r/A8heXCdTLq>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

(as of 6/30/2025)

Ruqaya Alfaris, student

Norah Diehl, student

Dora Krstic, Hardesty & Hanover

Risa Okazaki, Hardesty & Hanover

Isabella Palamro, Dewberry

Helen Pappas, GFT

Marlene Patricia Perez, Dewberry

Allison Riley, Jacobs

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Programs Committee is continually seeking valuable content to share with our members and fellow technical professionals.

Submit your abstracts on cutting-edge transportation topics and join us in presenting workshop where your insights can shape the future of the industry. Let's drive innovation together.

Scan the QR Code to Submit



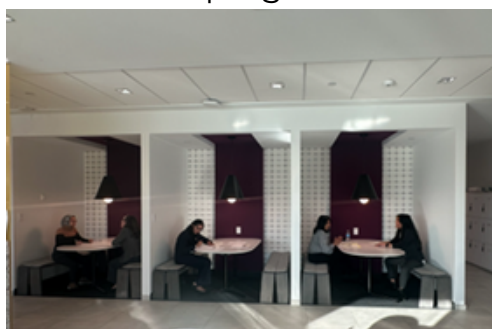


2025 MENTORING IS UNDERWAY

The 2025 WTS NJ Mentor Program kicked off on April 9th at WSP's Lawrenceville office with an engaging in-person launch event. This year we have 18 program participants representing a range of professional backgrounds within the transportation industry including planning, engineering, operations, marketing, project management and finance from both the public and private sectors. During the kickoff, mentors and mentees participated in a "speed match" event—an interactive meet-and-greet that helped the committee form well-aligned pairs based on participant preferences and professional interests.

In May, the group came together for a Strengths Assessment and Goal Setting session. Participants completed the CliftonStrengths Top 5 Assessment, sponsored by WTS NJ, and engaged in a dynamic discussion on how to leverage their natural talents to define personal and professional goals. The meeting also included a conversation around how performance reviews are conducted and how to prepare for them effectively by aligning strengths and goals with growth opportunities. Most recently, in June, the group met for a highly interactive session on work-life balance led by guest speaker Nicole Kahn, founder of W2K Consulting. Prior to the meeting, participants completed a reflective activity on how they currently spend their time versus how they ideally want to spend their time. Nicole's presentation focused on practical strategies for achieving better balance, and included real-life examples, group discussion, and scenario-based troubleshooting. She also shared her own inspiring career story—including her work as a civil, water resources, and environmental engineer and her current pursuit of a PhD in Civil Engineering with a focus in asphalt pavement design and materials.

Up next for the group is the program's Summer Soirée, which will feature an evening of networking and mentoring conversations. Our group will be welcoming Liz Archer as a guest speaker as well as members of WTS NJ Leadership. The event will also include a discussion on elevator pitches—how to craft them, refine them, and deliver them with confidence. We're excited to keep building momentum as the program continues through the rest of the year!





COLLEGE OUTREACH

Scholarship Applications now open!

WTS New Jersey (WTS NJ) focuses on engaging emerging students in the transportation field. We are committed to provide exclusive opportunities connecting aspiring transportation professionals with real-world opportunities via internships and full-time employment in the non-profit, public, and private sectors. One way to achieve this is by awarding scholarships to high school, community college, trade school, undergraduate, and graduate school students pursuing studies in transportation, engineering, science, or a related field who demonstrate leadership skills, ability, and interest.

The purpose of the WTS NJ Scholarship is to motivate and reward students who demonstrate innovation and leadership within the transportation industry.

The transportation industry is ever changing, and the future will be dependent on the next generation of transportation professionals.

Categories

We currently offer scholarships in 7 categories:

WTS NJ Graduate Student Scholarship (\$5,000)

WTS NJ Leadership Graduate Student Scholarship (\$4,000)

WTS NJ Undergraduate Scholarship (\$4,000)

WTS NJ Leadership Undergraduate Scholarship (\$4,000)

WTS NJ Jr. College/Technical/Trade School Scholarship (\$2,500)

WTS NJ Transportation YOU High School Scholarship (\$2,500)

Fred Berger Endowed Scholarship (\$2,000)

Scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant's specific transportation goals, academic record, and transportation-related activities or job skills. Students are permitted to submit applications for multiple WTS NJ scholarships for which they meet the eligibility criteria within the same calendar year; however, no candidate shall be awarded more than one (1) scholarship in the same calendar year.

In the event that a WTS NJ scholarship does not receive any applications for the calendar year, the WTS NJ Scholarship Selection Committee reserves the right to select candidate(s) from the overall pool of scholarship applicants in the same calendar year for consideration. Such candidate(s) must meet all eligibility requirements set forth in the secondary scholarship application they are being considered for. Recipients of the WTS NJ scholarships may be eligible to be submitted as our applicants for the WTS International (WTSI) Scholarships.

See our website for eligibility and required application documents - [here](#)

Submit your applications and the required documents by **September 19, 2025** to the following: For college and trade school applications, email [Laura Baldacchino](#), WTS NJ College Outreach Vice Chair. For Transportation YOU application, email to [Naa-Adzeley Addo-Garrison](#), WTS NJ Transportation YOU Chair.



MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

Anne Sinagra, Director at Large - Mentoring Liaison, was named Government Engineer of the Year by ASCE New Jersey Section

Holly DiDonato, Director at Large - Membership Liaison, was named Construction Woman of the Year by ABC, Associated Builders and Contractors.

Nia Joseph, Director at Large - Transportation YOU Liaison was named PATH Women of the Award

Chelsea Abraham, Programs Committee member, welcomed baby boy Caleb.

We would love to celebrate all of our members, if you were honored with a professional award, please contact us at wtsnewjersey@gmail.com



Anne Sinagra accepts her award



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, July 23 | Virtual Tech Series: Marketing Metrics that Matter |
| Thursday, August 7 | Swings for Scholarships - Golf and Tennis! |
| Wednesday, August 20 | Virtual Tech Series: Route 9 VOD Vision Plan and Future Transportation System Plan |
| Wednesday, September 25 | Virtual Tech Series: Enhancing Accessibility & Navigation |
| Thursday, October 9 | Advisory Council Event |
| Friday, October 17 | Corporate Partners Networking |
| Wednesday, October 29 | Virtual Tech Series: Improvements to Transit Access |
| Thursday, October 30 | Membership Event |
| Thursday, November 13 | Annual Awards Gala - 5 th Anniversary Celebration |
| Thursday, December 11 | Holiday Party |

For further details, please visit our [website](#) for updates.

Chapter Event Survey

WTS New Jersey has vast goals for the chapter's growth. We are celebrating 5 years of serving transportation professionals in our industry and are always striving to attain new heights. This halfway check-in gauge will continue to provide insight to enhance our programming. Please provide your honest feedback on what we can improve on and let us know what you truly enjoy with engaging with our chapter. Feel free to submit multiple entries per event that you attend. Your feedback is invaluable, and we look forward to your thoughts. Thank you!

How are we Doing?



CORPORATE PARTNERS (as of June 30, 2025)

We thank all of our steadfast Corporate Partners.

Thank you to our returning Corporate Partners who have committed their support for 2025! We greatly appreciate your generosity and support for WTS. Your contributions support our programs that help to attract, sustain, connect, and advance the careers of women in transportation.

Some of the benefits of partnership includes recognition during our various events throughout the year, attendance at members-only events, recognition on our website and a hyperlink to your firm's website, and a complimentary annual membership for an employee of the firm.

Save the Date for our annual Corporate Partners Event - October 17, 2025 at Rutgers!

DIAMOND PARTNERS

PLATINUM PARTNERS

GOLD PARTNERS

SILVER PARTNERS

M/W/S/DBE PARTNER

smps
New York

WTS
> New Jersey
Advancing women
Advancing transportation

Virtual Programming

Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 12:00-1:30pm

Marketing Metrics That Matter: Proving ROI Like a Pro

via Zoom

Sponsored By:

LAN
ASSOCIATES

Register today at smpsny.org



Hosted at The Bedens Brook Club

ANNUAL SWINGS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Tennis and Golf!



AUGUST 7, 2025

SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Registration | 7:15AM |
| Shot-Gun Start | 8:30AM |
| Luncheon | 12:00PM |

TICKETS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Single Player Golf | \$300 |
| Single Agency Player Golf | \$265 |
| Student Player Golf | \$225 |
| Single Player Tennis | \$145 |
| Single Agency/Student Player Tennis | \$130 |
| Award Luncheon Only | \$90 |

Learn more at:

www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/new-jersey

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

| | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Foursome Package with Advertisement | \$2,100 | Luncheon Sponsor | \$2,100 |
| Favor Sponsor | \$1,050 | Golf Cart Sponsor | \$525 |
| Award Sponsor | \$1,575 | Hole Sponsor | \$300 |
| Cocktail Sponsor | \$1,050 | Tennis Sponsor | \$400 |
| Beverage Cart Sponsor | \$1,050 | Student Attendee Sponsor- Golf | \$225 |
| Breakfast Sponsor | \$1,050 | Student Attendee Sponsor- Tennis | \$130 |