# NEWSLETTER



### **President's Message**

Dear Central Florida transportation community,

Your WTS Central Florida Chapter has had a productive second quarter, thanks to our dedicated leadership, members, sponsors and supporters.

Chapter leadership attended the 2025 WTS International Conference in May, held a new member's breakfast with the board, and held a memorable "A Walk in Her Shoes" event for our Quarter 2 program.

In other exciting news, at over 200 members strong, our chapter is once again certified GOLD! The Chapter Circle of Excellence Awards honors outstanding WTS chapters. WTS International has been recognizing WTS chapter achievements since 2014. The criteria for earning an award includes achieving benchmarks in membership recruitment and retention, operations, communications and events, and professional development programs.

We are thankful for our chapter leaders, members and sponsors for their continued support.

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

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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 PROFRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Annie Gennaro | DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS: Kenza Sersouri

## Welcome to our Newest Members!

## Joined April, May, June 2025

- Todd Bettger HDR
- Shannon Borst
- Wadiha Chaibub AIM Engineering
- Lisa Fruge WSP
- Andrew Hunter
- Akrivoula Kavadas Volkert
- Karissa Keller
- Fanny Kristiansson Kittelson
- Laura Meszaros AtkinsRealis
- Ashley Miller AtkinsRealis
- Peter Pavao VHB
- Kayley Rock AIM Engineering
- Lillian Smith KEITH
- Gayathri Venugopal HNTB





# 12th Annual "A Walk in Her Shoes" Celebrates 30 Years of Empowering Women



WTS Central Florida kicked off its 30th anniversary year with a powerful evening of connection, reflection, and purpose at the 2025 "A Walk in Her Shoes" event — the chapter's signature gathering benefiting Dress for Success Greater Orlando.

The event featured a dynamic panel of former WTS Central Florida presidents who have gone on to shape the region's transportation landscape. Attendees heard heartfelt reflections from Barbara Stiles, one of the chapter's founding members and Senior Consultant at Stambaugh Ness; Tiffany Homler Hawkins, CEO of LYNX; Virginia Whittington, Director of Regional Partnerships at MetroPlan Orlando; and Snehal Ambare, Regional Sales Leader at CDM Smith. Their stories spoke to the power of saying "yes" early, stepping into opportunity, and lifting others along the way.

Moderated by Lori Treviranus, the discussion energized the room and reminded us how far we've come — and how far we still intend to go. Together, the evening also raised funds and awareness for Dress for Success Greater Orlando, helping women walk closer to economic independence and career success.

A special thanks goes to Julie Keller and Kenza Sersouri for leading the planning of such a memorable celebration. Here's to continuing the legacy of leadership, service, and support for women across our region.



#### **WTSCFL Members Represent**

WTS Central Florida members proudly represented the chapter at the 2025 WTS International Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada, May 7-9. The conference provided exceptional opportunities for professional growth, networking with global transportation professionals, and learning about emerging industry trends and technologies.

Members participated in sessions focused on transportation leadership, innovative solutions, and best practices while connecting with peers from chapters worldwide. The chapter's strong presence reinforced WTSCFL's commitment to staying at the forefront of transportation industry developments and brought valuable insights back to benefit our local community.

# **Recent Activities**



# Quarter 1 Program and Member Happy Hour Highlights 🌚













### **Recent Activities**



#### Tales & Trails: Weekend Stories and Strolls





WTS Central Florida hosted a unique family-friendly event on May 17, 2025, with "Tales and Trails: A Story Walk with Mom." Organizers Shemania Accema and Kimberly Sadowski created a perfect weekend activity that brought members and their families together for quality time and community connection.

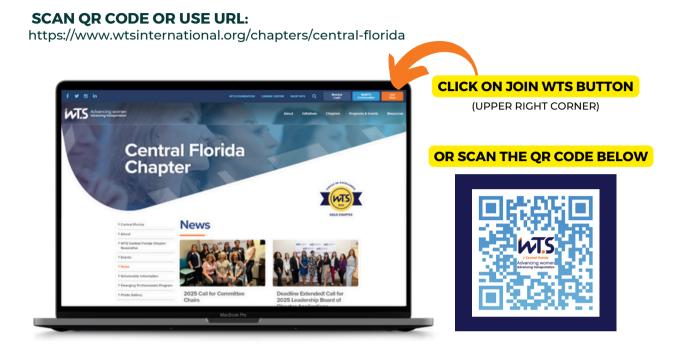
This innovative event demonstrated WTSCFL's commitment to work-life balance and recognition that professional women value opportunities to integrate career engagement with family activities. The beautiful weather and positive participant response suggest this type of family-inclusive programming will continue to be valued by the membership.

#### Save the Date



## **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.



## 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.

