

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

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

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Joined April, May, June 2025

- Todd Bettger – HDR
- Shannon Borst
- Wadiha Chaibub – AIM Engineering
- Lisa Fruge – WSP
- Andrew Hunter
- Akriyola 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.

Toronto International Conference



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



Save the Date

28th Annual
Awards & Scholarship Banquet
OCTOBER 23, 2025

WTS
Central Florida
Advancing women
Advancing transportation

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



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