



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
› Atlanta

SPECIAL EDITION
2025 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS LUNCHEON



WTS ATLANTA
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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— Message from the President —

The WTS Atlanta Annual Scholarship and Award Luncheon brought 350 transportation industry professionals and friends together to honor the accomplishments of local industry leaders, but more importantly, to award scholarships to young women pursuing careers in transportation.

Under the theme “The Year of the Woman,” WTS Atlanta recognized all the hardworking women who lead and serve our local public and private organizations, and those who are just starting their career journey.

One highlight of the event was presenting the video “She is Why” to kick-off the 2026 WTS Atlanta Scholarship Fundraising efforts, with the goal of increasing the scholarships value in 2026 to \$30,000. Over the years, I’ve met many past scholarship recipients who have led successful careers, and I really wanted to show their stories. I’m glad that a few of them indulged me in my request to share their stories. The video is a testimony of the power of the WTS Atlanta scholarships and our efforts to support the mission and vision of the organization. Thank you to everyone who donated and/or took part of the silent auction. With your support, we have raised almost \$15,000 to date... we’re halfway to our goal! Go [here](#) to donate.

WTS International and the Foundation had a strong showing at this event. Thanks to Malika Reed Wilkins, PhD, APR for delivering the keynote speech. It was great to have her home... WTS Atlanta will always be her chapter. Both Yvonne Lopez-Diaz and Bridgette Beato shared messages as leaders and representatives of the WTS Foundation and WTS International, respectively. Alexa Gangemi and Melissa Mullinax also joined the event.

So many people deserve a big THANK YOU and acknowledgement for their contributions to this successful event.

Many thanks to the Luncheon Committee chair and co-chair, Nicole Neeley (Law) and Melanie Robinson, for their leadership and executing so perfectly our largest and most important event, and to all the subcommittee leaders and volunteers. And to the WTS Atlanta Board, for contributing so much of their time, knowledge and connections for the greater good. I'm honored to work with them.

Thank you to the Corporate Sponsors, for your financial support and for showing up as leaders in our programming and your employees are Chapter volunteers year after year building a strong network. Special thanks to our 2025 Presenting Sponsor, AtkinsRéalis.



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— Message from the President —

Thank you to all our members and attendees to this event. I hope everyone enjoyed and had an opportunity to connect and enjoy our event.

Thank you to Ashley Frasca for being our Mistress of Ceremonies for the past 10 years!

And last, but not least, thank you, Jignesh Patel, of Niti Systems Consultants, for generously giving your time and serving as our event photographer.



Iris Ortiz

WTS Atlanta President



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
➤ Atlanta



2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

A photograph of a conference room filled with people seated at long tables, facing a front where a presentation is being given. The room has a modern design with a white ceiling, recessed lighting, and large windows. The text '2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE' is overlaid on the image, with a thick orange horizontal line underneath the 'SAVE THE DATE' text.

SAVE THE DATE
JANUARY 28TH

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2025 WTS ATLANTA SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

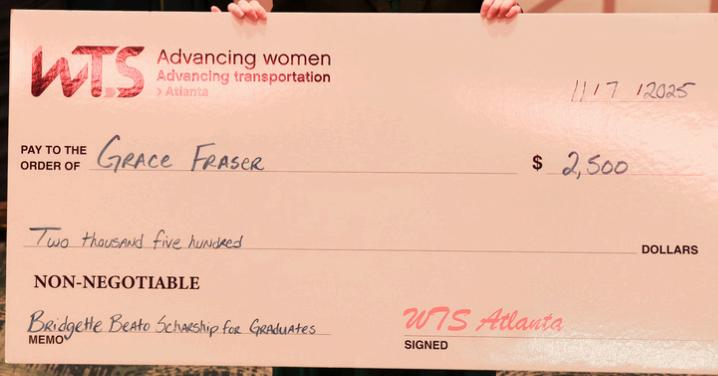


Photos (above): Attendees in Ocean Ballroom at the Georgia Aquarium, Mistress of Ceremonies Ashley Frasca, and silent auction

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

Photo (top): Keynote speaker Malika Reed Wilkins

2025 WTS Atlanta Scholarship Awardees



Bridgette Beato Leadership Legacy Scholarship for Graduates Grace Fraser



Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Alexandra Lugo Diaz



Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship Sarala Gunathilaka



Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates Songyi Son



Junior/Technical College Scholarship Jasmine Duenez Garcia

Silent Auction, Industry Leadership Highlights and Special Guests



2025 WTS Atlanta Chapter Awardees



Member of the Year Award
Nicole Neeley



Employer of the Year Award
Lumenor Consulting Group



Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award
Nykita Hurt



Innovative Transportation Solutions Award
GDOT's Connected Vehicle (V2X) Roadmap



Uncovering our Legacy Award
Meg Pirkle



Man of the Year Award
Eric Duff



Woman of the Year Award
Jannine Miller



Scholarship Luncheon

THE YEAR OF THE WOMAN

November 7, 2025

11:30am - 1:00pm

Georgia Aquarium
225 Baker Street NW
Atlanta GA 30313

PHOTOS NOW AVAILABLE!!!

[View Full Photo Gallery](#)

[\(Large Format\) Here](#)

[View Full Photo Gallery](#)

[\(Small Format\) 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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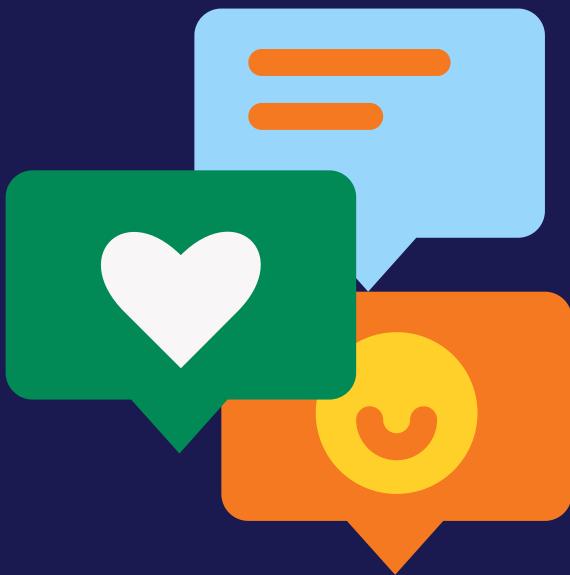
Get Involved!!

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.

Get Involved!!

Check out these WTS International events for 2026:

WTS International Chair's Reception at TRB Annual Meeting

WTS Workshops & Webinars

WTS International Annual Conference

WTS Capital Summit

WTS Signature Leadership Training

WTS Chapter Leadership Summit

For more information on these events:

[View Events Here](#)

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Don't forget our new public LinkedIn page is
WTS Atlanta



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