

# NEWSLETTER



## President's Message

As my term as 2025 President of WTS Central Florida comes to a close, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on a year filled with purpose, connection, and meaningful progress. Serving this chapter has been both humbling and energizing, and I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished together.

To our Sponsors, thank you for your continued partnership and belief in our mission. Your support enables us to expand access, invest in future leaders, and create spaces where women in transportation can learn, lead, and thrive. We could not do this work without you.

To our Committee Members and Volunteers, you are the heartbeat of this organization. Your time, creativity, and commitment brought our programs to life and strengthened our chapter in ways both seen and unseen. Because of your leadership, we continue moving toward a future where women's voices and expertise are fully represented across our industry.

To our Members, thank you for showing up, engaging, and building community. Your participation, curiosity, and encouragement are what make WTS Central Florida more than a professional organization—it's a network rooted in support, mentorship, and shared growth.

I am also deeply thankful to the Central Florida transportation community for your collaboration and openness throughout the year. Together, we are breaking down barriers and shaping a more inclusive, innovative future for transportation in our region.

Serving as your President has truly been an honor. As I pass the torch to an incredibly capable and energized Board of Directors, I am confident the chapter is well positioned for continued growth and impact. I look forward to cheering on what's next and hope you'll stay connected by attending events, supporting our programs, and engaging with us throughout the year.

I can't wait to see what the future holds for our chapter!

*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

## Congratulations to our 2026 Board of Directors!

### 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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# Recent Activities

## Connecting Students to Transportation Careers



Members of WTS Central Florida recently connected with students to share how WTS supports professional growth, networking, and career exploration within the transportation industry. Chapter representatives Negaar Minaei, PTP, and Zhenlu H. engaged students in conversations about career pathways and the value of involvement in professional organizations.

They were joined by Fernando Nisiama, PE, and Payton Pagan, who offered insights into traffic engineering and highlighted opportunities available in the field.



## WTS Florida Chapter Leader Summit



WTS Central Florida proudly hosted the first-ever WTS Florida Chapter Leader Summit, welcoming leaders from WTS South Florida and WTS Tampa Bay for a day of collaboration and learning.

The summit included discussions on chapter governance, events, committees, membership, scholarships, fundraising, and member benefits, with special guest Yvonne Lopez-Diaz joining the conversation. Attendees wrapped up the day with networking and local experiences in Winter Park.

Thank you to CDM Smith for hosting and to all who participated in making this energizing and impactful event a success.





WTS CENTRAL FLORIDA

# 2025 BANQUET RECAP

## 28th Annual Awards & Scholarship Banquet: An Inspiring Evening

On October 23, WTS Central Florida hosted its 28th Annual Awards and Scholarship Banquet, bringing together more than 200 Central Florida transportation professionals to celebrate excellence and invest in the future of the industry.

The evening featured an inspiring keynote from Anna V. Eskamani, who shared powerful reflections on leadership, advocacy, and public service. The chapter also proudly recognized industry award winners and celebrated this year's scholarship recipients.

Since 1997, WTS Central Florida has awarded over \$160,000 in scholarships, including \$11,000 in 2025 to five exceptional students pursuing transportation-related careers. It was truly a night of recognition, impact, and inspiration.





# 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.



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



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