



Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
> New Jersey

**WTS NJ Undergraduate Scholarship (2026)**  
*(Sharon D. Banks Memorial)*

The WTS New Jersey (WTS NJ) College Outreach Committee fosters the development of college students in the transportation field by encouraging bright new professionals to undertake careers in the area of transportation. One way it does this is by awarding the WTS NJ Undergraduate Scholarship (Sharon D. Banks Memorial) to college **students pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field.**

The scholarship honors Sharon D. Banks, chief executive officer of AC Transit in Alameda-Contra Costa County, California. As its CEO throughout most of the 1990's, Banks led the agency in a pioneering effort to introduce cultural and organizational changes aimed at motivating the public transit workforce. She was a member of the WTS Advisory Board and received the WTS San Francisco Chapter Woman of the Year and Employer of the Year awards.

The WTS NJ Undergraduate Scholarship is **\$4,000**. The minimum criteria for selection are:

- a. GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- b. In the fall of 2026, enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in a transportation-related field, such as transportation engineering, planning, finance, or logistics.
- c. Plans to pursue a career in a transportation-related field.

Applications must be submitted to the WTS NJ College Outreach Chair, Laura Baldacchino at [LBaldacchino@gpinet.com](mailto:LBaldacchino@gpinet.com) by **Friday, September 18, 2026**. Early applications are always welcomed.

Scholarship winners will be presented during the WTS NJ Annual Event in **November 2026** (exact date to be determined). Attendance during the award ceremony is **strongly** recommended. Registration to this event is complimentary for scholarship recipients and one additional guest. Information about the Annual Event will be provided to scholarship recipients later this year.



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**WTS NJ Undergraduate Scholarship Application (2026)**

*(Sharon D. Banks Memorial)*

**1. Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address (Street, City, State, Zip): (if different from current)

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Educational Background**

Current College/School: \_\_\_\_\_

College/School City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Diploma/Degree/Certification/License to be received:

\_\_\_\_\_

Area of Concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_ (Min 3.0 required)

Previous Schools/Colleges/Universities Attended, Date Degree Earned, and GPA:

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3. **Official College Transcript.** *(Please attach as a separate document.)*
  
4. **Resume** – Include the following. *(Please attach as a separate typed word document.)*
  - Employment History- List any full-time, part-time, co-op and/or summer employment and/or volunteer positions. Briefly describe duties and responsibilities.
  - Volunteer Experience – List any volunteer work. Briefly describe roles and responsibilities.
  - Professional and/or School Affiliations – List any school, professional, and/or community activities you have participated in. Include offices held and any awards received.
  
5. **Letter of Recommendation – From an employer/job supervisor or current teacher/professor.** *(Please attach as a separate typed document with contact details.)*
  
6. **Personal Statement:** A statement about your career goals after graduation and why you think that you should receive the scholarship award. Applicants must address the issue of leadership, its importance in a transportation career, and the applicant's leadership achievements. *Statement should not exceed 500 words. (Please attach as a word document to application form.)*
  
7. **Proof of Enrollment:** Attach a copy of your tuition receipt or current registration card.
  
8. **Demographic Information:** WTS is committed to recognizing the achievements of students pursuing transportation related degrees. To track our progress in reaching diverse applicants, we ask that you complete this confidential demographic information. **This is not required for scholarship awards and will not be used in the selection process.**
  1. **Race/Ethnicity** *(Select all that apply.)*
    - Asian
    - Black
    - East Indian
    - Hispanic/Latino

- Indigenous
- Middle Eastern
- Multiracial
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Other (please write in)
- Choose not to disclose

**2. Age**

- 15-18       19-23       24-30       31-40       41-50       51+

**3. Anticipated Mode of Transportation Industry for Future Career**

- Aviation
- Maritime
- Rail/Transit
- Roadway/Highway
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. How did you hear about this scholarship?**

- Friend
- Colleague in the Transportation Industry
- School/Teacher/Counselor
- Social Media:
  - Facebook
  - Instagram
  - LinkedIn
  - Snapchat
  - TikTok
  - Twitter
  - YouTube
- Local WTS NJ Chapter
- WTS International Website
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for applying to the WTS NJ Undergraduate Scholarship!**

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_