



**April 6, 2026**

Dear WTS-GNY Members and Friends,

WTS-GNY marked Women's History Month with a series of engaging and well-attended events, including **Learn from a Leader** with **Dana Hecht**, a **Transportation YOU Mentor Day**, and a **College Outreach Salary Negotiation** webinar. I also had the opportunity to represent the Chapter on a panel hosted by the **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**, alongside women leaders from WTS New Jersey, the MTA, and New Jersey Transit.

We held our **Annual Open House**, welcoming both new and existing members to learn more about our Chapter and committees. If you're interested in getting involved, I encourage you to complete our [Interest Form](#).

Finally, we closed out the month with a private tour of the **New York Transit Museum**—an inspiring way to reflect on the legacy of women in transportation.

In April, we continue to focus on connection and growth. Our **Young Professionals Committee** will host a **Kickoff** Event on April 14 to welcome new members and support emerging professionals. As founder of my own business, I'm especially excited for the Appointments Committee's upcoming panel, **The Business of Being a Woman Founder: Redefining Entrepreneurship**, on April 29, an important conversation for those shaping their own paths in the industry.

Looking ahead to May, the **WTS International Conference** will take place May 5–7 in Los Angeles, where **NYSDOT Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez** will be honored as Woman of the Year. Keep an eye out for details on our conference **WhatsApp chat** and **Annual Lunch**. Additionally, we will host our **Spring Dinner Panel** on May 21. After a long, cold winter, it's exciting to head into Spring with renewed energy and opportunity.

Cheerfully,

**Erica Swansen**  
President, WTS-GNY Chapter

**April Events**

WTS-Greater New York

**WTS** Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
> Greater New York

# YP COMMITTEE KICK-OFF

As we emerge from our winter hibernation and spring joins us in full bloom, join the **Young Professionals Committee** for our annual kickoff meeting and happy hour! Meet the committee and help shape the events we'll host throughout the year.



**Bleeker St Bar,  
648 Broadway,  
New York, NY 10012**



**April 14<sup>TH</sup> 2026  
6:00PM-8:00PM**



**Registration Required**

Questions? Contact Emily Kennedy at [Emily.kennedy@tylin.com](mailto:Emily.kennedy@tylin.com)

Apr 14

## WTS-GNY Young Professionals Committee Kick-Off

As we emerge from our winter hibernation and spring joins us in full bloom, join the Young Professionals Committee for our annual kickoff meeting and happy hour! Meet the committee and help shape the events we'll host throughout the year.

**Register**

Free

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**JOIN WTS-GNY**

**APR  
29  
5:30-7:00PM**

**The Business of Being a Woman Founder:**

**Redefining Entrepreneurship**

Join the WTS-GNY Appointments Committee for a dynamic panel on female entrepreneurship in transportation and infrastructure.

The event will bring together WTS-GNY and industry leaders to share insights on building sustainable businesses, navigating early-stage challenges, and fostering innovation.

**- Panelists to be Announced -**

**WTS** Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
> Greater New York

**Save the Date**

2026

**WTS** Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
> Greater New York

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**WTS-GNY ANNUAL  
SPRING DINNER**

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May 21 | 5:30-8:00 PM  
Club 101, 101 Park Ave, New York, NY 10178



## WTS-GNY 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala

OCTOBER 14, 2026

The WTS Greater New York Chapter is thrilled to celebrate 46 years of advancing women in transportation at our Anniversary Gala! Join us for a memorable evening of reflection, recognition, and celebration.

*THE EDISON BALLROOM, 240 W 47TH ST, NEW YORK, NY 10036*

What We've Been Up To



## Port Authority Women's Council International Women's Day Panel

On April 25th, WTS-GNY attended the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's International Women's Day Celebration. The morning began with breakfast and networking, where WTS-GNY representatives highlighted the benefits of our organization. Executive Director Kathryn Garcia, the first woman to lead the Port Authority in its 105-year history, delivered the keynote address. Chantelle Mack (PANYNJ) was honored as the recipient of the Hiloreen Woods-Hyatt Memorial Award, and attendees enjoyed a musical performance celebrating women.

The event concluded with a panel discussion moderated by Kim Payne (PANYNJ), featuring WTS-GNY President Erica Swansen (Swans Engineering), Jacqueline Rooke (WTS New Jersey President, Michael Baker), Danielle LaFrance (New Jersey Transit), and Mersida Ibric (MTA).

It was an inspiring day celebrating women in transportation. A special thank you to the PANYNJ Women's Council for hosting and inviting us to be part of this remarkable event.

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## Learn from A Leader Series

On Wednesday, March 18th, WTS-GNY hosted our first LFAL event of 2026, with Dana Hecht, PMP, Director of Program Delivery of H&H. Held at the HNTB offices in the Empire State Building, the event brought together WTS members for an engaging and insightful conversation.

Dana shared her professional journey, leadership experiences, and perspectives on navigating challenges in the industry. It was a great opportunity for open dialogue, where attendees asked thoughtful questions, gained valuable insights, and reflected on their own career paths. A few takeaways from Dana include:

“Grow into Confidence”

“Challenge yourself to be uncomfortable”

“Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm”  
– Winston Churchill

“The word imperfect actually spells ‘I’m Perfect’ because everyone is perfect in their own imperfect ways”

Thank you Programs Committee chairs Lucia Tarsia & Lorraine Reyes, and volunteers for organizing this event.

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## Committee Open House

On Wednesday, March 25th, WTS-GNY hosted its Open House, which drew a large crowd with a mix of both members and non-members interested in becoming more engaged with the organization. Attendees had the opportunity to speak directly with committee chairs and liaisons, followed by a presentation highlighting the roles of each committee as well as the goals and values of the GNY Chapter as a whole. Those who are still interested in joining a committee or learning more can do so by completing the form at the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScddA-vBbofQCs80yIxBKi4hHSUmTP3JMTfodQJqtdRoA\\_oUgg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScddA-vBbofQCs80yIxBKi4hHSUmTP3JMTfodQJqtdRoA_oUgg/viewform)



## WTS Transportation YOU Mentor Day at HNTB

On Friday, March 27th the WTS Transportation You program visited HNTB at the Empire State Building for a very special Shadow your Mentor Day. This unique experience offered students a firsthand look at the professional world within a premier industry setting. Throughout the day, students engaged with professionals across various departments at HNTB, gaining insight into the company's work, roles and responsibilities, career pathways, and the importance of collaboration and workplace culture. These conversations provided valuable perspective on the diverse opportunities within the infrastructure field and the skills needed to succeed. To conclude the experience, four students were selected to visit the Empire State Building Observatory, where they learned about the building's rich history while taking in breathtaking views of the city - an inspiring end to a memorable and impactful day.

# YOUR FIRST PROFESSIONAL PAY CONVERSATION SALARY NEGOTIATION WORKSHOP

Join us for an engaging Lunch & Learn session designed to help transportation professionals negotiate their salaries!

🕒 Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 | 12pm to 1pm



**A. Christopher Cerino, PE, F.SEI, DBIA**  
VP and Technical Director of Structural  
Engineering  
STV



**Winslow Johnson**  
SVP, Talent & Organizational  
Development | Senior Principal  
STV

## WTS-GNY College Outreach Lunch and Learn

On Tuesday, March 31st, the College Outreach Committee hosted a Lunch & Learn webinar featuring **Chris Cerino**, PE, F.SEI, DBIA, VP and Technical Director of Structural Engineering at **STV**, and **Winslow Johnson**, SVP of Talent & Organizational Development and Senior Principal at **STV**.

This session helped emerging transportation professionals build the skills and confidence needed for their first salary negotiation. Attendees also learned how to communicate their value, time their ask, and approach challenging conversations with professionalism and clarity.

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# WTS-Greater New York

*Celebrates*

# Women's History Month

“Dream with ambition, lead with conviction and  
we will applaud you every step of the way.”  
- Kamala Harris

## Women's History Month Spotlights

As we celebrated Women's History Month, the WTS Greater New York Chapter is proud to honor the women whose leadership, advocacy, and innovation continue to shape our communities and our industry.

This year's Women's History Month theme — “Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations” — recognized the collective power of women who have driven progress across classrooms, boardrooms, neighborhoods, and the front lines of transportation. Their influence is felt across generations, and their impact continues to open doors for those who follow.

In that spirit, WTS-GNY invited our corporate sponsors to nominate women leaders whose work in education, equity, and infrastructure has advanced meaningful change. These are the women whose resilience, vision, and dedication continue to inspire future generations — and whose stories deserve to be celebrated.

Together, we move forward. Together, we honor the women shaping what's possible.

## Celebrating Women's History Month



Over the next decade, I hope to see more women advancing with confidence, with fewer reservations about their qualifications and career growth, and feeling empowered to pursue leadership opportunities without hesitation. I hope to also see increased representation of women within geotechnical engineering, where we remain a small and underrepresented group.

Ultimately, progress looks like an industry where **women's expertise is recognized, leadership paths are accessible, and women are visible, supported, and thriving.**

- Chelsie Scarafile

Chelsie Scarafile, PE Senior  
Geotechnical Engineer, H&H



## Celebrating Women's History Month



Throughout the years, I've made it a priority to mentor young professionals who were eager to learn, sharing both the successes and the challenges that shaped my own journey.

I understand how meaningful it is to have your hard work recognized, and I've always tried to model a strong work ethic while also making sure we enjoy the work we do.

One of the impacts I hope to leave on the next generation is a **genuine excitement for transportation**—an understanding of how vital it is not only to our region, but to our country as a whole.

- Kerry Bellars

Kerry Bellars, EIT, HNTB Corporation



## Celebrating Women's History Month



Throughout my career, I have prioritized uplifting and mentoring women in transportation, helping them thrive in a male-dominated industry. In my current role at Arcadis, leading the national mobility advisory team, I support young women's growth, amplify their voices, and help them build connections to navigate male-dominated networks. I hope my legacy demonstrates that a **working mom of two young kids can excel as a leader**, balance personal and family needs, and drive meaningful change in the world.

- Jocelyn Dupre

Jocelyn Dupre, National Mobility  
Advisory Director, Arcadis



## Celebrating Women's History Month



As a transportation leader committed to equity, innovation, and community impact, I've built my career advancing projects that expand opportunity—especially for underserved communities. I am deeply committed to uplifting emerging professionals, particularly women of color, and have mentored young minority women across the transportation sector. Creating pathways for the next generation is central to my leadership philosophy: **when we invest in diverse voices, we strengthen the entire industry.**

- Tia Williams

Tia Williams, Assistant VP, Communications  
Advisory Services, WSP USA





# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM



## Women's History Month Tour to the NY Transit Museum

On March 31, in celebration of the close of Women's History Month, the WTS-GNY chapter hosted a guided tour of the NYC Transit Museum. The tour highlighted the history of the museum—housed in a decommissioned subway station—the origins of New York City's transit system, and the vital role women played in its growth and development.

Participants learned that while women-only rail cars have existed in other countries, they were never adopted in New York City. Instead, women here advocated for equality rather than segregation. We also explored the contributions of pioneering women such as Mary Walton, who held the first patent for noise-dampening technology on elevated trains, and Amelia Oppy Jones, one of the earliest and most influential female graphic artists. Jones created subway advertisements promoting etiquette and is believed to have coined the term "litterbug."

The tour concluded with the powerful story of Elizabeth Jennings Graham, a schoolteacher who, in 1854, was forcibly removed from a horse-drawn trolley while traveling to church because of her race. Her father subsequently founded a legal rights association, and Elizabeth won her case—an important step that culminated in the passage of the 1873 Civil Rights Act mandating desegregation on public transportation.

We are grateful to the NYC Transit Museum for an engaging and educational experience. Proceeds from the \$20 entry ticket were donated to the WTS

Foundation, supporting chapter scholarships and student-focused programming. After the tour, members gathered for a happy hour to celebrate our collective accomplishments—not only throughout the month, but every day.

## WTS-GNY Appointments Committee Initiative



The **WTS Greater New York Chapter Appointments Committee** is committed to supporting our members' advancement into leadership and senior-level roles across the transportation industry.

As part of this effort, we're compiling a **current list of WTS-GNY members** interested in being considered for **board appointments, leadership roles, speaking opportunities, and professional development programs.**

By sharing your background and interests, you'll help us better connect members with relevant opportunities and continue building a strong network of women leaders in transportation.

 **Complete your Member Profile here:**

 **[WTS-GNY Appointments Committee: Member Profile Form – Fill out form](#)**

If your information or interests change, we encourage you to **revisit and update your form** at any time to help us maintain the most accurate record of our members' experience and aspirations.

Thank you for being part of this ongoing effort to **elevate women in transportation!**

## Corporate Partner Spotlight



At **GFT**, we believe transportation is about more than movement. It's about access, opportunity, and connection. That's why our partnership with WTS spans more than

two decades, focused on advancing women in transportation and strengthening the industry's future.

Formed through the integration of Gannett Fleming and TranSystems, GFT is a privately held AEC firm with more than 5,000 team members delivering resilient, forward-thinking solutions across **transportation, water, power, and buildings**. Our purpose is simple: to create infrastructure that improves lives and to be a firm where people want to work, clients want to partner, and communities thrive.

Since 2000, GFT has proudly partnered with WTS International and its local chapters to champion gender equity in transportation. Whether sponsoring events, mentoring interns, or hiring WTS scholarship recipients, we are committed to helping build a more inclusive transportation industry. We partner with WTS because we share the same goal: building a transportation industry where more voices are heard, more women lead, and more careers thrive.

***NYS DOT Information for Motorists (INFORM) Traffic Management Center, Long Island***

GFT provides traffic, electrical, and ITS engineering design and technical support services to advance one of the nation's most sophisticated traffic management systems. Supporting real-time operations across Long Island, the INFORM system improves mobility, enhances safety, and delivers critical information to millions of motorists each day.



***MTA Eastbound Re-Route Project, New York City***

GFT is the prime designer for this complex project, within Harold Interlocking, the busiest passenger rail junction in North America. The work includes a new cut-and-cover tunnel, reconstruction of the Honeywell Street Bridge, and major track, power, and catenary system upgrades, all delivered within an active rail environment. These improvements unlock critical capacity, reduce congestion, and enhance reliability along the Northeast Corridor, benefiting thousands of daily riders.



Across New York and beyond, our teams are helping deliver projects that strengthen communities and improve everyday travel. We are proud to continue our partnership with WTS Greater New York and support a more inclusive future for transportation.

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# Thank you to our 2025/2026 Corporate Partners!

## DIAMOND



## EMERALD



## W/M/S/DBE



Become a Corporate Partner

## Volunteer with WTS Greater New York



WTS-GNY is a volunteer-driven organization, and all of our programming for members and the broader transportation community is made possible through the dedication of our Board Members, Committee Chairs, and volunteers. To learn more about how you can get involved, click here:

[Get Involved](#)

If you are interested in getting involved, feel free to [email us](#).

## WTS-GNY Fundraising

**Help us reach our 50th Anniversary Fundraising Goal of \$50,000!**

All donations are committed to the WTS Foundation, which supports scholarships and student programming.

[Donate Here!](#)

*WTS Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions made to WTSF are deductible as charitable donations to the extent allowed by tax law. WTS Foundation is the successor organization to WTS Scholarship.*

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