

2027 WTS Recognition Awards

Chapter Submissions Open: December 14, 2026

Chapter Submissions Close: January 15, 2027

Award Committee Review and Selection: January 19–February 12, 2027

Finalize Award Recipients and Internal Approvals: February 12–28, 2027

Award Winners Announced: March 1, 2027

The WTS Recognition Awards honor individuals and organizations that embody the WTS mission and demonstrate excellence, leadership, diversity, and advocacy within the transportation industry.

Mary Peters Inspirational Leader Award

The Mary Peters Inspirational Leader Award recognizes transportation leaders whose careers reflect transformative leadership, service and a sustained commitment to advancing transportation and promoting women in the industry, values exemplified by former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, who was the first recipient of the award in 2019.

- Summarize why the nominee deserves to win. (300 words)
- Describe how the nominee has shown the values and service exemplified by Mary Peters. (250 words)
- Describe how the nominee has promoted the reputation of WTS within the transportation industry. (250 words)

Employer of the Year Award

Recognizes an organization that exemplifies the WTS mission by supporting the advancement of women at every level. Nominees should demonstrate active support of WTS through membership, sponsorship, and employee participation; include women in senior and executive leadership; provide career development and succession

opportunities; offer continuing education and professional development; and encourage female students to pursue transportation careers through internships and early-career programs.

Submission Requirements

- Bio (500 words)
- Describe and provide example(s) of how the organization supports WTS through memberships, sponsorships, and employee involvement at the local and international levels. (250 words)
- Describe the organization's structure, including the number of women in executive and senior positions and those leading major initiatives. (250 words)
- Describe the career development plans and succession programs in place for women to advance within the organization. (250 words)
- Describe and provide example(s) of how the organization provides continuing education of its female employees through professional education, professional organizations, and professional development opportunities. (250 words)
- Describe and provide example(s) of how the organization encourages female students to enter the transportation field by providing internship opportunities. (100 words)

WTS Member of the Year Award

The Member of the Year Award nominee is the WTS member who shows extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth of WTS. This member promotes the reputation of WTS within the Transportation industry and revitalizes or expands a WTS Chapter or any of its functions.

Submission Requirements

- Summarize why the nominee deserves to win. (300 words)
- Describe how the nominee has shown commitment to the goals and growth of WTS. (250 words)
- Describe how the nominee has promoted the reputation of WTS within the transportation industry. (250 words)
- Describe how the nominee has revitalized or expanded the Chapter or any of its functions. (250 words)

WTS Woman of the Year Award

Recognizes a leader whose vision, dedication, and impact have advanced the transportation industry and the role of women within it. Nominees should be recognized leaders in transportation, have made outstanding contributions through innovation, leadership, or influence, demonstrate a commitment to advancing women and minorities, and enhance the reputation and credibility of women in transportation through mentorship, leadership, and advocacy.

Submission Requirements

- Summarize why the nominee deserves to win. (300 words)
- Describe how she is a leader in transportation and has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry. (250 words)
- Describe how she has directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field. (250 words)
- Describe her career advancements and support of women in the industry that have advanced the reputation and credibility of women in transportation. (250 words)

Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award

Recognizes an individual or organization demonstrating a commitment to diversity, inclusion, and multicultural awareness in transportation. Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion, lead projects or initiatives that foster equitable access and professional advancement and make extraordinary efforts to create career opportunities for women and minorities.

Submission Requirements

- Describe how the nominee contributed significantly to promoting diversity, inclusion, and multicultural awareness within their organization, the transportation industry, or in a project or activity that supports the goals and mission of WTS. (300 words)
- Describe how the nominee exhibited extraordinary efforts or initiatives in facilitating professional opportunities for women and minorities. (300 words)

Honorable Ray LaHood Award

Recognizes a male transportation professional who actively advocates for the

advancement of women in the industry. Nominees should demonstrate leadership by advocating for women to attain positions of authority, contribute directly to the advancement of women and minorities through programs, mentorship, and organizational support, and make outstanding contributions to transportation while championing gender equity and inclusion.

Submission Requirements

- Summarize why the nominee deserves to win. (300 words)
- Describe how the nominee has led by example, seeking out opportunities to advance and advocate for women in his own organization, and who has actively ensured that women are able to compete for key positions of authority within the organization. (250 words)
- Describe how the nominee has directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field. (250 words)
- Describe how the nominee has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry. (250 words)

Innovative Transportation Solutions Award

The Innovative Transportation Solutions Award nomination must illustrate the purpose of the initiative, solution, project or policy and the number of women involved. The nomination must exhibit key elements of the project and how the female project manager successfully implemented these elements. The nomination must also show how the female project manager successfully met and overcame challenges and how the project achieved its purpose.

Submission Requirements

- Summarize why the nominee deserves to win. (300 words)
- Describe the purpose of the transportation initiative, solution, project or policy and the number of women involved from initiation to completion. (250 words)
- 250 words - Identify the key elements of the project, and how female leadership successfully implemented those elements. (250 words)
- Illustrate how female leadership successfully met and overcame challenges. (250 words)
- Explain how the project achieved its purpose. (250 words)

Guidance for Recognition Award Nominations: Chapters should select nominees whose accomplishments clearly and directly align with the criteria for the specific award. Nominations should include specific examples of leadership, measurable contributions, programs, initiatives, mentorship, advocacy, or organizational practices that demonstrate the nominee's impact rather than relying on general statements of support.