WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

WTS fosters the development of women 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 Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship to women 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 work force. 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 Northeast Ohio Chapter of WTS is accepting applications for the $3,000 Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship. The application of the selected winner will be forwarded for consideration of a $5,000 national-level scholarship. The minimum criteria for selection are:

a. Must be female
b. GPA of 3.0 or higher.
c. Must be a resident of Ohio OR be currently enrolled in an Ohio college or university
d. Currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in a transportation-related field, such as civil/structural/transportation engineering, construction management, aviation, planning, finance, public policy, or logistics.
e. Plans to pursue a career in a transportation-related field.

Scholarships are competitive and awarded based on the applicant's specific transportation goals, academic record, and transportation-related activities or job skills. Priority will be given to applicants who have not been previously selected for a WTS Northeast Ohio scholarship. Students are welcome and encouraged to apply for scholarships from other Ohio chapters of WTS (Columbus and Southwest Ohio). Chapters may coordinate their selections in order to distribute the awards.

Presentation of the local scholarship will take place at a local chapter event in the Spring of 2027; the winner's attendance is requested. We also request your participation in the scholarship committee in the Fall of 2027. National awards will be presented during the WTS Annual Conference on May 4-6th, 2027, in Washington D.C. and attendance of the national winner is strongly recommended.

Applications and all required attachments can be submitted via mail or email to:

Jacob Wroten – Scholarship Chair
c/o HDR Engineering
600 Superior Ave East, Suite 1700
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
E-mail: jacob.wroten@hdrinc.com

Applications and all required attachments must be received no later than December 4, 2026.

Any questions on the application process should be e-mailed to *jacob.wroten@hdrinc.com*.

WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Application

I. Personal Information

Name_____
Last First Middle
School E-mail address_____
Permanent E-mail address_____
Primary Phone (___) _____
Current Address (Street, City, State, Zip):
_____
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Permanent Address (Street, City, State, Zip):
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II. Educational Background

Current College/University _____ City, State_____
Expected Date of Graduation_____ Degree to be Received_____
Area of
Concentration_____
Grade Point Average_____
(Minimum GPA of 3.0 required. Attach a copy of transcript to application.)

Previous Colleges/Universities Attended, Date Degree Earned and GPA:
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Professional or School Affiliations (List any school, professional or community activities you have participated in. Include offices held and awards received. Attach additional sheets, if necessary.)
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III. Employment History

Work Experience (List full-time, part-time, co-op and summer employment. Briefly describe duties and responsibilities. Attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

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IV. Recommendation: Letter of recommendation by a professor or job supervisor must accompany your application.

V. Personal Statement: A statement about your career goals and/or continuing education 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 highlight why you are uniquely deserving of this scholarship and should not exceed 500 words.

VI. Proof of Enrollment: Attach a copy of your tuition receipt or current registration card. Please also include a copy of your transcripts or have them sent directly from your college or university. Unofficial transcripts will be initially accepted but the selected recipient will be required to submit an official transcript.

VIII. Email Submission: For an electronic submission, please submit a single document containing the requested information in PDF file format.

Applicant Signature_____Date_____

Optional 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
   - ☐ 31-50
   - ☐ 50 +
3. **Anticipated or Current Mode of Transportation Career Focus (select all that apply)**
   - ☐ Aviation
   - ☐ Freight
   - ☐ Highway/Auto
   - ☐ Maritime/Port
   - ☐ Multi-Modal
   - ☐ Non-Motorized
   - ☐ Passenger
   - ☐ Transit
   - ☐ Other (Please write in) _____
4. **How did you hear about this scholarship?**
   - ☐ Friend
   - ☐ School/Teacher
   - ☐ Social Media:
     - ☐ Facebook
     - ☐ Instagram
     - ☐ LinkedIn
     - ☐ Snapchat
     - ☐ TikTok
     - ☐ Twitter
     - ☐ YouTube
     - ☐ Other (Please write in) _____
   - ☐ WTS Chapter
   - ☐ WTS International Website
   - ☐ Other (Please write in) _____