



Advancing women  
Advancing transportation



 GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER



GOLD CHAPTER

October 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the weather cools, and we prepare for the end of the year, I can't help but look back at the eventful year our Chapter has had so far. I am so proud of our entire Board of Directors for constantly raising the bar, offering our members and partners relevant and engaging programming. I also want to thank our Advisory Board members, who have been so engaged in our Chapter events and truly supported our Board of Directors this year.

WTSI announced their [Legislative and Regulatory Priorities](#) earlier this year. Our Chapter has been a leader in implementing these and has done a phenomenal job bringing the industry's policy and decision makers to our Chapter.

It was great to see so many of our members and partners participate in the [Central Region Conference](#). Thank you to everyone who contributed to make the conference such a success. As the conference concluded, participants left feeling re-energized and inspired!

As we begin to plan for next year, I welcome any suggestions on programs, topics, or initiatives you'd like to see WTS explore. We always encourage others to get involved with the Chapter — if you are interested, please do not hesitate to reach out! WTS operates on our board's volunteer time and our partners' support, so I want to especially thank everyone for your dedication and commitment to our organization.

I look forward to the coming months as WTS continues to advocate for women and the transportation industry during this transformational time.

— Mara Kirby, 2023-2024 WTS Greater Chicago President



## 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Catherine Lopez



Vinothni Shammugam  
Narayan



Ruolin Zhang



Ariette Jiana  
Kaberlein



Haley Dahl



Jiewen Luo



Lara Diab



Sahar Bayat



Amy Hofstra



Chi-Ya Chou



Motahare (Yalda)  
Mohammadi



Uttara Sutradhar

### Diversity in Transportation

Catherine Lopez (University of Illinois at Chicago)

### Helene M. Overly Graduate Scholarship

- Vinothni Shammugam Narayan (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

### Leadership Legacy Scholarships for Graduates

- Ruolin Zhang (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

### Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship

- Ariette Jiana Kaberlein (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

### Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates

- Haley Dahl (University of Illinois at Chicago)

### Executive Partner Scholarship

- Jiewen Luo (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

### President's Scholarship

- Lara Diab (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
- Sahar Bayat (Illinois Institute of Technology)
- Amy Hofstra (University of Illinois at Chicago)
- Chi-Ya Chou (Northwestern University)
- Motahare (Yalda) Mohammadi (University of Illinois at Chicago)
- Uttara Sutradhar (University of Illinois at Chicago)

### Transportation YOU High School Scholarship

- Stephanie Vega (Noble Street College Prep)
- Jacianna Lendor (Kenwood Academy High School)

WTS is dedicated to creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable transportation industry through the global advancement of women. WTS operates under a specific vision with core values, goals, and guiding principles behind all of its activities and programs.

COMMITTEES	MISSION	COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CONTACT INFO
<b>Central Region</b>	Foster connections and knowledge sharing across the central region chapters, primarily through regional committee calls and events including a regional conference hosted every 12-24 months.	Jane Wilberding and Kim Jarosz <a href="mailto:region@wtsgreaterchicago.org">region@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Communications</b>	Assist in writing, editing, layout, and distribution of communications materials for chapter membership including flyers, email announcements, and social media posts.	Emily Achelpohl and Aubrey Tetreault-Folmsbee <a href="mailto:communications@wtsgreaterchicago.org">communications@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Diversity</b>	Serve as a resource for diversity and inclusion by providing a network of people, programs and tools to help women of diverse backgrounds grow and manage their careers in the field of transportation.	Cecilia Diaz and Beth Norton <a href="mailto:diversity@wtsgreaterchicago.org">diversity@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Legislative Affairs</b>	Share legislative news or items of interest to the industry with our membership as well as plan events with a legislative focus.	Tim McMahon and Kasia Hart <a href="mailto:legislativeaffairs@wtsgreaterchicago.org">legislativeaffairs@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Participate in recruitment of new members and retention of current members; welcome new members; initiate and run programs to increase membership and host special events for members.	Niki Nutter and Hannah Knight <a href="mailto:membership@wtsgreaterchicago.org">membership@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Partnership</b>	Assist WTS Greater Chicago in receiving partnerships with local area partners that aid us in advancing women in the transportation industry through events such as seminars, events and scholarships for women and men.	Ann Hammo and Nicole Rose <a href="mailto:partnership@wtsgreaterchicago.org">partnership@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Professional Development</b>	Provide resources and programs that engage and encourage our members and community in continuous professional growth in an effort to increase the success of transportation professionals.	Farida Mahmud and Sophie Cohen <a href="mailto:profdevelopment@wtsgreaterchicago.org">profdevelopment@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Programs</b>	Organize and host luncheon programs as well as assist with other committee's events throughout the year.	Melissa Mulrooney and Sophia Scarpa <a href="mailto:programs@wtsgreaterchicago.org">programs@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Recognitions</b>	Recognize and honor individuals, employers and projects that promote the WTS mission.	Colleen Miller and Stephanie Abezetian <a href="mailto:awards@wtsgreaterchicago.org">awards@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Scholarship</b>	Solicit, review, select and secure applicants from area schools, colleges and universities for numerous local annual scholarship awards.	Janice Pang and Laura Bloomberg <a href="mailto:scholarship@wtsgreaterchicago.org">scholarship@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>
<b>Transportation YOU</b>	Develop programming to educate female high school students (ages 13-18) about transportation careers.	Lissa Sweeney and Ann Ammash <a href="mailto:tyou@wtsgreaterchicago.org">tyou@wtsgreaterchicago.org</a>

## 2023 AWARD WINNERS!

Woman of the Year

**Tara Orbon**  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Cook County Department of  
Transportation and Highways



Member of the Year

**Colleen Miller**  
Midwest Business Development  
Manager, Gannett Fleming, Inc.



Honorable Ray LaHood

**Joseph Catalano**  
Vice President and Office  
Executive, Michael Baker  
International



Rosa Parks Diversity

**Jacky Grimshaw**  
Vice President, Government Affairs,  
Center for Neighborhood  
Technology



Employer of the Year



Innovative Transportation Solutions



Red and Purple Modernization  
Phase One Project

# WTS GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER 2023 CORPORATE AND AGENCY PARTNERS

We recognize our Corporate Partners and Public Agency Partners for their dedication and support in **Advancing Women, Advancing Transportation**.

If your corporation or public agency would like to partner with us in 2023, please email Ann Hammo and Nicole Rose, Partnership Chairs, at [partnership@wtsgreaterchicago.org](mailto:partnership@wtsgreaterchicago.org).

## EXECUTIVE

AECOM

CDM Smith Inc.

Gannett Fleming

HNTB Corporation

Jacobs

Michael Baker International, Inc.

TranSystems

WSP USA, Inc.

## CHAMPION

Arcadis US Inc.

Ardmore Roderick

Benesch

Ciorba Group, Inc.

Civiltech Engineering, Inc.

Collins Engineers, Inc.

EXP

HDR, Inc.

HR Green

Infrastructure Engineering, Inc.

Patrick Engineering, Inc.

Program Management & Control Services, LLC (PMCS)

R.M. Chin & Associates, Inc.

SQN Associates

TY LIN

Wight & Company

## GUARDIAN

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Gasperec Elberts Consulting

J.A. Watts, Inc.

Metro Strategies Group

Mott MacDonald

Nelson\Nygaard

Singh + Associates, Inc.

Synnov Group, Inc.

Stantec

STV Incorporated

Tai Ginsberg & Associates

## ADVOCATE

Chastain and Associates

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

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Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

National Express, LLC

Peralte-Clark, LLC

## SUPPORTER

Q-Free

Sheridan Park Consulting

## PUBLIC AGENCY PARTNERS

Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)

Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOTH)

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

Illinois Tollway

Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT)

Pace Suburban Bus Service

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

## ADVISORY BOARD

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**Lynnette Ciavarella**

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Region One Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation

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**Erin Aleman**

Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

**Leanne Redden**

Executive Director, Regional Transit Authority

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Senior Vice President, PNC Bank; Former Board Chair – Illinois Tollway

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Executive Vice President/Chief Growth Officer West Region, AECOM

**Duana Love**

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**Noreen Ellis**

Development/Strategic Growth Leader, Freight Rail, WSP

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**Maggie Walsh**

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**Tom Hein**

Vice President and Area Manager, HDR

**Connie Li**

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**Bridget Malinowski**

Project Manager/Program Manager, AECOM

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Mara Kirby**, President

[president@wtsgreaterchicago.org](mailto:president@wtsgreaterchicago.org)

**Mary Lou Kutska**, Vice President

[vp@wtsgreaterchicago.org](mailto:vp@wtsgreaterchicago.org)

**Kirsten Mawhinney**, Treasurer

[treasurer@wtsgreaterchicago.org](mailto:treasurer@wtsgreaterchicago.org)

**Jane Wilberding**, Secretary

[secretary@wtsgreaterchicago.org](mailto:secretary@wtsgreaterchicago.org)

**Katie Bell**, Immediate Past

President

[advisoryboard@wtsgreaterchicago.org](mailto:advisoryboard@wtsgreaterchicago.org)

[wtsgreaterchicago.org](http://wtsgreaterchicago.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

 Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
**GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER**

**279 members**