



Advancing women
Advancing transportation



 GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER



GOLD CHAPTER

September 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When you join WTS, you join a network of leaders, subject matter experts, professionals, and a family. Our WTS family came out strong this year, and it made me extremely grateful for all of the wonderful women and men in our organization.

This summer, we received new leadership at the WTS International level. We thank Sara for her leadership these past years and warmly welcome Wendy to the family. We are also excited for the new Board of Directors and Foundation Board - congrats to all! I also want to thank our Advisory Board and Board of Directors and recognize all of their time and hard work that make our Chapter thrive.

As we continue to implement the Legislative and Regulatory Priorities, our Chapter created a new Policy Committee in addition to our Legislative Affairs Committee. We look forward to advocating for our mission and to bring relevant industry updates to our members.

Our Chapter continues to offer professional development opportunities. Mentor protege pairs have been building strong relationships, for what I am sure will be a long-time friendship. We have been offering technical and leadership training which has been very well received. We are also excited to be the host city for WTSI Chapter Leadership Development this November. I am sure that participants will leave 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 and wish our Student Chapter members good luck this school year!

— Mara Kirby, 2023-2024 WTS Greater Chicago President



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Sindhu Suta



Raguez Taha



Kim Jarosz



Sarah Michalak



Sylvia Waechter



Gretchen Bella



Jillian McNally



Matiana De Alba



Karen Milroy



Fatemeh
Noorzadehsalout



Fateme Hafizi



Sanaz
Kazemzadehazad



Chenxi Xu



Haley Ventura



Felicity Crowder



Kalaya Sriver



Melany Corona

Diversity in Transportation

- **Sindhu Suta (University of Illinois at Chicago)**

Helene M. Overly Graduate Scholarship

- **Raguez Taha (University of Illinois at Chicago)**

Jannet Walker-Ford Leadership Legacy Scholarship for Graduates

- **Kim Jarosz, PE (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)**

Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

- **Sarah Michalak (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale)**

President's Scholarship

- **Sylvia Waechter (University of Illinois at Chicago)**
- **Gretchen Bella (Northwestern University)**

Junior College Trade School Scholarship

- **Jillian McNally (Joliet Junior College)**

Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates

- **Matiana De Alba (Purdue University)**

Executive Partner Scholarship

- **Karen Milroy (University of Illinois at Chicago)**
- **Fatemeh Noorzadehsalout (University of Illinois at Chicago)**
- **Fateme Hafizi (Illinois Institute of Technology)**
- **Sanaz Kazemzadehazad (Illinois Institute of Technology)**
- **Chenxi Xu (University of Illinois at Chicago)**
- **Haley Ventura (University of Illinois at Chicago)**
- **Felicity Crowder (University of Illinois at Chicago)**
- **Kalaya Sriver (Purdue University)**

Transportation YOU High School Scholarship

- **Melany Corona**

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
Central Region	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 region@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Communications	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 communications@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Diversity	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.	Christine Watley and Beth Norton diversity@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Legislative Affairs	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 legislativeaffairs@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Membership	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 membership@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Partnership	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 partnership@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Professional Development	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 profdevelopment@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Programs	Organize and host luncheon programs as well as assist with other committee's events throughout the year.	Melissa Mulrooney and Sophia Scarpa programs@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Recognitions	Recognize and honor individuals, employers and projects that promote the WTS mission.	Colleen Miller and Stephanie Abezian awards@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Scholarship	Solicit, review, select and secure applicants from area schools, colleges and universities for numerous local annual scholarship awards.	Janice Pang and Laura Bloomberg scholarship@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Transportation YOU	Develop programming to educate female high school students (ages 13-18) about transportation careers.	Lissa Sweeney and Ann Ammash tyou@wtsgreaterchicago.org
Policy	Foster awareness about public policy topics, explore intersections with policies in related areas that impact transportation, and engage WTS Greater Chicago members from the public, private, and non-profit sectors to help facilitate a multi-faceted approach to policy topics.	Julie Reschke policy@wtsgreaterchicago.org

2024 AWARD WINNERS!

Woman of the Year

Eileen Chin
President, CEO
R.M. Chin & Associates, Inc.



Member(s) of the Year

Kim Jarosz
Project Engineer
Parsons



Jane Wilberding, AICP
Senior Mobility Manager
HNTB



Honorable Ray LaHood

Chris Snyder, PE
Senior Project Manager
Benesch



Rosa Parks Diversity

Katanya Raby
Greening America's Cities Fellow
Bezos Earth Fund at Chicago
Community Trust



Employer of the Year



**Cook County Department of
Transportation and Highways**

Innovative Transportation Solutions



**75th Street Corridor Improvement
Program (CREATE)**

WTS GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER 2024 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 2025, please email Ann Hammo and Nicole Rose, Partnership Chairs, at partnership@wtsgreaterchicago.org.

EXECUTIVE

AECOM

Atlas Engineering Group, Ltd.

Benesch

CDM Smith

Gannett Fleming

HNTB Corporation

Jacobs

Michael Baker International

TranSystems

TY Lin

WSP USA, Inc.

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DB Sterlin Consultants, Inc.

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HR Green

Infrastructure Engineering, Inc.

Orion Engineers, PLLC

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SQN Associates, LLC

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STV Incorporated

Synnov Group, Inc.

Tai Ginsberg & Associates

TranSmart, An Atlas Company

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EFK Moen, LLC

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SUPPORTER

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PUBLIC AGENCY PARTNERS

Chicago Department of Transportation

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Chicago Transit Authority

Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

Kane County Division of Transportation

Illinois Department of Transportation

Illinois Tollway

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Regional Transportation Authority

ADVISORY BOARD

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Superintendent, Cook County Department of Transportation & Highway

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Region One Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation

Gia Biagi

Principal, Studio Gang; Former Commissioner, Chicago Department of Transportation

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Connie Li

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Project Manager/Program Manager, AECOM

Divya Singh

Vice President, Illinois Transportation Local Business Leader, WSP

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mara Kirby, President

president@wtsgreaterchicago.org

Mary Lou Kutska, Vice President

vp@wtsgreaterchicago.org

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treasurer@wtsgreaterchicago.org

Jane Wilberding, Secretary

secretary@wtsgreaterchicago.org

Katie Bell, Immediate Past

President

advisoryboard@wtsgreaterchicago.org

wtsgreaterchicago.org

MEMBERSHIP

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280 members