



Congratulations, Again to our 2019 Chapter Award Winners!

Employer of the Year - **BETA**



ENGINEERING SUCCESS TOGETHER

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BETA, an employee-owned engineering firm located in Lincoln, RI, has been a proud supporter of WTS-Rhode Island for 15 years. BETA currently has several active members of WTS-Rhode Island, and one of the company’s core policies is to encourage the professional development of employees by assisting with the expenses associated with educational offerings.

Innovative Transportation Solutions Project of the Year - **RIDOT’s Little Roady Autonomous Vehicle Pilot**

Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) launched its autonomous vehicle shuttle in Providence in May 2019. The largest pilot of its kind at the time, it provided 12, 6-person shuttles on a 5-mile loop through the Woonasquatucket corridor. Until the COVID-19 pandemic brought the autonomy portion of the service to an end, the pilot showed not only that the technology — with only a “fleet attendant” helping during the ride — could work in an urban setting, but the need for transit in the corridor.



2019 Chapter Award Winners

Members of the Year— Kristin Caouette and Katie Scancarello



Kristin Caouette (top photo) and Katie Scancarello (bottom) won the Member of the Year award as a team because they both stepped up to the plate to co-chair the Programs Committee when the previous chair stepped down.

They made an outstanding team, and although the Member of the Year award normally only goes to one person, this was the first-ever dual nomination in WTS-Rhode Island's history. Not only did they each take a turn leading the committee, while one chair was out on maternity leave, they did it seamlessly.



There was never a time when the committee was not well run and the programs this year exemplified that through amazing attendance, stellar venues, and a wide range of topics covered through approximately 15 events through the year.

Thank you, Kristin and Katie. This year has shown more than ever what a great job you did!

Woman of the Year - Patricia Steere

Ms. Patricia Steere's 38 years of excellence in the transportation industry includes groundbreaking accomplishments in bridge and building design, inspection and ratings, and bridge construction support services within the states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Her bridge design experience includes the design of a network arch bridge and continuous span bridges. Her building design experience includes power plants, wastewater treatment structures, and composting facilities.

Prior to opening her successful engineering firm in Rhode Island, Ms. Steere was respected and lauded for her exceptional design and management of the iconic IWAY Bridge Project and the Providence River Bridge structure located within the state's capitol and known informally today as "Patty's Bridge."



Ms. Steere is one of the original founders of the WTS-Rhode Island Chapter and through her stewardship is responsible for the advancement and recruitment of countless URI College of Engineering female graduates into her firm and the transportation marketplace. In her current position on the Board of Directors of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Rhode Island (ACEC-RI), Ms. Steere is the eloquent voice for advocating diversity and the inclusion of women and minorities within the engineering industry as a whole. Her efforts have resulted in ACEC-RI's first groundbreaking diversity event co-sponsored with WTS-Rhode Island. The event displayed more than 30 certified women and minority-owned engineering firms and enabled their networking with prime contractors and state and federal government procurement officials. In addition, Steere Engineering, Inc. is a WTS-Rhode Island corporate sponsor. With these accomplishments and more, Ms. Steere possesses the admirable attributes of the WTS-Rhode Island Woman of the Year.

While WTS-Rhode Island had hoped to honor all our winners in person at our annual awards dinner in April, we now would like to extend our greatest thanks and recognition to those profiled here. Awards will be going out to all listed here, and we will continue to look for an opportunity to recognize these great people, companies and projects.

The Future is Now: Profiles of Student Scholarship Awardees

Undergraduate: Veronica Sapegin

My name is Veronica Sapegin and I am pursuing a career in civil engineering. I will graduate from URI in May 2021. I am originally from Belarus and have been living in the U.S. for 6 years. In these 6 years, I have achieved more than I could have imagined. I became a mother in 2017, US citizen in 2018, graduated from CCRI with 3.94 GPA in 2019, and was successfully accepted to URI as a junior. Aside from having an U.S. education, I also have a linguistic degree from Minsk State Linguistic University in Belarus. Throughout my academic career, I have been recognized as a hard-working and goal-oriented student due to my eagerness to learn more. I do have to say that I face a major obstacle by studying full time and caring for my three-year-old daughter. Regardless of these difficult time constraints, I am still able to succeed in all of my classes and maintain an excellent academic standing.

Additionally, I am multilingual with fluent verbal and written skills in Russian, English and experienced in dealing with different cultures and nationalities. I also have basic knowledge of the German language.

I plan on working to improve the quality of life in our state by upgrading the condition of roads, bridges and general infrastructure and promoting sustainable materials in the construction industry.



Veronica Sapegin

Every day I strive to work hard to become one of the best in my career of study and succeed in everything else aside from school. I strive to become a professional engineer inspired by Gandhi's quote: "Be the change you want to see in the world".

WTS Transportation YOU High School Scholarship Recipient



Annabelle Grace Redding

My name is Annabelle Redding and I am a member of the graduating class of 2020 at La Salle Academy in Providence Rhode Island.

I am greatly interested in STEM, especially in computer science and transportation. In high school, I was an active member of the women in STEM club, and I also helped create an all-female cybersecurity team that successfully completed national cybersecurity challenges and competitions.

I am now attending Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

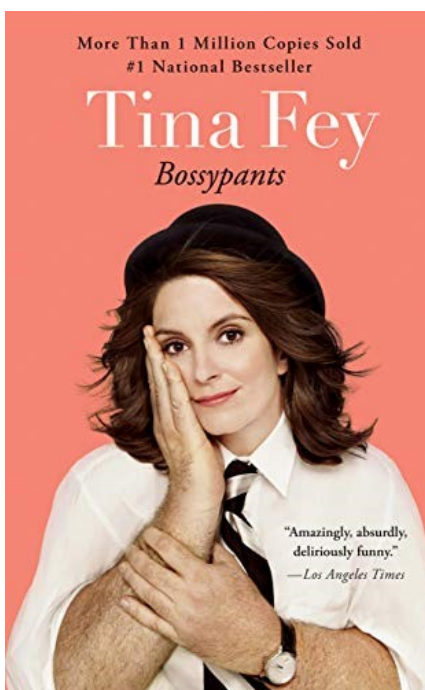
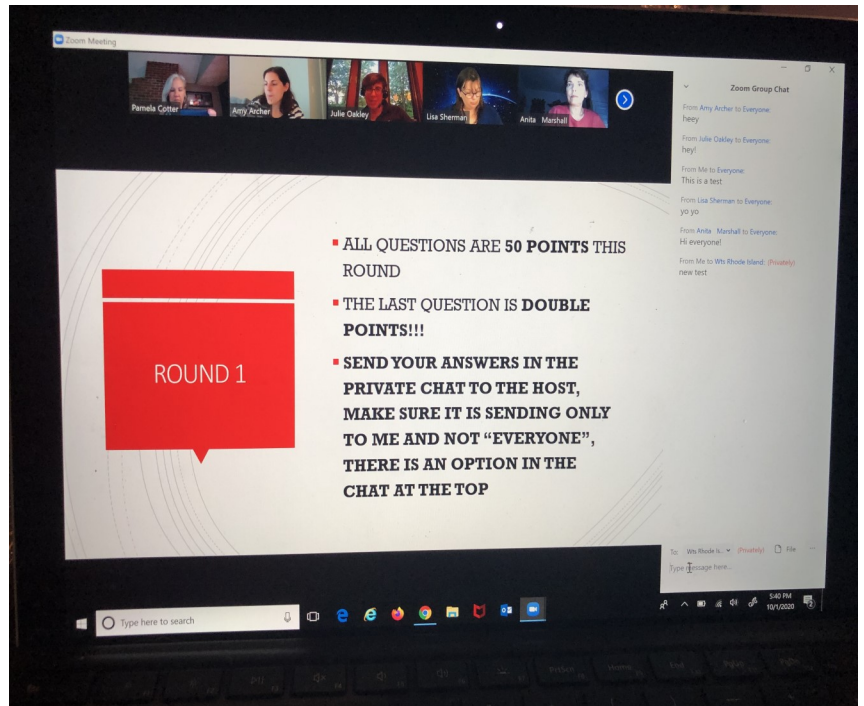
WTS-RHODE ISLAND UPDATES

It's been a challenging year, but our chapter has still managed to have some fun!

TVHH

On October 1 the Programs Committee hosted it's first Trivia Virtual Happy Hour, which included brain-teasing questions and lots of laughs, and a little wine (OK, that was me!) I highly recommend joining us in the future.

- Pamela Cotter, Comms Chair



Book Club

Our first chapter book club kicked off October 14 with an introduction into the reading selection, "Bossypants," by Tina Fey. The book will be discussed in mid-November.

For more information on these programs and others, email us at wtsrhodeisland@gmail.com.

Board Nominations, 2020

We will be holding elections for vacancies on the Board of Directors. The bylaws are set up such that half of the ten-member board turns over every year. Nine of the members are elected, and one is filled by the past president. This election we will have four vacancies: President, Vice President, Director at Large (Membership), and Director at Large (Student Outreach). The chart below shows how the terms are set up with vacancies for terms beginning in 2021 shown in green.

WTS-RHODE ISLAND BOARD ROSTER

	2019	2020	2021	2022
President		J. Oakley		
Vice President		A. Archer		
Secretary	A. Marshall	A. Marshall		
Treasurer	R. Blandin	L. Tsang		
Immediate Past President	D. Peabody		J. Oakley	
Director (Membership)	N. Richard			
Director (Fundraising)	L. Almeida	K. Caoutte		
Director (Communications)	C. King	P. Cotter		
Director (Programs)	K. Caouette	A. Thomas		
Director (Student Outreach)	A. Cunha			

A nominating committee has been established to take nominations and conduct an election. Any member can nominate another member for an office, or you can nominate yourself. If you nominate someone else, please check with that person to make sure that she/he is willing to serve. Note that any person nominated must be a WTS-Rhode Island member upon presentation of the slate to the membership at the annual board meeting, December 3, 2020. To nominate someone please write their name in the green slots above and return the form by mail or fax on or before November 13, 2020. Also please sign your name in the space provided to verify that you are a current member. The committee will present a slate of nominees for election based on the nominations that are received. The committee reserves the right to retain a certain amount of flexibility to ensure a balanced slate. Please feel free to call or email with any questions you may have.

MAIL or EMAIL TO: Julie L. Oakley, PMP (Julie.oakley@dot.ri.gov)

Rhode Island Department of Transportation

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Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

The undersigned certifies that she/he is a current WTS-Rhode Island member and is eligible to make nominations:

Sign

Print

Date