

April 2022 Newsletter

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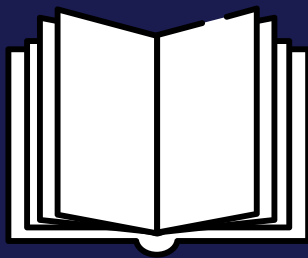


April is National Volunteer Month!

Share your #WTSSStory of volunteerism throughout April!

Post the your answers to the questions below on social media along with the hashtag #WTSSStory during April.

1. How has volunteering with WTS International elevated or impacted your career and/or professional development?
2. Why do you believe volunteering is important when it comes to supporting and advancing women in the industry?



The current book club book is *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.

Reach out to Angela Saunders if you are interested in joining the Book Club!

asaunders@mcmahonassociates.com

Save the Date: Awards Dinner is back!



Join us to celebrate Members, Sponsors, and many award and scholarship recipients

Click [here](#) to add the event to your calendar!



Thursday, June 30th
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Crowne Plaza, Warwick

More details to come!

Congratulations to our 2022 Student Award Winners!



Junior College/Trade School Scholarship (\$1,000)

Dayanara Nieves

*New England Institute of Technology – Automotive
Technology*

Undergraduate Scholarship (\$2,000)

Sofia Mancini

*University of Rhode Island – pursuing B.S. Civil
Engineering*

Graduate Scholarship (\$2,000)

Efthymia Kostopoulou

*University of Massachusetts Amherst – pursuing
Ph.D. Civil Engineering*

Get to Know the 2022 Board!

Pamela Cotter, Chapter Secretary
Acting Administrator of Planning
Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT)

How and why did you initially become involved in WTS? What are the most rewarding experiences you have had since you joined WTS?

A coworker here at RIDOT suggested I join, which I was excited to do because I had come from a 25-year career in journalism, so I had a lot to learn about the transportation industry. It's been rewarding seeing how the members help each other and work together to guide each other along our career paths and give support when it's difficult.

What interests you most about your field of work, and what abilities or personal qualities do you believe contribute most to your success in your job?

I love my job because transportation planning affects everyone. The projects we program into RIDOT's portion of the STIP impact all of us as Rhode Island residents and even travelers through the state. I get to interact with many people and help our state figure out the best policies to get the work done and improve on the system we have currently. I drive and ride my bike, so I'm big on transportation in general, and I love having an inside look at that system and how it works. I'm a writer and communicator on many levels, so that really helps in this job.

How do you like to enjoy your time outside of the office?

I love to read, ride my bike, and do yoga or go for walks. I love spending time with my family and traveling, too.

What is something that you are currently excited about - inside or outside of work?

I'm currently taking a Serbian language class as a nod to my heritage on my mother's side. My husband and I are planning a trip to Croatia and Serbia in September, so I would like to learn more about the language my grandmother sometimes spoke in the home as I was growing up.

Get to Know the 2022 Board!

Ashley Cunha, PE, Treasurer
Civil Engineer
VHB

How and why did you initially become involved in WTS? What are the most rewarding experiences you have had since you joined WTS?

I have been a member of WTS since 2015. I became involved as a result of the advice of a co-worker who had experienced all that WTS has to offer. WTS has been a great networking tool allowing me to make many connections with various men and women in the transportation industry. It has also taught me different skills including leadership and communication which have helped me in my career.

What interests you most about your field of work, and what abilities or personal qualities do you believe contribute most to your success in your job?

I love having the ability to take part in so many meaningful projects, seeing them through design and construction. I believe my ability to collaborate well with others is key to my success in my job.

How do you like to enjoy your time outside of the office?

I love to spend time with my family.

What is something that you are currently excited about - inside or outside of work?

I am most excited to bring my children places this summer now that more things are opening up!

Get to Know the 2022 Board!

Katie Scancarello, PE (RI, MA), Fundraising Chair
Geotechnical Engineer
AECOM

How and why did you initially become involved in WTS? What are the most rewarding experiences you have had since you joined WTS?

I became involved after I attended the 10-year RI banquet, where I met Lisa Sherman who suggested I attend a board meeting to see what opportunities are available with WTS. I love being involved with organizations that serve our local communities and strive to improve conditions for everyone and WTS-RI does just that. It was really easy to volunteer with WTS-RI and I received encouragement and support to organize events that engage with the community.

What interests you most about your field of work, and what abilities or personal qualities do you believe contribute most to your success in your job?

Geotechnical Engineering is exciting because no two projects are the same. From site conditions to project type, the work I do is extremely varied from project to project. It is never boring and constantly challenges me. I am a social person, so I feel at-ease communicating design concepts and coordinating with subconsultants and contractors. Experience has taught me how important clear communication is and I employ effective communication to help projects run smoothly.

How do you like to enjoy your time outside of the office?

I live in Providence and take advantage of all the wonderful amenities that are located nearby. We bike from our house to the East Bay Bike Path, walk to Providence Performing Arts Center for musical theatre, take our baby to the Botanical Center at Roger Williams Park, and walk our kayaks to the boat launch on S. Water Street. On the weekends we hike with our dog and attend college and professional soccer games.

What is something that you are currently excited about - inside or outside of work?

I recently became a mother for the first time and I am excited to take my daughter on hikes this summer. We bought a baby carrier backpack and can't wait to use it! I am excited for the return of PVD Fest and in-person events like WaterFire, luncheons, banquets, and volunteering with students.

<https://www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/rhode-island>

Get to Know the 2022 Board!

Allison Smith, Communications Chair
Economic and Policy Analyst
Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT)

How and why did you initially become involved in WTS? What are the most rewarding experiences you have had since you joined WTS?

I first learned about WTS from my RIDOT colleague Pam Cotter and joined in March 2020. I have really enjoyed learning more about the organization over the past 2 years, and it was especially rewarding to finally meet some of the WTS-RI members in person at our winter holiday event in December 2021 at the lights spectacular at Roger Williams Zoo!

What interests you most about your field of work, and what abilities or personal qualities do you believe contribute most to your success in your job?

I am interested in the ways in which the world of transportation intersects with so many different aspects of society – and our lives. I consider myself a lifelong learner with an active sense of curiosity, and find that those qualities allow me to fully immerse myself in the projects I work on and encourage me to develop solutions to complex problems.

How do you like to enjoy your time outside of the office?

I enjoy trying new restaurants, seeing shows at PPAC, and exploring new walking trails. Most weekends you can find me exploring various farmers markets and food truck festivals!

What is something that you are currently excited about - inside or outside of work?

My fiancé and I recently adopted a super sweet rescue dog named Franklin, and we are enjoying spoiling him in every way we can! I am excited to show him the beauty of Rhode Island over the summer, and plan on taking him to some of our favorite seafood restaurants to try a clam cake (or two)!

Get to Know the 2022 Board!

Sasha Weller, PE, Programs Chair
Project Engineer
VHB

How and why did you initially become involved in WTS? What are the most rewarding experiences you have had since you joined WTS?

I joined WTS to network with strong leaders in our community. I became further involved because I saw the great events WTS sponsors and wanted to be a part of that. The most rewarding experience I have had since joining WTS is helping to plan and moderate the WTS and ACEC joint Women in Leadership panel last year. Hearing the keys to success, struggles and advice for the next generation of leaders was invaluable.

What interests you most about your field of work, and what abilities or personal qualities do you believe contribute most to your success in your job?

I have always enjoyed Structural Engineering because the final product is a tangible structure that I can visit to and point to and say, "I designed that". With Project Management within the Transportation sector, I enjoy the collaboration between disciplines, contractors and clients and the problem solving that happens every day. The personal qualities that contribute most to my success in the job are my organization skills and my ability to think of the large-scale implications of a small detail on a project.

How do you like to enjoy your time outside of the office?

By spending time with family, friends and my dog, Auggy and Traveling!

What is something that you are currently excited about - inside or outside of work?

Inside work – The project I am currently working on, the Long Bridge Project in Washington, DC, will double the freight and passenger rail capacity in the area.
Outside work – Planning my next vacation.

Want to Get Involved? Join a Committee!

Want to get involved with WTS-RI, gain leadership experience and build your network?
Check out our committees and get involved!

The Committees

1. Communications
2. Fundraising
3. Programs
4. Membership
5. Student Outreach



Check out the
brochure [here](#) to
learn more.
Reach out to the
Committee director to
get involved!

