



ABIDE Corner

The month of August does not have a specific theme that speaks to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in transportation. However, there are a few days during the month that can emphasize those traits for our WTS Chapter.

International Youth Day

International Youth Day takes place on August 12 to underscore the need to empower young people with meaningful roles in decision-making and global governance. The day's theme, "Youth Advancing Multilateral Cooperation Through Technology and Partnerships", highlights the vital role young people can play in bridging gaps across diverse cultures and how they can create a space where diverse perspectives can be shared.

The WTS NC Triangle Chapter's Transportation YOU, Student Chapter, and scholarships are ways we as members can be involved with our youth and celebrate International Youth Day with them.

More information can be found on International Youth Day and our WTS groups at these links:

- [Celebrate International Youth Day 2025](#)
- [US Department of State International Youth Day and Summer Activities](#)
- [WTS NC Triangle Chapter Student Outreach](#)

World Humanitarian Day

Observed on Aug. 19, this is a day for honoring humanitarian workers and to promote awareness of humanitarian efforts globally. Conflicts have become more intense and attacks on humanitarians, civilians, infrastructure, and health care (including transportation and related services) have become increasingly common, some in clear violation of international laws.

"Strengthening global solidarity and empowering local communities" is this year's theme for World Humanitarian Day. Improving roads, bridges and transit systems are ways to galvanize local communities. Local and State governments (including NCDOT) use roadway designs to get drivers to their destination safer, and contracts with many private engineering firms to help them get their projects built and completed. This helps strengthen the country, which can help strengthen the world.

Afua Bruce is an American engineer, data executive, professor, and former US Government official. She has held senior science and technology positions at DataKind, New America, the White House, the FBI, and at IBM. She was recently featured on the CBS Show "[Mission Unstoppable](#)" when she showed how she used data to help couriers get medicine to people faster.



Afua Bruce

More information can be found on World Humanitarian Day, NCDOT, and Afua Bruce at these links:

- [ActionAid: World Humanitarian Day](#)
- [World Health Organization: World Humanitarian Day](#)
- [NCDOT: Safety & Mobility](#)
- [Carnegie Mellon University: Afua Bruce](#)

Women's Equality Day

August 26 is known as Women's Equality Day. This day commemorates the passage of women's suffrage in the United States. In the early 19th century, decisions about who could vote were left up to the states. The 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920 and ensures voting rights for everyone regardless of gender. The celebration of this passage on reminds us of the hurdles overcome by the heroic women who face violence and discrimination to propel the women's movement forward.

The women's suffrage movement had largely achieved its primary goal of the right for everyone to vote prior to WWII. This fueled the women's movement for women to not be denied doing other tasks. During WWII, women were not allowed to fly combat aircraft for the United States, even though there were women who could fly aircraft as crop dusters, performers in flying circuses, even as debutantes and college women. Twenty-five young aviators joined the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) for England in 1942 and flew aircraft called Spitfires. These women, initially tasked with transporting mail and supplies, expanded during the war to ferry aircraft and became known as "The Spitfire Girls". They became the first American women to command military aircraft.

A new book, "Spitfires: The American Women Who Flew in the Face of Danger During World War II", is out now. Mary Webb Nicholson, a Greensboro, NC native, was one of these daring women, but sadly, she passed away during the war. A plane she was ferrying from the factory to a military base developed an oil leak, causing the engine to seize and the propeller to detach. With poor weather conditions, she struggled to find a safe landing spot and crashed the plane into a barn, in the process diverting the plane away from people on the ground.

Nicholson taught her brother to fly and served as a source of great inspiration to her niece, Lauren Nicholson Scott, who won an all-women's, long-distance competition in Las Vegas called the Air Race Classic in June 2025. Scott dedicated her win to her aunt.

The women's suffrage movement has spurred a lot of women to do things that were denied them earlier. Our WTS Chapter also spawns each of us (women and men) to do greater things in transportation!

More information can be found on Women's Equality Day and the Spitfires at these sites:

- [National Today: Women's Equality Day](#)
- [Smithsonian Associates presents Spitfires: American Women Pilots in World War II](#) (event has passed, but includes info about book)
- [PBS NewsHour: 'Spitfires' chronicles the daring flights of American women pilots during WWII](#)
- [KNPR: Las Vegas pilot dedicates a recent win to her 'Spitfire' aunt](#)
- [UNCG's Spartan Stories: Mary Webb Nicholson: First in Flight](#)

You can also enjoy each of these celebrations by getting involved in your WTS chapter by joining a committee or attending an event or webinar. Help our chapter grow!

Upcoming Events

- WTS Diamond Corporate Partner Summer Webinar Series: Replacing the Newark Bay Bridge with NJTA & Parsons, August 11, 2025, Noon-1pm, virtual. More information is available at this link: [Diamond Corporate Partner Summer Webinar Series: Replacing the Newark Bay Bridge with NJTA + Parsons | WTS](#)
- Executive Networking Conference (ENC) 2025 and Golf Tournament, August 11-13, 2025, Pinehurst Resort – Course No. 4, 80 Carolina Vista, Pinehurst, NC. More information is available at this link: [Executive Networking Conference - Golf Tournament Networking](#)
- WTS Presentation – The Future of Transportation in RTP, August 15, 2025, 11:30am-1pm, RTP Frontier 600 Park Offices Drive, Building 800, Durham, NC 27713. More information is available at this link: [The Future of Transportation in RTP | WTS](#)
- COMTO Greensboro Transit Agency Tour and AMTRAK Train Ride, August 15, 2025, 6am-4pm. Registration ends August 8, 2025. More information is available at this link: <https://forms.office.com/g/e7w0XXuyQd>

- WTS HRBT Welcome Center Project Update & Tour, August 21, 2025, 11:00am-Noon, HRBT Welcome Center, 9401 4th View St, Norfolk, VA 23503. More information is available at this link: [HRBT Welcome Center Project Update & Tour! | WTS](#)
- WTS Charlotte Lunch & Learn – Wake BRT: Community Engagement & Outreach, August 26, 2025, 11:30am-1pm, Northeastern University – Charlotte, 2151 Hawkins St, Suite 800, Charlotte, NC 28203. More information is available at this link: [WTS Charlotte Lunch & Learn - Wake BRT: Community Engagement & Outreach | WTS](#)
- America Walks Webinar - Quick-Builds in Indian Country: Advancing Road Safety through Community Engagement, August 28, 2025, 2-3pm, virtual. More information is available at this link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NXci_fJzSySwyzvG8QoNag#/registration

Continue to be a DEIB Advocate for Women!