

Connector WTS

news from WTS-DC

Advancing Women in Transportation
Washington, DC Chapter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**WTS-DC Chapter President
Melany Alliston-Brick,
Toole Design Group**

*Dear WTS-DC Chapter members
and friends,*

First, I would like to thank all of you for helping the WTS-DC Chapter make 2014 one of our most productive years ever. Between our regular programs and mentoring committee events, we were able to provide a record 18 opportunities for professional development, mentoring, and networking this year. Your attendance at these events is always appreciated, and your support has helped us add a new undergraduate scholarship to our scholarship

program so that we can have a direct impact on the career aspirations of even more young women in the future. We hope to expand our scholarship program even further this year.

We closed out 2014 with our holiday party where we presented our scholarships and annual achievement awards, including the Rosa Parks Diversity Award to Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, and a new Man of the Year award to Richard Sarles, the recently retired CEO of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. This event also helped us generate nearly one third of the funding needed to support our 2015 scholarship program. Read on to see photos and learn more about our distinguished awardees and scholarship recipients.

WTS-DC is also off to a great start for 2015. We began the year with our annual strategic planning session on January 25th, which had a record attendance of more than 40 people. We have filled all of our vacant committee chair positions, and have a full complement of volunteers for the glass-ceiling

task force. Thanks to all who worked so hard last year, and thanks to all of the new volunteers who have stepped up to take concrete action for advancing women in transportation. I look forward to working with all of you in 2015!

For our members and friends, as we plan our program schedule for 2015, please let us know if there are other topics that you would like to hear about, a project that you would like to showcase, or a way that we can add value for you or your organization. We would love to have your input.

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions you may have, and thank you for your continued support.

Best Regards,

Melany Alliston-Brick, PE

President, WTS-DC Chapter

Stay in touch with us!

 **WTSDC**  **wtscchapter**

UPCOMING WTS-DC EVENTS

Please join us at our first event of the year this Thursday, February 19:

Raising Employee Morale and Elevating Professional Standards

Featuring John Porcari, former USDOT Deputy Secretary and current Senior Vice President and National Director of Strategic Consulting, Parsons Brinckerhoff

For more information and to register for the event, click [here](#).

WTS-DC invites you to meet and mingle with members during our *February happy hour*, as well as to discuss upcoming events. Non-members are welcome!

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 PM

Mission Dupont, 1606 20th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20009

WTS-DC is going to “Make It Happen” in March! Join us as we celebrate Women’s History Month in style. Be on the look-out for invites to the following events:

*** March 11 – Professional Development Event ***

Making it Happen: A Fireside Chat With Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Director, Jennifer Mitchell

*** March 26 – WTS-DC Book Club ***

Guest Moderator: Susan Binder, Senior Associate, Cambridge Systematics

Featured Book: The Confidence Code by Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

SAVE THE DATE!

WTS-DC Scholarship and Professional Development Committees invite you to participate in the first annual Scholarship Fundraising Event.

May 2nd

(more information to come)

Empower Women by Cycling on the Complete Streets of Washington, DC

A group of Transportation Professionals will be riding along and providing insights about the making of Complete Streets in DC. Your contributions will go towards the WTS-DC scholarship fund to promote and support women in the transportation field.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WTS-DC Mentoring Program: Calling All Potential Mentees and Mentors!

The WTS-DC Mentoring Committee is now accepting applications for the 2015 Mentoring Program. Reap the benefits of a one-on-one professional development partnership and network with peers across the transportation sector!

Applications are available on the WTS-DC [website](#) in the Document Library. **Please submit your application by Friday, March 6, 2015.** The program will run April through November 2015. Feel free to contact Mentoring Committee co-chairs Meredith Howell and Stacy Weisfeld at wtsdcmentoring@gmail.com with questions.



Transportation YOU: Mentors Needed

Transportation YOU is looking for WTS-DC mentors who can nominate qualified mentees for this summer's Transportation YOU Summit. The Summit is an opportunity for WTS mentoring pairs from across the country to gather in DC, and features an array of high profile speakers as well as educational tours of transportation facilities in the DC metro area. Applications are due this month.

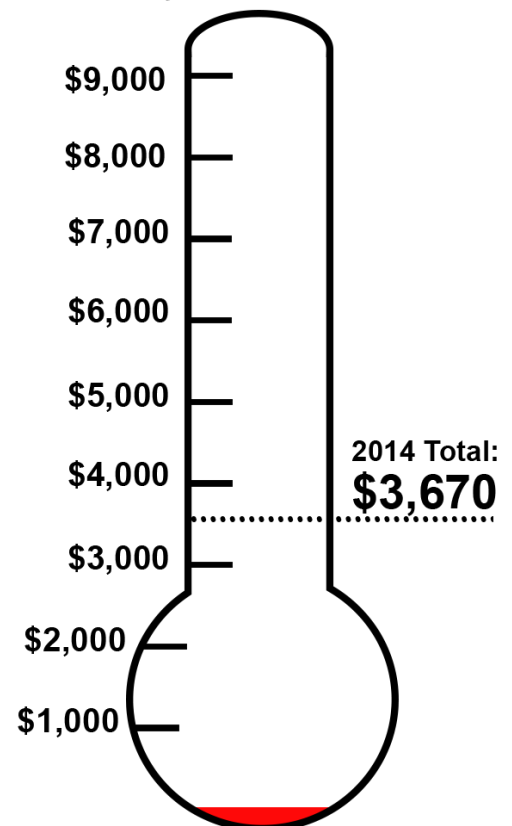
Please contact Jasmy Methipara at jasmy.methipara@gmail.com for an application.

Scholarship Fundraising: 2015 Goals

The WTS mission is to “transform the transportation industry through the advancement of women.” WTS-DC believes that education is a vital tool to facilitate advancement. Every year, WTS-DC awards scholarships to deserving young women who are studying transportation at undergraduate and graduate programs in the DC area. We believe that giving scholarships is one of the most important things we do. In 2014, we awarded \$7,000 in scholarships to 4 outstanding young women, an increase in \$1,000 compared to previous years. We hope to increase this amount in future years, with an advantageous 2015 goal of \$10,000 (\$2,000 per scholarship recipient).

Last year – thanks to the generous donations, bids on silent auction items at the holiday party, special scholarship program revenue, and raffle participation – WTS-DC raised \$3,670 for the scholarship fund, which supported half of total WTS-DC awards in 2014. In future years, the annual amount raised should meet or exceed the amount awarded. So far this year, we have raised [\$0] for the scholarship fund, which means we have [\$10,000] more to raise over the next [10] months to reach our goal! If you would like to contribute to the advancement of women in the transportation industry in the DC area, please contact our scholarship chair, Amanda Wall Vandegrift (vandegrifta@pbworld.com). All scholarship contributions are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged in our newsletter and annual report, unless you request anonymity.

**2015 GOAL:
\$10,000**



WTS-DC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Barbara McCann
*Director of the Office of
 Safety, Energy, and
 Environment,
 USDOT,
 Washington, DC*

Barbara serves as the Director of the Office of Safety, Energy, and Environment in the Office of Transportation Policy in the Office of the Secretary at USDOT. While the title is a mouthful, her job is to lead a team of policy specialists who are working to advance the priorities of the Secretary and uphold the mission of the Department.

Right now one of the Department's top priorities is pedestrian and bicycle safety, and Barbara has formed a multi-modal team and helped launch a comprehensive initiative to engage USDOT field offices, State DOTs, and practitioners and stakeholders in using USDOT resources to create safer road environments for non-motorized users. She is well suited to this task, as from 2005 to 2012 she founded and led the National Complete Streets Coalition, a group that advances the adoption of policies to ensure that streets are designed for all users. After she stepped down as Executive Director in 2012 she wrote and Island Press published "Completing Our Streets: The Transition to Safe and Inclusive Transportation Networks."

Her current position lets her return to a broader set of transportation policy, funding, and environmental health issues that she worked on earlier in her career while at the Surface Transportation Policy Project and as an independent consultant. Her first career was in journalism, including a 13-year stint as a writer and producer at CNN, and she was surprised to find that the fast pace at the Secretary's Office somewhat resembles working in a newsroom.

Genevieve Oudar
*Senior Manager,
 Deloitte,
 Washington, DC*



Genevieve is a Senior Manager at Deloitte in the Transformation practice, which is focused in transportation. Many of her recent projects have focused on transformation initiatives to improve the investment planning and analysis of transportation projects including high-speed rail and other multi-modal programs. She thoroughly enjoys her day-to-day work and meeting so many talented federal, state, local and private industry professionals who are working to address the challenges presented by future transportation needs.

When she's not working, Genevieve spends as much time as she can with her husband and their three young children — who always keep her moving!



Editor's Note: Genevieve also finds time in her busy schedule to co-chair WTS-DC's Programs Committee!



NEW AND REINSTATED WTS-DC MEMBERS

Welcome!

Margaret Schilling, USDOT-FTA

Jaclynn Campbell, Deloitte

Kate Lefkowitz, Cambridge Systematics

Emily Han, Eno Center for Transportation

Carol Tyson, United Spinal Association

Arnold Lopez, Port of Long Beach, California

Elizabeth Connelly, University of Virginia

Jeong Yun Kweun, George Mason University

Leslie Harwood, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

Melissa Porter, USDOT-FRA

Sophie Boreshe, Parsons

Caitlin Gliniecki, USDOT

Stephanie Ball, Dye Management Group

Kim Lucas, DDOT

Spring Worth, DDOT

Kelly Blynn, Coalition for Smarter Growth

Laura Richards, DDOT

Iuliana Murgescu, Amtrak

Faith Hall, USDOT-FTA

Latisha Johnson, Morgan State University

June Jewell, AEC Business Solutions, LLC

Ann Henebery, Eno Center for Transportation

Lauren DeWerd, Deloitte Consulting

Todd Pollard, Amtrak

Amanda Watson, WMATA

Tamara Vatnick, George Washington University

Scott Cocherell, Jacobs

Benjamin Frison, WMATA

Katherine Bourdon, Nossaman LLP

Jordan McCullers, AirSage

Penelope Farthing, Bose Public Affairs

Ashley Simmons, Intelligent Transportation Society of America

Jennifer Hewitt, Foxbridge Communications

Helga Junold, ARCADIS

Do you have news to share with the WTS-DC community?

Please email suggested articles and member updates to wts.dc.newsletter@gmail.com.

For more information from WTS-DC, visit us on:

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WTS-DC Celebrates a Successful Year

On December 9, the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) DC Chapter held its annual holiday party, silent auction, and awards ceremony at the Goethe-Institut in Washington, DC. Attending the event was U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx who received the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award for his advocacy of the White House's Ladders of Opportunity initiative. In accepting the award, Secretary Foxx emphasized the importance of investing in transportation infrastructure to connect all communities to improve the quality of life for all Americans.



The 2014 WTS-DC board with Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx

For the first time the WTS-DC Chapter presented the "Man of the Year Award" to Richard Sarles, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Mr. Sarles has been a longtime advocate for the WTS DC Chapter and has actively worked to recognize and advance women in transportation. Patricia Hendren, a Consultant for Performance Management, received the Woman of the Year Award.

The Member of the Year Award was presented to Avital Barnea, a Policy Analyst in the Office of the Secretary at USDOT. Avital continually exceeds all expectations as Vice President



2014 Scholarship Winner Eirini Kastrouni and Cerasela Cristei, Professional Development Co-Chair

for the DC Chapter and never hesitates to help step in to make sure the organization is running efficiently.

Four scholarships were presented to DC-area graduate and undergraduate students in the transportation field. The Innovative Transportation Solutions Award was presented to the moveDC Plan and Nspiregreen received the Employer of the Year Award.

Overall the event was a huge success for the WTS-DC Chapter. Thank you to everyone that was able to donate to the scholarship fund or participate in the silent auction. Providing these scholarships remains critical in advancing young women into the transportation field. Read on to learn more about our distinguished scholarship and award winners.



Attendees at the WTS-DC Holiday Party



2014 Employer of the Year, Nspiregreen, with Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx

WTS-DC Congratulates the 2014 Scholarship Winners

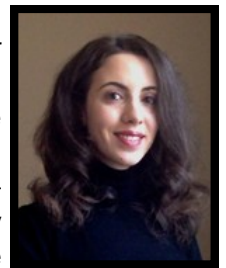


Andrea Hamre, PhD, Urban Affairs and Planning, Virginia Tech's Alexandria Campus

Ms. Andrea Hamre is pursuing her PhD in Virginia Tech's Urban Affairs and Planning program, with a concentration in transportation planning. She is expected to graduate in May of 2016 and currently has a perfect 4.0 GPA. Her research focuses on understanding travel choice and captivity in relation to driving, taking transit, walking, and biking. Andrea serves on the Transportation Planning Board's Citizens Advisory Committee, a volunteer committee that advises our metropolitan planning organization (MPO) on long-term transportation policy, and was appointed to the Parking Standards for New Development Task Force in the City of Alexandria. She not only exemplifies the academic rigor and achievement the transportation industry needs, but also the engagement in local and regional bodies that this region needs from its transportation professionals. In speaking about her recent scholarship win, Ms. Hamre says, "The WTS scholarship is an affirmation of my commitment to the scholarship of engagement, public service, and civic participation."

Eirini Kastrouni, PhD, Civil Engineering, University of Maryland

Ms. Eirini Kastrouni is pursuing her PhD in the University of Maryland's Civil Engineering department, with a focus in transportation engineering. She received the 2012 Charley V. Wootan National Student Award for her master's thesis on the equity performance of the fuel tax per gallon and the Vehicle Miles Traveled fee. Her doctoral work focuses on two projects related to transportation infrastructure investment yields and the development of mileage-based user fees to substitute the current fuel tax. Ms. Kastrouni is currently a young member of the Transportation Research Board Committee on Transportation and Economic Development. On why she became a transportation engineer, Ms Kastrouni said, "From the very early days of my studies, I have been challenged by the weaknesses of the existing transportation infrastructure and by the immense impact that transportation services can have on human life.." She was also selected as one of 20 transportation students in the nation to participate in the Eno Leadership Development Conference this past summer. She serves in numerous leadership roles, most recently serving as the president and outgoing vice president of the University of Maryland's ITE/ITS Chapter.



Daniela Barragan, Masters, Human Factors and Applied Cognition, George Mason University

Ms. Daniela Barragan is pursuing her master's degree in Human Factors and Applied Cognition at George Mason University. This summer she was an intern at Westat, where she so impressed her supervisors that they created a position for the academic year. She worked on two FHWA-sponsored projects while at Westat, which were aimed at developing human factors guidelines for Transportation Management Centers and identifying better locations for real-time travel information at freeway approaches. At George Mason University, she leads the Distractions N' Driving program, which uses a driving simulator to show the effects of texting on driving. Ms. Barragan says, "I became inspired to study transportation safety after surviving a near-fatal automobile accident with a distracted driver." Daniela is responsible for coordinating these hands-on presentations. To date, more than 1000 people have participated, with attendance ranging from high school students to law enforcement. After graduation in May 2015, she hopes to conduct applied research on transportation safety for a government agency.

Emily Porter, Junior, Undergraduate in Civil Engineering, The George Washington University

Ms. Emily Porter is a junior, majoring in Civil Engineering and minoring in Computer Science at The George Washington University. As an Idaho native, she previously worked at the Idaho National Laboratory. Currently, she is employed both as an Air Quality Research Assistant, where she is involved in a community-based air quality monitoring project, and as a traffic engineering undergraduate intern, where she is modeling pedestrian flow dynamics through newly defined modeling techniques. In speaking about her relationship with the field Ms. Porter said, "Transportation is still a new field for me, and I've got plenty to learn before I can confidently refer to myself as a transportation engineer. I want to thank my advisor (Dr. Samer Hamdar) for encouraging me to apply myself to transportation research." She recently presented her paper on pedestrian flow dynamics at the January 2015 Transportation Research Board conference. After graduation in May 2016, she hopes to attend graduate school in civil engineering, continuing to emphasize the increasing connections between engineering and computer science.



WTS-DC Congratulates the 2014 Recognition Award Winners



Woman of the Year Award: *Patricia Hendren, Consultant – Performance Management*

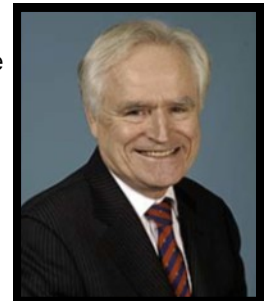
Patricia “Trish” G. Hendren, PhD is a transportation performance management expert with over 17 years of experience working with State Departments of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and transit agencies. Most recently she co-established and served as director of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s (WMATA) first stand-alone Office of Performance. This office expanded the organization’s ability to use performance information to guide decisions, promote accountability and improve results. Prior to this position, Dr. Hendren developed WMATA’s 10-year \$11.4 billion capital needs inventory and prioritized these needs for WMATA’s six year capital program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Dr. Hendren has spent her career working with transportation agencies to implement a performance-based management approach including the identification of strategic goals, development of performance measures, establishment of targets, prioritization of resources and evaluation of results. Before joining WMATA, she spent several years in the private sector assisting a range of State DOTs on various aspects of performance-based management including Maryland’s Long Range Transportation Plan, the Maryland Annual Attainment Report and Virginia DOT’s first multimodal performance report. With the passage of MAP-21, the evolution of asset management tools, and the overall increased demand for more transparency and accountability, Dr. Hendren recently decided to return to the private sector to open a new DC office for Spy Pond Partners, a small transportation management consulting firm based in Boston.

To contribute to the state-of-the practice and stay abreast of national issues, Trish has been actively involved in the Transportation Research Board since 2001 chairing or serving on committees, research panels and conference planning efforts. She is a passionate supporter of advancing women in the transportation field and is a role model to those who have worked for and with her throughout her career.

Man of the Year Award: *Richard Sarles, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)*

Richard Sarles has guided WMATA on a course to improve safety, reliability, financial stability and customer service since joining the Agency in January 2011. Drawing upon more than 40 years of experience in the transit and intercity passenger rail industry, Mr. Sarles has led actions to build a new safety culture within WMATA, including strengthening the safety department, expanding training and creating a new employee safety recognition program. He has spearheaded the replacement of buses and MetroAccess vehicles and the acquisition of new rail cars. Under his leadership, Metro is undergoing a \$5 billion six-year capital improvement program. In addition to creating a multiyear business plan to support agency goals, Mr. Sarles led the development of the agency’s strategic plan, Momentum: The Next Generation of Metro, that benefitted from unprecedented public and stakeholder input.



Mr. Sarles is a lifelong advocate for women in transportation leadership. Over the years he has invested in mentoring and professional development opportunities, and has actively worked to recognize and advance visionary women in transportation. From drivers, to maintenance to WMATA’s Board of Directors, gender equity is on the rise due to his efforts. Through its annual “Conversations with Richard Sarles,” WTS-DC and its members have benefited from his insights as he guided WMATA, its employees, and its customers through the on-going experiences of renewal and expansion.

Being an agent for change and growth is integral to Richard Sarles’ career. Prior to joining WMATA, he served as Executive Director of New Jersey TRANSIT after managing the agency’s \$1.3 billion annual capital program as well as all three light rail operations in the state (2002-2010). His tenure at Amtrak (1996-2002) included leading the introduction of Acela service on the Northeast Corridor. Building on his education in engineering and business administration, Mr. Sarles worked for more than 20 years in construction, project management and project planning roles with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

When Richard Sarles retires from WMATA in early 2015, he will be greatly missed as an advocate for smart and efficient transit investments. His work has paved the way for many bright and visionary leaders to take the helm.



WTS-DC Congratulates the 2014 Recognition Award Winners



Member of the Year

Avital Barnea, Policy Analyst, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

Avital, a member of WTS since 2010, is actively engaged in the DC chapter leadership and currently serves as the WTS-DC Vice President. She has served as WTS-DC Secretary, and was previously active with the WTS Minnesota Chapter. Since 2012, she has served on the steering committee for the Transportation YOU DC Summit. Avital continually exceeds the requirements of any position, and never hesitates to step in and volunteer when there is work to be done. From bringing in new members to ensuring that she is intimately familiar with every committee's duties and responsibilities, Avital has played a major role in getting the chapter up to speed and keeping it running effectively.

As policy analyst within the Office of the Secretary, Avital oversees the TIGER Discretionary Grant program and contributes to policy initiatives regarding infrastructure and innovative finance. Prior to this position, Avital was a community planner at the Federal Transit Administration, focusing on metropolitan and statewide planning and the Capital Investment Grant (New Starts) program, and as a Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, where she worked on and witnessed the passage of MAP-21.

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WTS-DC's awards ceremony was featured in USDOT's *Fastlane* blog, with a special shout-out to award recipients Avital Barnea and Secretary Foxx. To read the article, please access the post [HERE](#).

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Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, U.S. Department of Transportation

Secretary Anthony Foxx became the 17th U.S. Secretary of Transportation in July 2013. Secretary Foxx leads an agency with more than 55,000 employees and a \$70 billion budget that oversees air, maritime, and surface transportation. Prior to his appointment as US Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Foxx served as the Mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, where there too he made efficient and innovative transportation investments the centerpiece of the city's job creation and economic recovery efforts.

One of the strongest advocates for the White House's Ladders of Opportunity initiative, Secretary Foxx has long believed that transportation plays a critical role in connecting Americans and communities to economic opportunity. Access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for all Americans is central to Secretary Foxx's agenda, as he believes the choices that are made regarding transportation infrastructure at the Federal, State and local levels can strengthen communities, create pathways to jobs and improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Under Secretary Foxx's directive, the USDOT has prioritized initiatives to advance Ladders of Opportunity through multiple programs, including a new \$100 million Ladders of Opportunity Initiative to fund projects that expand bus services to better serve people who need them the most, and through the \$9 million Innovative Public Transportation Workforce Development Program to invest in America's economic growth and help build ladders of opportunity into the middle class for American workers. Secretary Foxx also prioritized the extent to which the projects chosen for the FY2014 TIGER grant program strengthen access to opportunities through transportation.



WTS-DC Congratulates the 2014 Recognition Award Winners

Innovative Transportation Solutions Award

moveDC Plan



The moveDC Plan offers a bold vision for the transportation network in the District of Columbia to ensure the solutions and ideas are implementable. The plan sets the 25-year transportation vision for Washington, DC. Released in October 2014, it was developed using innovative and comprehensive outreach and communication techniques to gather stakeholders' feedback. It also includes a 2-year action plan to set the vision towards implementation, including 36 specific actions and the development of metrics to monitor and track performance and progress. The project manager for moveDC, Colleen Hawkinson, is also the manager of the Strategic Planning Branch within the Policy, Planning and Sustainability Administration of the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT). In her role as project manager, Ms. Hawkinson ensured that stakeholder engagement was prioritized. She also focused on the internal customer, DDOT staff, who will be in charge of implementing this vision for years to come.

Employer of the Year

Nspiregreen, LLC



Nspiregreen, a woman and minority-owned business in Washington, DC, works to transform businesses and communities by providing sustainability solutions that create an enhanced working and living environment. With its engineering and urban planning employees, it specializes in urban and transportation planning, environmental solutions, and public involvement and outreach. The company was on the consulting team for the moveDC Plan which is receiving the 2014 WTS-DC Innovative Transportation Solutions award. Other major local initiatives involving Nspiregreen are the alternatives analysis for the North-South streetcar line to connect Takoma/Silver Spring to Southeast, and the stormwater implementation plan.

Chancee Lundy and Veronica O. Davis founded Nspiregreen in 2009 to create a work culture that inspires creativity and innovation while allowing employees to maintain a healthy work-life balance. The company is committed to the professional growth of its employees (currently all female) and to providing opportunities such as technical trainings, project management, and business development opportunities. It actively supports the WTS-DC chapter, including the chapter's mentoring program, with both co-founders serving as mentors and an employee as a mentee. Nspiregreen also engages in youth programs through professional organizations such as the National Society of Black Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers.



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Contributors to this issue include:

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Thank you

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