

D. ROBERTSON



Advancing Women in Transportation

June 9, 2006

Los Angeles Area Chapter

Post Office Box 71504

Los Angeles, CA

90071-0504

Mr. Doug Failing
Caltrans District 7
100 South Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Failing,

You have made a very real difference by supporting our intern program, and I wanted to thank you for it. By hosting Nancy Enriquez, an intern from North Hollywood High School's Transportation Careers Academy (TCA), you and Caltrans have helped a promising young student step outside the classroom to gain practical exposure to the complex world of transportation.

Through generosity and counsel such as yours, WTS-LA/TCA interns have undertaken a broad array of useful, instructional, substantive tasks during this internship period. I particularly appreciate all the trouble the sponsors took to design meaningful intern programs. The interns certainly noticed; here is a sampling of how they described their experiences:

I'm taking aerial photos of Metrolink stations. It's been great to get real exposure to actual current, live projects.

Right now, we're going to check out the runways at LAX. I got to learn what civil engineering is all about. There's a lot more to building something than I thought.

What makes the work so interesting is that it's real life. At TCA, we focus mostly on urban planning. My internship helped me get a real-life perspective on what that means in the field. It really made what we study at TCA come alive.

This internship is how I'm finding out what I want to do. It's definitely made me think about becoming an engineer.

I went to the Gold Line Extension and took photographs in the field. Then I researched potential projects on line in the office. It's been a great experience.

Our interns have been unanimous in their enthusiasm and their gratitude for these opportunities. They particularly valued the time spent in a working office environment— itself a first for many interns. The program has bolstered their belief in education, and in the transportation community at large. Your support helped demonstrate that the industry cares about the next generation of transportation professionals. For that, too, you have my profound thanks.

By sponsoring an intern from the WTS-LA Adopt-A-School program, you have added real-world texture to the interns' academic experience, giving them a much better understanding of the transportation industry and their opportunities within it. The benefits of your contribution—to the industry as a whole, and to our interns in particular—will be accruing for years to come.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Spencer
President, WTS Los Angeles
www.wtsinternational.org/la