



### **WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship**

WTS fosters the development of women in the transportation field by encouraging bright new professionals to undertake careers in the area of transportation. One way it does this is by awarding the WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship to women pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field.

The scholarship honors Sharon D. Banks, chief executive officer of AC Transit in Alameda-Contra Costa County, California. As its CEO throughout most of the 1990's, Banks led the agency in a pioneering effort to introduce cultural and organizational changes aimed at motivating the public transit workforce. She was a member of the WTS Advisory Board and received the WTS San Francisco Chapter Woman of the Year and Employer of the Year awards.

The WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship is **\$5,000**.

The minimum criteria for selection are:

- a. GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- b. Currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in a transportation-related field, such as transportation engineering, planning, finance, or logistics.
- c. Plans to pursue a career in a transportation-related field.

Applications must be submitted through local WTS chapters as typed documents. Scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant's specific transportation goals, academic record, and transportation-related activities or job skills. National awards will be presented during the upcoming WTS Annual Conference in May, and attendance during the awards ceremony is strongly recommended. Conference registration for scholarship winners is complimentary. Local chapters will assist with arrangements upon selection and may have additional requirements, such as personal interviews or higher GPA. Please contact your local WTS chapter for specifics.

## **WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Application**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

### **I. Personal Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Middle

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address (Street, City, State, Zip):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address (Street, City, State, Zip):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **II. Educational Background**

Current College/University \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Date of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Degree to be Received \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Concentration \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_

(Minimum GPA of 3.0 required. Attach official copy of transcript to application.)

Previous Colleges/Universities Attended, Date Degree Earned and GPA:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Professional or School Affiliations (List any school, professional or community activities you have participated in. Include offices held and awards received. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as typed word documents.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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### III. Employment History

Work Experience (List full-time, part-time, co-op and summer employment. Briefly describe duties and responsibilities. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as typed word documents.)

**IV. Recommendation:** Letter of recommendation by a professor or job supervisor must accompany your application.

**V. Personal Statement:** A statement about your career goals and/or continuing education after graduation and why you think that you should receive the scholarship award. Applicants must address the issue of leadership, its importance in a transportation career, and the applicant's leadership achievements. Statement should not exceed 500 words. Please attach to application form as a typed word document.

**VI. Proof of Enrollment:** Attach a copy of your tuition receipt or current registration card.

**VII. Demographic Information:** WTS is committed to recognizing the achievements of students pursuing transportation related degrees. To track our progress in reaching diverse applicants, we ask that you complete this confidential demographic information. **This is not required for scholarship awards and will not be used in the selection process.**

**1 Race/Ethnicity (select all that apply)**

- Asian
- Black
- East Indian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Indigenous
- Middle Eastern
- Multiracial
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Other (please write in)
- Choose not to disclose

**2 Age**

- 15-18
- 19-23
- 24-30
- 31-50
- 50+

**3 Anticipated or Current Mode of Transportation Career Focus (select all that apply)**

- Aviation
- Freight
- Highway/Auto
- Maritime/Port
- Multi-modal
- Non-Motorized
- Passenger
- Transit
- Other (please write in) \_\_\_\_\_

**4 How did you hear about this scholarship?**

- Friend
- School/Teacher
- Social Media:
  - Facebook
  - Instagram
  - LinkedIn
  - Snapchat
  - TikTok
  - Twitter
  - YouTube
  - Other (please write in) \_\_\_\_\_
- WTS Chapter
- WTS International Website
- Other (please write in) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **III. Employment History**

#### **Retail & Attractions Supervisor (Full-time)**

*Great Wolf Lodge – Mason, Ohio*

**January 2024 – November 2024**

- Supervised and scheduled 15+ employees across four retail and attractions locations, ensuring efficient daily operations.
- Supported financial decision-making by reviewing ROI and sales reports and participating in corporate budgeting and revenue planning calls.
- Managed inventory and receiving using DataWorks, verifying shipments, tracking SKUs, and ensuring accurate inventory control.
- Balanced labor costs with demand by aligning staffing levels to hotel occupancy and budgeted revenue goals, improving cost efficiency.
- Developed leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills in a fast-paced, multi-unit environment.

#### **Server (Full-time)**

*Great Wolf Lodge – Mason, Ohio*

**November 2024 – Present**

- Coordinate with service and kitchen teams to deliver accurate, timely service in a high-volume environment.
- Adapt to fluctuating demand and schedules while maintaining consistent performance under pressure.
- Engage guests to promote offerings and support revenue generation.

#### **Retail Attendant (Part-time)**

*Great Wolf Lodge – Mason, Ohio*

**October 2023 – January 2024**

- Supported daily operations through merchandising, restocking, and accurate transaction processing.
- Assisted guests with product selection while maintaining a professional and organized retail environment.

To the Scholarship Selection Committee,

I am writing to recommend Kylie Bernard for the WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship. I had the pleasure of serving as Kylie's retail supervisor at Great Wolf Lodge, where she worked as a Retail Attendant under my direct supervision.

Throughout her time with our team, Kylie consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic, professionalism, and leadership skills. She was dependable, focused, and took pride in her work, often stepping up to lead by example and support her peers. Kylie earned the trust of both management and coworkers through her positive attitude and commitment to excellence.

Kylie works extremely hard to independently support herself through college. Balancing these responsibilities while maintaining high professional standards speaks to her discipline, resilience, and determination. She approaches challenges with maturity and accountability and remains focused on her long term goals.

Kylie's character and leadership reflect the values honored by the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship. She demonstrates initiative, integrity, and a strong sense of responsibility, qualities that will serve her well in the transportation field and beyond.

I am confident that Kylie Bernard is highly deserving of this scholarship and will make a positive impact in her chosen career. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Grayden Habermehl  
Formal Retail & Attractions Supervisor, Great Wolf Lodge  
Email: [graydenhabermehl@gmail.com](mailto:graydenhabermehl@gmail.com)  
Phone: (937) 728-7585

## **V. Personal Statement:**

I am a third-year student at the University of Cincinnati's Carl H. Lindner College of Business, majoring in Business Economics. I am pursuing a career in the transportation construction industry, where I can combine financial analysis, leadership, and problem-solving to support infrastructure projects that directly serve the public.

My interest in transportation began long before college. My father has worked in road construction for John R. Jurgensen for almost 30 years, and growing up, I saw firsthand the dedication, teamwork, and responsibility required to build and maintain roads. I learned early on that transportation is not only about construction but also about safety and accessibility. Watching this work inspired me to pursue a career where I can contribute to projects that have a real and lasting impact.

I am also a first-generation college student, which makes my education especially meaningful to me. Being the first in my family to attend college, and to do so as a woman, has motivated me to work hard, stay focused, and take full advantage of every opportunity. I take pride in showing that women belong in leadership roles within transportation, an industry where those opportunities have not always been equally accessible.

This summer, I will be working as an estimating intern at John R. Jurgensen, a significant step toward my long-term goal of working in transportation finance or construction management. Being a woman in this internship makes the experience even more important because it allows me to gain hands-on experience while preparing me to lead and inspire other women who want to follow similar paths.

Leadership has also been an important part of my growth outside of transportation. I served as a Retail and Attractions Supervisor at Great Wolf Lodge, overseeing a team of more than 15 employees across 4 different stores. Leading a team in a fast-paced environment taught me how to communicate clearly, stay organized, and make confident decisions under pressure, skills I plan to bring into my future career in transportation.

Sharon D. Banks' commitment to motivating employees and driving influential organizational change reflects the type of leader I hope to become. Receiving the WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship would provide support as I continue building a career in transportation and working toward leadership roles where I can make a positive impact on the communities these systems serve, while also inspiring other women.

**University Of Cincinnati Unofficial Record**

Name: Kylie A Bernard

Print Date: 01/02/2026

Campus ID: M15488512  
Birthdate: 10/31/2004

**Beginning of Undergraduate Record**

**2024 Fall**

Program: UCBA Associate  
Plan: Blue Ash College  
Pre-Business Administration Major

Transfer Credit from University Of Dayton  
Applied Toward UCBA Associate

Course	0.000 Transfer Totals:	Attempted	Earned	Points
		29.000	29.000	0.000

Trans GPA:

Transfer Credit from Sinclair Community College  
Applied Toward UCBA Associate

Course	0.000 Transfer Totals:	Attempted	Earned	Points
		24.000	24.000	0.000

Trans GPA:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Att Hrs</u>	<u>E Hrs</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>GPA Pts</u>
BLAW 2080	LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
COMM 2081	BUSINESS COMM	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
IS 2080	DIGITAL TECH IN BUS C	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
MATH 1044	APPLIED CALCULUS I	3.0	3.0	B+	9.999
MKTG 2080	INTRODUCTION TO MARKETING	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
Term GPA	3.867	Att Hrs	E Hrs	GPA Hrs	GPA Pts
		Term Total	15.0	15.0	57.999
		Transfer Total	53.0	53.0	
		Combined Total	68.0	68.0	15.0

Term Honor: Dean's List

**2025 Spr**

Program: UCBA Associate  
Plan: Blue Ash College  
Pre-Business Administration Major

<u>Course</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Att Hrs</u>	<u>E Hrs</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>GPA Pts</u>
ACCT 2081	FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING	3.0	3.0	A-	11.001
BANA 2081	BUSINESS ANALYTICS I	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
GEOL 1004	HISTORICAL GEOLOGY	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
GEOL 1005	ENV GEOL	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
MATH 1045	APPLIED CALCULUS II	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
Term GPA	3.933	Att Hrs	E Hrs	GPA Hrs	GPA Pts
		Term Total	15.0	15.0	59.001
		Transfer Total	0.0	0.0	
		Combined Total	15.0	15.0	15.0

Term Honor: Dean's List

**University Of Cincinnati Unofficial Record**

Name: Kylie A Bernard

2025 Fall

Program: LCB Baccalaureate  
 Plan: Carl H. Lindner College of Business  
 Business Economics Major

<u>Course</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Att Hrs</u>	<u>E Hrs</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>GPA Pts</u>
ACCT 2082	MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
AFST 1027	INTRO MODERN AFRICA	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
BA 2080	CAREER SUCC STRATEG	1.0	1.0	A	4.000
ECON 2020	INT MICRO ECON	3.0	3.0	A-	11.001
ECON 3075	ECON. STOCK MARKET	3.0	3.0	B+	9.999
FREN 1081	FRANCE WORLD CULTURES	3.0	3.0	A	12.000
Term GPA		3.813	Term Total	16.0	<u>E Hrs</u>
			Transfer Total	0.0	0.0
			Combined Total	16.0	16.0
					16.0
					61.000

Term Honor: Dean's List

Undergraduate Career Totals

<u>Cum GPA:</u>	<u>3.870</u>	<u>Cum Total</u>	<u>Att Hrs</u>	<u>E Hrs</u>	<u>P Hrs</u>	<u>GPA Hrs</u>	<u>GPA Pts</u>
		Cum Total	46.0	46.0	0.0	46.0	178.000
		Transfer Total	53.0	53.0		0.0	0.000
		Combined Total	99.0	99.0		46.0	178.000

**University Of Cincinnati Unofficial Record**

Name: **Kylie A Bernard**

**University Of Cincinnati Unofficial Record**

Name: Kylie A Bernard

End of University Of Cincinnati Unofficial Record

## Show Week of

01/12/2026 



**Start Time**

11:00AM

## End Time

6:00PM

Refresh Calendar