



WTS CONNECTICUT VALLY CHAPTER 2012 AWARD NOMINATION

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Nominee: Cheryl Malerba

Title: Director of Management and Technology Service in the Office of the Commissioner

Company: Connecticut Department of Transportation

Introduction

Cheryl Malerba is the Director of Management and Technology Services in the Office of the Commissioner at the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT). She manages several areas including Internal Audits, Security, Technology, Staff & Organizational Development, Consultant Selection and the Office of Equal Employment & Diversity as well as serving as direct support to the Commissioner. She directly supervises approximately 62 staff-persons.

Cheryl holds a Bachelors degree in Communications, Mass Media and a Masters degree in Educational Media; which she earned from Central Connecticut State University. Cheryl worked simultaneously while earning her degrees, in order to cover her University costs. While in graduate school she attained a full University scholarship due to her exceptional grade level. Cheryl is also a certified trainer for career development programs through Career Systems International and is a graduate of the ENO Transportation Institute National Leadership Program.

A woman who is a leader in transportation and has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry

Cheryl's area of focus is on agency and statewide LEAN initiatives which help facilitate ways to work more efficiently and effectively, putting processes in place to do business better, faster, and least expense to the taxpayer. She is assisting the state with applying LEAN to project delivery and contract processing statewide. Cheryl oversees staff providing a myriad of services to protect assets, help the agency excel and improve services providing organizational development and support to nearly 3,000 employees.

Cheryl serves on the WTS-Connecticut Advisory Board. In this capacity she has made significant contributions including serving as "MC" of the Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner, assisting with the legalities of hosting WTS sponsored professional development sessions within the DOT headquarters, working with the CTDOT Commissioner in gaining participation of other New England commissioners for the chapter's annual conference, encouraging key CTDOT staff attendance at WTS sponsored sessions, and in arranging a meet and greet session with the CTDOT's new Deputy Commissioner Cheryl is a believer in WTS, along with being instrumental in "moving mountains" she has repeatedly offered to assist in

administrative tasks such as offering to work at the WTS Transportation Mini Series registration table.

A woman who has directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field

Cheryl is a firm believer in bringing intelligence to your ideas and simplicity to your speech. She also supports the notion that if you surround yourself with the best and brightest, remembering to recognize their accomplishments at every turn, you cannot help but be successful. She believes that diversity enhances and brings out the best in an agency, organization, or company.

Cheryl and her department have promoted two women into higher level management positions: the Equal Employment and Diversity Manager and the Curriculum Manager. She also interviewed and selected an African American woman to join the Department as an Equal Opportunity Manager 1 and selected a Hispanic woman who is now placed in a training and development program that targets her for management upon completion. Cheryl also had the honor of participating in CTDOT Commissioner Redeker's selection of Deputy Commissioner Anna Barry and the Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Randal P. Davis.

A woman who through her career advancements and support of women in the industry has advanced the reputation and credibility of women in transportation

As the Director of Staff Development at CTDOT, Cheryl oversees the unit responsible for providing a myriad of programs including a series on achieving Managerial Excellence, Career Development, Supervisory Development, and Presentations Skills. She also oversees the agency's wellness programs and the employee-funded Fitness Center.

Cheryl serves as the oversight chair at CTDOT for Technology, Employee Recognition and Performance Measures. Cheryl is a member and past chair for the Connecticut Training & Development Network (CTDN) and serves as a lead instructor for the Statewide Executive Management Development Program (Aspiring Leaders) which CTDN developed in a grassroots effort to provide management with critically needed skills across the State. She serves on the statewide Work Zone Safety Council, the FHWA sponsored State Technology and Innovation Council (STIC), and represents the Commissioner at various meetings upon his request. For example, she is assisting with the transition of CTDOT's aviation functions to the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) by attending meetings, as support staff, and working closely with the CAA including the Executive Director and staff. Cheryl also attends Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) meetings and represents CTDOT at the Commissioner's request. In this role she assists the Commissioner with getting information and subject matter experts within CTDOT to support and inform CRDA. She also serves as CTDOT's business liaison for the UCONN Tech Park and Medical Center expansions, and acts as a member of a Statewide LEAN task force, tasked with leaning HR and procurement processes.

In these various roles Cheryl assists the committees, boards, and other entities with maximizing their effectiveness and usefulness.