

## New Brown Bag Mentoring Program

COMTO Connecticut's new Brown Bag mentoring program series provides lunchtime discussions with transportation executives on relevant topics such as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Innovation and Technology, and Career Growth and Networking. The mentoring program is geared towards junior and mid-level transportation professionals to provide opportunities to gain advice and create long lasting connections for the next stage of their professional journey and career.

In February, our guest speaker, Kevin Hussain of AI Engineers provided a



discussion around the topic “Unbiased (Artificial Intelligence) vs Biased (Human Intelligence) Engineering” for our inaugural session. New technology and data analytics are being used to measure equity, diversity, in hiring and recruitment, as well as in infrastructure projects

where holistic and innovative equitable approaches are being taken to address societal and environmental challenges. For March, our guest speaker, Tanya Adams, COMTO National Chairperson, lead our session on “Making Real Connections” which covered the importance of building relationships through mentorship and sponsorship for professional development and upward mobility.

Additional brown bag sessions are coming soon!

**COMTO CT IS LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS!**

**Interested?** Contact Sharon Okoye at [CTChapter@comtoct.org](mailto:CTChapter@comtoct.org)

# Member Spotlight



**Eugene Chuang, P.E., CEO**



**Garg Consulting  
Services, Inc.**

COMTO CT celebrates our members who contribute to the diversity of our Chapter's membership profile. We are spotlighting our Membership Committee Chair, Eugene Chuang. COMTO CT greatly appreciates Eugene's commitment to the Chapter!

Eugene is the CEO / Owner of Garg Consulting Services, Inc. a DBE / MBE certified engineering firm in Connecticut.

### **What inspired you to pursue a career in the transportation industry?**

I was always interested in building bridges out of toothpicks when I was a kid and enjoyed math and science in high school. Then one day in my freshman year of college, I followed some fraternity brothers to a civil engineering class and it all clicked.

### **What has been your biggest accomplishment?**

My doctorate is definitely my proudest academic accomplishment. Research does not come naturally to me, so producing my thesis was a struggle! I'm also very proud of the projects my team has delivered to the State of Connecticut including rail systems, facilities, and highway improvements. Seeing your designs and engineering work being built and utilized is one of the best parts of being a civil engineer.

### **What words of wisdom or inspirational message would you give an upcoming transportation professional?**

Be fiercely protective of your reputation, which can only be developed with hard work and integrity. Take responsibility and deliver what you promise! Also, to be a great engineer, you should be engaging others in your industry – getting involved and exchanging ideas. Many professional organizations are excellent opportunities for this; it's one of the reasons I joined COMTO and encourage others to do so.

### **How would a friend, colleague or family member describe you?**

That I live up to a code of integrity. If say I'll do something, I'll do my best to accomplish it. I also have a good sense of humor and find the joy in everything, including my work.

## **COMTO CT Welcomes New Members!**

**Lora Rae Anderson—CTDOT**

**Doris Boursiquot—WSP**

**Larry Murphy— Jacobs**

**Navnit Nakrani—BES, Inc.**

# Commissioner's Leadership Luncheon

On February 15, 2023 COMTO CT hosted a Leadership Luncheon featuring Keynote Speaker, Connecticut Department of Transportation's Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, special guest April Rai, COMTO National CEO/President and Anna M. Barry, Former CTDOT Deputy Commissioner.

Transportation leaders, members, and businesses learned the vision of the new Commissioner of CTDOT for transportation in CT. Safety and sustainability are objectives and priorities for transportation improvements, and with unprecedented funding through the IJA brings along challenges to project implementation. With staffing shortages in public/private sectors there are renewed efforts for recruitment and retention of a sustainable workforce. COMTO National's Leader, April Rai, provided a relevant and substantive discussion on how transportation agency partnership with COMTO can foster a more diverse, equitable and inclusive workforce, and more equity in contracting for MWDBE's.







## COMTO's 12th Annual Celebrating Women Who Move The Nation

Sharon Okoye, COMTO CT President, represented the Chapter at COMTO National's 12th Annual Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation breakfast event on March 15, 2023.

U.S. DOT's Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, gave opening remarks for this phenomenal event!

Each honoree shared her career journey and valuable wisdom. What a way to celebrate Women's History Month, recognizing achievements of these trailblazers!



# BUILDING BUSINESS EQUALITY IN CONNECTICUT

## CHRO Disparity Study

The State of Connecticut has placed a priority on equality in its business practices. The disparity study will examine whether Connecticut's procurement program achieves the State's goal of identifying and hiring small contractors and minority business enterprises and will be completed by 2024.

More information available: <https://portal.ct.gov/disparitystudy/>



**COMTO CT Chapter 2023 Scholarship Application**  
[\$500 Scholarships will be Awarded to Two Recipients]

**Deadline for Submission: April 30, 2023**

Mail Submission to:  
COMTO CT Chapter, P.O. Box 310136, Newington, CT 06131  
OR  
Email: [ctchapter@comtoct.org](mailto:ctchapter@comtoct.org)

### Scholarship Criteria:

- Essay: (500 words) Tell us about your interest in a transportation related field, what you hope to contribute to the transportation industry and why you deserve a scholarship.
- Student has an interest in a transportation related field, such as engineering, business management, transportation planning, operations, or logistics.
- Currently attending a CT High School or enrolled in Vocational Technical School.
- Provide a copy of your transcript

Application available online at [www.comtoct.org](http://www.comtoct.org)  
Contact Tammy Smith  
with any questions at [tamara.smith@aecom.com](mailto:tamara.smith@aecom.com)

