

## CHARTER'S RACHAEL MARKINSON NETS SCTE FOUNDATION'S CATHERINE OAKES SCHOLARSHIP

**JUNE 23, 2020 (Exton, PA)**—Rachael Markinson, a network operations center manager for Charter Communications in Texas, has been named as the 2020 recipient of the Catherine Oakes Memorial Leadership Scholarship for Women, the SCTE Foundation announced today.

Markinson has been awarded a grant of \$3,500 to attend the Women in Cable Telecommunication (WICT) EDS: Executive Leadership Presence workshop to be held later this year. The workshop, part of WICT's Executive Development Series, is designed to help mid-career cable professionals to develop leadership presence as a means to inspire confidence, engage and influence others, and maintain productivity while increasing visibility and career mobility. Markinson's application was among those that were reviewed by past recipients of the Women in Technology Award that is presented annually by the Society of Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE) and its global arm, the International Society of Broadband Experts (ISBE), Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT) and *Cablefax*.

Markinson has worked in cable her entire career, rising from a billing representative in 2005 to customer care supervisor before making the shift to network operations technician and later network operations supervisor in 2014. She was promoted to her current position in 2017 and has oversight of the network and critical infrastructure servicing Charter's residential and small-to-medium business customers nationally. She is a WICT Ambassador Committee member and has been a part of the WICT Inspire Mentorship Program as a mentee in 2019 and currently as a mentor. In 2019 she was awarded WICT's Dru Strance Scholarship to attend the EDS: Leading with Power and Authenticity workshop.

"Rachael has displayed unparalleled drive in the areas of self-improvement and professional development," said Wayne Nitzke, director of Charter's Austin, TX network operations center. "She has consistently taken it upon herself to seek out and complete a variety of development and leadership programs. Not only has she completed the programs, but she also has been able to put the lessons and concepts learned to practical use in her daily roles."

"Training that could help improve my leadership presence and teach me new ways to approach issues would be a tremendous help not only for me but for my entire department," said Markinson. "I look forward to participating in the workshop and sharing what I learn with my peers."

The Oakes Scholarship was created to honor the senior vice president, operations for SCTE•ISBE who passed away suddenly in 2013. The scholarship is funded entirely by donations earmarked specifically for it. Donations can be made on the [Oakes Scholarship page](#) of the SCTE Foundation website. Oakes was a leading voice for diversity and inclusion in the cable engineering and operations workforce and was instrumental in the creation of Women's TechConnect, a mentoring program for women technologists that is a joint initiative of SCTE•ISBE and WICT. The 2019 recipient was Tia Lopez, a network operations supervisor for Comcast in Georgia.

The SCTE Foundation is intended to nurture the career skills, opportunities and alliances that build and enable a diverse workforce to positively impact the communities cable serves. Notably to increase the technical, business and leadership skills of the telecommunications engineering workforce, promote technology and engineering in the early stages of education, attract and recruit women and minorities into an engineering career, and underpin cable workforce support for essential and emergency needs. More at <http://foundation.scte.org>.

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### **About WICT**

*WICT's mission is to create women leaders who transform our industry. We do this by providing unparalleled professional development programs, commissioning original gender research, and supporting a B2B network that helps advance women. For more than 40 years,*

WICT has partnered with cable and technology companies to help build a more robust pipeline of women leaders. Founded in 1979, and now over 10,500 members strong, WICT is the largest and oldest professional association serving women in cable media. **Charter Communications** and **Comcast NBCUniversal** are WICT's Strategic Touchstone Partners. Please visit [www.wict.org](http://www.wict.org) or follow @WICTHQ on Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn/Twitter for more information.

#### **About SCTE•ISBE**

*SCTE•ISBE is envisioning the future of connectivity, today. Through technological leadership and innovation in the cable industry, SCTE•ISBE is creating a more connected world. As a not-for-profit, member organization, SCTE•ISBE moves member companies forward through continuous training for the workforce of tomorrow and by putting leaders into the conversations that matter. In partnership with CableLabs® and NCTA, SCTE•ISBE is building the future of 10G, leveraging its expertise for the acceleration and deployment of technology. SCTE•ISBE is the force behind the annual SCTE•ISBE Cable-Tec Expo®, the largest cable telecommunications and technology tradeshow in the Americas. More at [www.scte.org](http://www.scte.org).*

**SCTE** :: Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers

**ISBE** :: International Society of Broadband Experts

140 Philips Road | Exton, PA 19341-1318 | 800.542.5040 | [scte.org](http://scte.org) · [isbe.org](http://isbe.org)

Reply to: [press@scte.org](mailto:press@scte.org) to UNSUBSCRIBE