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2019 Women Who Build: Lisa Chirillo, Viking Construction Inc.

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Name: Lisa Chirillo

Position: Controller

Company: Viking Construction Inc.

How many years have you been in your current field? 25

What was your first job and what did you learn from it? At 18 years old I took a job in NYC as a receptionist/bookkeeper for a graphic design studio. I found it very interesting working within a creative environment even though I was not an artist. The foundation of my work ethic was developed at this job. Despite over an hour commute to work, I learned that I had to arrive on time, be professionally dressed and ready to start my work day. Working within a small company, I would quickly learn how to multi task, prioritize, organize, maintain a professional rapport with others within the company and experience working with a business owner one-on-one. I was able to observe how a team effort contributed to the overall success of the organization. It was so wonderful to see how the different personalities and talents of all my co-workers were celebrated and utilized for the greater good; including my own.

Even though I was their youngest employee, I was respected just as much as the others.

Fast forwarding to my current leadership role within Viking Construction, I can say that many of my early observations have influenced my leadership style and current work ethic. I remain conscientious about arriving on time, instinctually know how to multi-task and prioritize the challenges of the day and enjoy investing in others to create an accounting team that many organizations would envy. The success of each individual of Viking Construction ultimately leads to the success of the company as a whole. It is a really good feeling knowing that I can be part of that and inspire others to do the same.

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