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2022 Women in Construction: Jo Ann Michaels, Senior Project Manager at Viking Construction

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Jo Ann Michaels

Starting out in the construction business, who or what empowered you? Starting out in the construction business at a time when very few women were accepted as project managers, I was empowered by the challenge of breaking into this industry. Working for a company in an administrative role, I saw the future as a woman in construction and breaking the barriers. I knew I could do this job and be successful at it. I was very fortunate to have many people support me in this endeavor. They empowered me to work hard, take classes, ask questions, and show I could do this job as well as anyone.

Within your firm, who has helped you succeed within the industry? How have they helped you? Within Viking Construction Anthony Gaglio has helped me to become successful. Anthony is the owner of the company, and he is a mentor and a very supportive person. He has given me every opportunity to continue to grow by challenging me, supporting me, respecting me, and allowing me to run projects that are diverse and rewarding. He is always available to give advice when I ask while trusting my ability to do my job. I have grown as an individual and a project manager while working with Anthony.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? My advice to any woman interested in entering the construction industry is to persevere and do your job as well as you can. Do not be intimidated as a woman, use this as your strength to succeed. Being a woman in the construction business, you earn respect and completing a successful project is one of the most rewarding experiences you will encounter. Whether building a school, an affordable housing building, a bank (or any project), you know you just made life a little better for people.

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