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2022 Women in Construction: Barbara Buckley Marshall, Signal Maintainer at MBTA

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Barbara Buckley Marshall

Why should women consider a career in construction? I think women should consider a career in construction for the independence it offers them. Building trade unions offer free training and the opportunity to earn while you learn. Not everyone is suited for college and the trades offer well-paying jobs without crippling student debt.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? I started my apprenticeship in 1984. There weren't many women. It was intimidating walking by a construction site then much less on to one. My advice to other women is that it's not easy, you're out in the weather, it's very physical, it's not for everyone but you CAN do this. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't. Be confident in your abilities. Everyone is not going to like you and that's okay.

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