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2022 Women in Construction: Darla Brooks, Controller/Director of Human Resources at Acella Construction

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Darla Brooks

What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months? Tackling a brand-new position at this point in my career. Joining this team at Acella has shown me that every company is unique and that my skills and experience are valuable with the right general contractor.

Starting out in the construction business, who or what empowered you? I was fortunate to have a CFO in my early career that put a lot of trust in me, and he gave me the tools to move upward.

Within your firm, who has helped you succeed within the industry? How have they helped you? I have only been with my current firm for one year, however, after leaving an individual-driven culture, I will say that hearing the words “WE are going to give you the tools you need to succeed here” were the most motivating and welcoming words that a new employee can hear. These words came from the owner of Acella.

When you're not busy, what is your go to book or podcast to help you unwind? I do not currently have a go-to book or podcast. When I unwind, my eyes and my mind need a rest, so yoga, running, or walk with my pup does the trick for me.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? The sky is the limit for a female in the construction industry is what I always tell my younger colleagues. If you keep your eyes on your goal and work hard it is extremely possible for success. While chasing your goal, always be composed no matter the situation and you'll always be respected. You can lose respect that took years to earn in just seconds.

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