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2023 Women in Construction: Melanie Watts, Dakota Partners, Inc.

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Melanie Watts
Assistant Project Manager

Dakota Partners, Inc.

What made you interested in seeking a career in the AEC industry? Ever since I was a little girl, I loved the concept of building. My dad ignited a passion in me, and I always loved helping him do anything around the house. No matter what project he took on – laying down some flooring, re-doing our living room, fixing the cupola on the roof – I was always by his side learning and helping as much as I could. I always admired his vision in seeing something others could not. It took me nearly 15 years to figure out my true passion was construction management and I have my dad to thank for getting me here.

What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months? 2022 was a year of many achievements in terms of my career. In April, I received my master's degree in construction management from Wentworth Institute of Technology. Upon graduating, I received a promotion from construction coordinator to my current role as an assistant project manager at Dakota Partners. Today, I assist in overseeing projects throughout the greater New England area. All of my projects offer a variety of different challenges and rewards which makes my job so exciting and fast paced.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the AEC industry? Being a woman in construction can be challenging in its own right. Known to be a male-dominated field, it can be intimidating but if you stand your ground, deliver quality work, and take risks- it can be an incredibly rewarding career.

How are you involved in community organizations and/or charities? Habitat for Humanity is an organization I've been passionate about since 2011. I was heavily involved in my university's campus chapter throughout college and traveled the country building homes in impoverished communities for families in need. I continued this in 2017 when I began working as a volunteer coordinate for Habitat for Humanity Great Boston and continue to do what I can to support the organization today. It's an amazing cause and I recommend everyone to get involved!

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