

2023 Women in Construction: Kylie Williams, Colantonio Inc.

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Kylie Williams Assistant Superintendent

Colantonio Inc.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? I love this question because there are so many wonderful things about construction and about being a woman in it. Historically, it was seen as a "man's business", and some of the old guard still feel this way. But I am finding that even the old guard is warming up to their female colleagues, especially if we are being ourselves and just doing our job. My practical tips are:

- 1. Be yourself, don't take things personally, and have a sense of humor.
- 2. Don't pretend to know something you don't, particularly with your subcontractors. Instead, ask questions, find answers, and learn it. Your subs will always know a lot more about their trade than you do, and that's ok!
- 3. Work hard, physically, and mentally. Jump in and assist in physical tasks if you think you can be helpful.
- 4. Be confident, even if you must pretend. Always speak up in a respectful and cooperative way.
- 5. If you want to have a family and even be a stay-at-home mom, do it. There are many ways to "keep your foot in the door" professionally. Personally, staying home with my 3 kids who are 3 1/2 years apart was the best training I've received for being an assistant superintendent. If you want it badly enough, you can make it work!

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