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2023 Women in Construction: Lee McLaughlin, Weston & Sampson

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Lee McLaughlin
Health & Safety Supervisor

What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months? I would say my greatest professional achievement is reaching OSHA VPP Star Status at Naval Air Station Jacksonville (JAX) from my days with the U.S. Navy. The Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) recognize those in the private industry and federal agencies who have implemented effective safety and health management systems and maintain injury and illness rates below national averages. I aced my Naval Safety Center training and used my marketing and communications background to create effective programs, presentations, and reports to satisfy requirements.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? I would tell women considering a career in the construction industry to go for it! Growing up, I watched This Old House with my dad, who spent his career in the carpenters' union. All my life, I saw craftsmen but few craftswomen doing the work I found interesting. Like any profession, you can study and become qualified. If you approach it with passion and confidence, you can succeed. I found my niche in safety and use it to support all Weston & Sampson employees to work safely every day.