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2024 Women in CRE: Kerri Hilton, Shawmut Design and Construction

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Kerri Hilton
Project Manager

What recent project, transaction, or accomplishment are you most proud of? When less experienced members of my team come to me with a question, I feel a great sense of accomplishment when I can not only answer their specific question but also explain the 'why' behind it or the process to follow. Then, the next time, they ask for confirmation instead of direction. Those moments remind me how far I have advanced in my career, even when I feel like there is still so much to learn.

What challenges have you faced as a woman in commercial real estate? I really wish they would make a better safety vest in my size. But my main challenges are just the challenges of the job: making mistakes and learning from them, trying to balance my personal life with my work obligations, and internalizing that at the end of the day, all I can do is my best.

What is your vision for the future of women in commercial real estate? I'd love to see more women in the trades. I've had the pleasure of being on OAC (owner-architect-contractor) teams that are majority female and believe representation there will only grow. The day I work with a forewoman will be a banner day. I know she's out there.

What advice do you have for young women aspiring to enter commercial real estate? Construction is a very satisfying field for those who enjoy project-based work, active problem solving, and working with people. I've spoken with friends in other industries, and no matter what field you are in there will always be people who are difficult to work with. I encourage everyone to come give this work a try.

Why should this nominee be recognized in our Women in Commercial Real Estate Spotlight?

"Kerri takes a collaborative approach to leadership, inspiring those around her to deliver their best every day. Her diligence and attention to detail enable her to consistently address potential challenges with thoughtful, well-rounded solutions. Beyond her formal role, she serves as a mentor, actively helping those newer to the field grow and succeed. Kerri is a tremendous asset to her teams, our clients, and the next generation of construction leaders." - Ryan Lynch, Vice President at Shawmut Design and Construction.