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2025 Women in Construction: Christina Essom, Hancock Survey Associates, Inc.

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Christina Essom
Project Surveyor

What is one project or achievement in your career that you are most proud of, and how did it impact your organization or community? A current project that I am working on, International Place in Boston, is one that I feel will impact the community. The building is adding additional space, and I am working on the design and placement of a new accessible ramp system and a centralized seating area that will benefit the building's tenants and visitors. The complexity of the project has brought some challenges, however it's been rewarding to see them get resolved, as we have worked with the contractor and subcontractors to accomplish the project. Once finished, it will enhance the experience for everyone at International Place.

Who or what has inspired you most in your career, and what advice would you share with the next generation of women entering the A/E/C industry? My inspiration to pursue a career in surveying comes from my grandfather, who owned a repair business for drafting machines and ammonia copiers. I spent years watching him work and used some of the equipment to 'draw up my own plans' alongside him. When I was 14, he gave me drafting tools and a plumb bob, knowing that I would use them in the future. From there, I pursued my interest in mechanical and computer-aided drafting and then surveying. I went on to attend his alma mater, R.I.T., and his plumb bob still sits at my desk, as a reminder of how a gift could spark an amazing career.

What's your favorite way to recharge or get inspired outside of work? When I am looking to relax, I enjoy cooking and baking for my friends and family.

Do you have a hidden talent or a surprising fact about yourself that most people wouldn't know? I have a license to carry firearms. My accuracy from surveying has improved my skills at the range.