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2025 Women in Construction: Jean Waterman, Frank O. Waterman & Associates, Inc.

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Jean Waterman
President and Crew Chief

What trends or innovations do you believe will shape the future of your field, and how are you positioning yourself (or your firm) to be at the forefront? The future of construction engineering and surveying lies in the hands of skilled, educated professionals who can adapt to evolving equipment and complex project demands. By prioritizing the employment of college-degreed engineers, the industry can ensure that projects are completed with precision and efficiency. It is essential to move beyond the era of “button pushers” and embrace a workforce capable of delivering innovative solutions in the field. Our firm recognizes the value of employing construction engineers and surveyors who possess the ability to address construction issues directly.

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? The current women in the construction world are a source of inspiration for all. Their strength, work ethic, and determination to succeed, no matter the obstacles, set a powerful example for others to follow. By breaking barriers and excelling in their roles, they are transforming the industry and paving the way for future generations. For those considering a career in construction, the advice is simple: witness the incredible women already thriving in this industry. Learn from their experiences, embrace the challenges, and enjoy the work. The journey may be tough, but the rewards are immense.

What's your favorite way to recharge or get inspired outside of work? Playing soccer with a group of wonderful, strong, intelligent successful women who are moms as well!

What is one project or achievement in your career that you are most proud of, and how did it impact your organization or community? The successful completion of my first parking garage project was a significant milestone in my engineering career, showcasing my ability to apply extensive training and problem-solving skills in a real-world setting. The project involved a unique handling of total station equipment and effective/symbiotic collaboration with iron workers, ensuring accurate layout and efficient construction. Beyond personal and professional growth, the project provided a vital community resource for a hospital, underscoring the meaningful impact of engineering work on society.