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## **2025 Women in CRE: Andrea Millyan, JM Electrical**

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Andrea Millyan  
Process Improvement Manager

What has been the most rewarding project or deal you've worked on in your career, and why? The most rewarding project I have been involved in was during my time as a building automation project manager. The project was 300 Massachusetts Ave. in Cambridge, a new core and shell building with Takeda Pharmaceuticals as the tenant. JM Electrical, my current employer, was a subcontractor to us on the project, responsible for the HVAC controls wiring. What made this project so fulfilling was the attention to detail from design to installation, and the greater purpose behind the work. We were helping to build a space that would support people dedicated to improving the lives of others.

What drew you to commercial real estate, and what keeps you passionate? I was first exposed to commercial real estate early in my career as an electrical apprentice. As I transitioned into various office roles, I gained experience in both the construction and service of office spaces, hospitals, life sciences, and other verticals, each with its own unique needs and challenges. I remain passionate about working in the commercial space because I enjoy helping people. Working behind the scenes to support tradespeople and property managers who tirelessly keep buildings running smoothly is deeply rewarding.

What's a challenge you faced early in your career, and how did you overcome it? Early in my career, one of the biggest challenges I faced was being a woman in a male-dominated industry. I remember occasions, especially when working in the field, where people would give me a hard time for one reason or another. What I learned from those experiences was to confront them head-on. At the end of the day, it was about respect, which sometimes is not given but is often earned. By consistently helping others, doing my job well, and earning trust, I was able to break down some of the stigma around being a woman in the construction industry.

What advice would you give to a woman considering a career in commercial real estate? I would tell them how fulfilling the experience can be and that every day brings new and exciting challenges. Because of the collaborative nature of commercial real estate, anyone entering this space will have the opportunity to network and build rewarding relationships. Commercial real estate offers a wonderful chance to contribute meaningfully to the creation, maintenance, and improvement of properties, while also providing diverse career paths.