

Women in Construction Week 2025

REAL STORIES, REAL PROGRESS

Andrea Mattson

ASSOCIATE CONSULTANT, GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER

Pinehurst Infill Station project

Andrea sees every day on the job as an opportunity to grow and apply her engineering education in real-world conditions. Working in the field has reinforced the importance of speaking up, even when faced with resistance. **“If I know something isn’t being done right, I do my job and say something. Whether they like that it’s coming from me or not isn’t my problem, but it makes the situation more difficult.”**

Despite the challenges she’s faced, Andrea remains optimistic about her career and grateful for the experience she’s gained working on a Sound Transit project: **“As a young woman entering this field, I feel lucky to have started out on a Sound Transit project. They have set an example in my mind for how women should be treated in construction.”**

Arlene Prieto

PROJECT CONTROLS LEAD & ASST. PM

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

Arlene’s journey into construction wasn’t planned, but what started as a side job has turned into an exciting career. She fell in love with the fast-paced, problem-solving nature of the industry, staying engaged because no two days are the same.

Arlene shared that gaining respect as a young woman on-site wasn’t automatic, but through confidence and perseverance, she earned it. **“Construction can be challenging, but it’s also incredibly rewarding. Don’t be intimidated by being one of the few women in the field. Your skills, work ethic, and determination will speak for themselves.”**





Brandy Sheaber

LABORER APPRENTICE

Pinehurst Infill Station project

Brandy joined construction in 2023 and quickly found her calling as a concrete laborer after being inspired by her pre-apprenticeship instructors at ANEW. She loves the hands-on, physically demanding nature of her work and takes pride in earning every paycheck.

Though she has encountered moments where she has had to prove herself, she's grateful for the strong camaraderie and support she has received in the trades. **“Don't limit yourself, and don't let anyone limit you. Don't be afraid to push yourself and reach your goals, and then keep going.”**

Cecilia Campbell

FIELD ENGINEER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

Coming from a family with deep construction roots, Cecilia was naturally drawn to the industry. Now working in quality control engineering, she has learned that communication is just as critical as technical skills.

“Learning how to communicate effectively with different personalities that are encountered in the office or the field” has been one of her biggest lessons.

Inspired by her father and grandmother, Cecilia is continuing the family tradition.





Christina Ellis

ELECTRICIAN APPRENTICE

Pinehurst Infill Station project

Christina entered the construction industry through the ANEW program and has since found fulfillment in problem-solving and hands-on work as an electrician. While she enjoys the field, she acknowledges the challenges women face in construction, even with basic necessities. **“Dealing with my period in a porta potty is the biggest challenge I’ve faced,”** said Christina. As an advocate for women in the trades, Christina encourages them to be confident in their skills and **remove ‘sorry’ from their vocabulary.**

CJ Beazley

LABORER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

For CJ, construction was a pathway to financial independence and stability as a single parent. **“The industry has allowed financial stability to raise a family on my own,” CJ said.** They appreciate the camaraderie, the opportunity to work outdoors, and the physical nature of the job, which keeps them engaged every day.

Eula Raines

SYSTEMS CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

With more than 30 years in construction, Eula has seen women’s roles evolve dramatically from being helpers to becoming leaders and business owners. Inspired by her mother to chase her dreams, she values teamwork, hard work, and the joy of seeing projects move from design to completion.



She believes that growth often comes from challenges, stating, **“Failure is not the end, but the beginning of something new.”** Her experience has taught her that setbacks can lead to new opportunities, and she encourages other women in construction to embrace learning and perseverance.

Evelyn Sanchez

LABORER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

Evelyn has had overwhelmingly positive experiences in construction and appreciates both the work itself and the company culture. **“I’ve never had a bad experience where I’ve felt looked down on for being a girl.”** She credits a supportive workplace environment for making her time in construction rewarding and hopes more women will feel the same.

Jennifer Robinson

SUPERINTENDENT, FARWEST STEEL LOCAL 86

Sumner Station Access and Improvements project

Jennifer has spent 17 years in the construction industry, witnessing firsthand the growth of women in the trades. A former TRAC participant, she was introduced to Ironwork while incarcerated, and with the mentorship of **‘old school ironworker’ and trailblazer Denise Johnson**, she discovered a career she loves.

“I don’t know if I picked being an Ironworker or if they picked me.” She takes pride in seeing projects transform from the ground up and loves being able to say, **“My crew and I built that!”** Despite the progress, she acknowledges that women are still underestimated on job sites, but she’s working to change that. **“Women can do anything. Never underestimate a woman. It’s bad business.”** Her advice to women entering the industry? **“Stay focused on your career and know that you can do anything. Stay positive, and call me if you ever need help seeing your worth because I see it.”**





Julie Weidel

OFFICE ENGINEER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

With two decades in construction, Julie knows that success isn't just about technical knowledge. Mentorship and teamwork are essential. **“Building relationships and finding mentors that help you resolve problems is just as important as knowing how to solve all the problems yourself.”** She sees mentorship as a key part of navigating the industry and encourages others to foster strong professional relationships.

Karina Herrera

OFFICE MANAGER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

After nearly 19 years in the industry, Karina continues to thrive in construction's dynamic environment. **“Coming to work is not mundane. Every day is different.”** She enjoys the often unpredictable nature of construction work, where some days are seamless and others bring unexpected challenges. For Karina, the variety keeps her engaged and motivated.



Lani Kraabell

LABORER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

Lani joined the construction industry through the TRAC program, where she found stability, camaraderie, and financial security. However, she has experienced challenges. She shared that on her third job, she and two other women were let go after just one day, reinforcing the barriers women can still face in the industry. Despite experiences like these, she still encourages other women to pursue careers in the trades. **“Do it, just do it. You’re worth it.”**



Linda Morud

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Pinehurst Infill Station project

With more than 30 years in construction, Linda has seen the industry evolve from culture shifts to new leadership styles. Starting her career in architecture before moving into construction management, she found fulfillment in the hands-on aspects of the job.

“Great leaders train their successors,” she says, emphasizing the importance of mentorship and knowledge-sharing in the field.



Lucile Chich

PUBLIC ART PROJECT MANAGER

Sound Transit

With a background in humanities and nonprofit arts, Lucile found herself drawn into the world of construction through public art installations. **“I feel like I’m in the best position to build bridges between widely different worlds, which I love doing.”** By working closely with artists, engineers, and construction crews, she helps ensure that Sound Transit projects reflect the communities they serve.

Na’Quelle Davis

ELECTRICIAN APPRENTICE

Pinehurst Infill Station project

Na’Quelle thrives on the unpredictable nature of construction, drawn to its challenges and variety. Though she’s seen slow progress in increasing women’s representation, she recalls a moment when a flagger took a photo of her working alongside two other women, which was something the flagger shared they had never seen before.

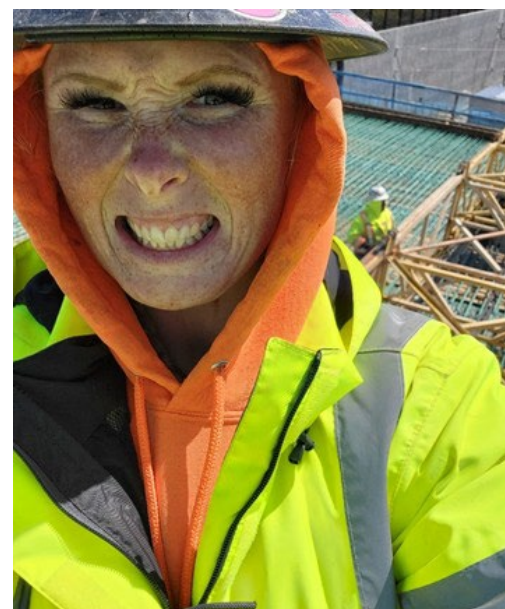
Relationship-building and adaptability have been key to her success. **“If people don’t like you, they won’t help you,”** she shared. **“There’s so much collaboration in construction that you have to be able to work with all kinds of people.”**

Shannon Hall

LABORER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

Following in her father’s footsteps, Shannon found her calling in the laborers’ union, where she enjoys the variety and physical nature of the work. **“I couldn’t see myself in an office, and I also like being outside.”** Her father always told her that the union would support her ‘cradle to grave,’ reinforcing her decision to join. For Shannon, construction offers both a career and a sense of family legacy.





Shannon Kerr

FIELD ENGINEER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

Shannon has spent the past seven years in construction, driven by the long-term importance of infrastructure projects. While she sees progress in opportunities for women, challenges remain.

“There has been more opportunity for women in recent years, but the treatment of women once given the opportunity is still a challenge.”

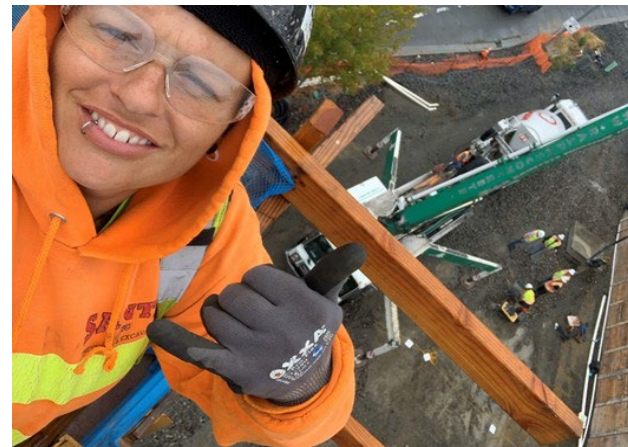
She believes that true equity in the industry means ensuring women receive the same training, resources, and mentorship as their male counterparts.

Shayne Mattson

LABORER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

Shayne began her construction career in 2021, joining the laborer’s union. She initially worked in concrete but transitioned to track work in 2023, expanding her skill set and growing within the industry.





Viviana Espindola

OFFICE ENGINEER

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

With nine years of experience in construction, Viviana has built her career by collaborating with subject matter experts across architecture, plumbing, electrical, and environmental disciplines. She was drawn to the industry out of curiosity, wanting to understand how capital projects come to life from start to finish. As an office engineer, she has contributed to projects like the Lynnwood Link Extension and Downtown Redmond Link Extension. She is proud to be a part of helping expand access for communities across the region.

While construction management remains male-dominated, she sees progress. **“Women’s voices are being amplified to help establish a work environment where they can also thrive.”** She encourages women entering the field to approach it with humility and a willingness to learn, sharing that **“being open to learning and growing from others is a key to success in any professional environment.”**