



Dr. Deborah Henry, PhD worked as a Project Engineer for McCarthy Building Companies in both St. Louis and Kansas City from 1981 to 1986. After leaving McCarthy, she held construction Project Manager positions in St. Louis until 1994.

From the late 1980s to the present, she has been engaged with multiple construction industry initiatives aimed at increasing women and minorities in the building trades and supporting M/W/D business development in construction. This work led her to pursue graduate school at the University of Minnesota where she completed a Ph.D. in History in 2002 with a dissertation titled, “Structures of Exclusion: Black Labor and the Building Trades in St. Louis, 1917-1966.” She also holds a double major B.S. degree from Washington University in Saint Louis and a M.A. degree from University of Missouri.

Dr. Henry has held multiple positions in higher education over the past twenty years and is currently a Professor of History at St. Louis Community College. She has taught a wide variety of courses including,

- U.S. Labor and Working Class History
- Race in United States History
- U.S. Women’s History
- African American History
- Global Dimensions of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion in America

She is a published author and conference speaker on a variety of topics pertaining to women and minorities in the construction industry, including her most recent presentation at the 2017 European Social Science History Conference in Valencia, Spain titled, “Women and the Reconstruction of Worker Identity in the Building Trades.”

Dr. Henry has been the recipient of many honors, awards, and fellowships including,

- **250 Notable Women Contributing to St. Louis City’s 250-Year History Award** – American Association of University Women, Saint Louis Branch; one of 250 notable women; St. Louis City’s 250-year history celebration, February 2015
- **Missouri Global Educator of the Year Award** - Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) November 2014
- **Thomas J. Finan, Jr. Humanitarian Award** – *St. Louis Construction News and Review*, September 2011
- **Diversity Champion Award** - St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers, Dec 2009
- **Crystal Vision Award** - National Association of Women in Construction, Spring 2007
- **Women Trailblazers Award** - University of Missouri-St. Louis, March 2006
- **Women of Achievement in Construction Award** - *St. Louis Construction News and Review*, June 2005

March 2021, Dr. Henry celebrated 41 years of membership with the National Association of Women in Construction. She has served in many local, regional, and national leadership positions, including President of the Kansas City Chapter, two years on the National Board, and two years as Chair of the National Legislative Awareness Committee.