



Elizabeth Barton

Currently a Carpenter at McCarthy. Beth has been a carpenter for 18 years and worked as a superintendent for Tarlton for 7 years.

She has been active on the board of MOWIT (Missouri Women in Trades) since it began meeting in 2006, and helped recruit dozens of women into the building trades of St. Louis.



Sheena Jones

Currently a Commercial and shop fabrication “Tinner”, Sheena has made a positive contribution to adding race and gender equality to the building trades in the St. Louis Region.

She is the second African American Woman Sheet Metal Worker in the history of her local with the goal of paving the way for many more.

She is currently on the board of MOWIT (Missouri Women in Trades).



Vanessa Byrd

Grew up wanting to work on an assembly line, but God had different plans for me. Used the gift He had given me and has worked in accounting the majority of my work history.

The construction industry seemed to have been the best fit for me, and I've been dedicating my accounting skills there for over 26 years. Proud to celebrate this coming July, 21 of those years with Shannon & Wilson, Inc.



Diana Wilhold, Deputy Executive Director/COO

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Diana has been in the business of collaborations, partnerships, aligning missions and focusing on solutions to address challenges our school community face for over 30 years. As an educator by profession and leading the not-for-profit work with Construction Forum, Diana has established clear processes and practices when the Forum partners with others to ensure a diverse and inclusive workforce and supports the dissemination of factual communication when others might be hesitant.



Cindy Thorne

Cindy is the Owner & President of Midwest Construction Services & Products, an erosion control and landscaping contractor. The majority of their contracts are with MoDOT and other state DOTs in the Midwest Region. She has been in business for over 10 years now & holds several certifications.

She's had entrepreneurial spirit from a very young age. Her parents could tell endless stories of her finding unconventional ways to make money.

Cindy holds her Associates from St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley & Business Administration & Management Certificate from Hickey Business College.

In her career she's done everything from Event Coordinator to Mail Carrier for the United States Postal Service. For several years she helped manage her husband's successful cabinetry company Comfort Cabinetry, formerly Northview Cabinetry.

Volunteering has also been very important to her. She makes a point to help out at the St. Peter & Paul Homeless Shelter in Soulard a few times a year either serving meals or bringing much needed coats & gloves. She recently lent a hand at the MOWIT "Baker Build" remodel for Center for Women in Transition.

Her hobbies include traveling as often as possible, float trips, hiking, trying new things, & spoiling her grandkids. On her latest vacation in Hawaii, she got to mark skydiving off her bucket list & says she "intends to do it again."



Emily Thorne

Emily started her career in construction as a laborer for her mother's heavy highway contracting firm, Midwest Construction. Within 2 years she was managing projects as a Superintendent on MoDOT projects.

While working for Midwest, Emily started schooling for Paralegal Studies & obtained her Associates for Legal Studies from St. Louis Community College. After that, she went onto managing all aspects of the contracting process with Midwest for around 8 years before becoming a Preconstruction Administrator at Clayco.

She has been at Tarlton as a Contract Administrator for 3 years now & has developed a passion for the construction industry as a whole.