

# 2020 Women in Construction Spotlight



**Caroline D'Agostino**  
Senior Program Director  
EBI Consulting

**What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months?** The Thorndike Exchange in downtown Lowell was an incredible project to be associated with as a construction consultant. It is a classic story of urban renewal, where the developer took a run-down mill building adjacent to the commuter rail, and turned it into 60 luxury apartments with numerous amenities. I love the historical preservation that was achieved with this project, and I feel it had an overall positive impact on the community, aesthetically and financially.

**When I'm not working I am...** Running, hiking, reading, doing anything that keeps me away from a computer screen.

**What are you doing differently in 2020 that has had a positive impact on your career?** Having spent 20+ years in construction, I've really learned not to be a silent bystander. I am trying harder to get involved in jobs and voice my opinion whether or not I'm being asked to contribute. It gives me more confidence in the field and the office.



**Natasha Kulchitsky**  
Structural Engineer  
TFMoran

**What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months?** I started a civil engineering program at the University of Alaska when I was 37 years old. Pretty late... Being very ambitious in the beginning, I quickly had to understand that an engineering career would not be easy and graceful. Balancing between endless homework assignments, labs, being a TA, and family activities (I had three kids) was a big challenge. When I graduated and started working, I was placed in the technical world with lots of terms and approaches which seemed quite new to me again. English is my second language and so I had no idea how fasteners could be adhesive and why a kicker could hold a parapet in place. Some people told me that it would be better to switch to a more feminine profession. But I told myself that men would meet the same difficulties and just kept going. Last December I received my professional license which became a proof that my choice of engineering was a reasonable and right decision.



**Brenda Laurenza**  
President  
Bald Hill Builders, LLC

**What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months?** Starting a construction company has been one of my greatest professional achievements. I have learned so much, not only about the construction industry but about business in general. From business development, strategic planning, financial stability, and developing SOPs, to working with and motivating groups of people, there are so many aspects of a business that contribute to the growth of a company. I also learned one person can't be great at everything, but hiring great people and nurturing those people to do their best is what is important for growth and a positive and productive work culture.

**What are you doing differently in 2020 that has had a positive impact on your career?** Paying closer attention to our people including myself. I realize I have to take care of myself to be the best I can be for others. Working 14-hour days may produce results but I am more productive when I take time to exercise, meditate, and spend time relaxing with family and friends.



**Danielle Crafford**  
General Superintendent  
Gilbane Building Company

**What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months?** Gilbane is a leader in safety, and one of my greatest professional achievements was when I was awarded the Gilbane Class A Safety Award. This award is achieved through a recommendation approved by regional management, where the candidate's records, actions, and preventative measures are strictly reviewed. The individual must also display exemplary safety best practices, achieve project lost time/recordable rates below company goals, demonstrate effective accident prevention measures, and show respect towards personal and job-site worker safety.

**When I'm not working I am...** Running around with my two kids. They are at such wonderful, joy-filled ages that everything is an adventure. I also love staying physically active, trying out new restaurants, and stamping my way through the RI Brewery Passport.