

The construction industry has long been male-dominated, but the tide is turning as more women are making their mark in this traditionally challenging field. It's invigorating to witness the increasing presence of women in various roles within the industry, and the importance of this trend cannot be overstated, as it brings a diverse range of skills, perspectives, and experiences to the table, ultimately benefiting the sector as a whole.

The growing participation of women in construction not only provides women with rewarding career opportunities but also addresses the industry's skilled-labor shortage. By embracing the wide range of career paths the construction industry offers, from project management and engineering to hands-on trades, women can contribute to and benefit from the industry's growth and success.

CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

Despite this progress, women in construction continue to encounter various challenges. The industry has historically exhibited a low representation of women, with only 9.9% of construction workers being female.

This underrepresentation is further compounded by limited opportunities for advancement and gender pay gaps, although this gap, at 95.5% of what men make in construction, is not as wide as it is in other industries.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND CONTINUED GROWTH

Federal legislation could help to normalize the presence of women not only in construction careers but on construction sites. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, offering more opportunity for infrastructure spending and building, also offers more opportunity for hiring women to fill positions on new projects—a great way to introduce women to the field from apprenticeship and/or undergraduate programs and get more female project managers on more jobsites more often, following the years of remote and/or hybrid work of back-office employees.

The COVID-19 pandemic not only impacted office dynamics,

Women In Construction event hosted by Finance & Commerce is just one example that shines a spotlight on some of the outstanding female construction leaders.

It's apparent there are still challenges for women to overcome in the industry. But with personal commitments to champion diversity and inclusion, it's possible to create a more equitable and thriving environment where women and all professionals in the field can thrive. 

