

BuildGirls.org has Discovery Day at Hensel Phelps



## HENSEL PHELPS

Plan. Build. Manage.

Washington, D.C., May 16, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- buildgirls.org, a non-profit with a mission of educating, engaging and empowering high school girls to explore future careers in infrastructure today held a Discovery Day at Hensel Phelps, one of the largest general contractors in the USA with over \$7.0 Billion in annual revenue.



As part of buildgirls.org mission, buildgirls.org hold discovery days. A discovery day is a great way for middle and high school females to see the infrastructure industry close up. It's also a great way for a company to do something for women in ACE, the community and so much more. Oftentimes, they will include lunch and learns, field trips, dinners and other valuable networking opportunities.

Architecture, Construction and Engineering have less than 10% female representation in the workforce. Data shows that firms with more diverse workforces, performance improves, companies are more profitable, companies grow faster and have higher employee satisfaction levels. While levels have increased slightly over the last decade, the way to make the biggest impact on this challenge is to connect with high school females so they can learn about career opportunities in ACE while they are still exploring career pathways.

Since its humble beginning in 1937, Hensel Phelps has grown as a family of hard-working individuals into a world-class builder. Exploring new markets and partnerships, investing in diversity and its communities, and forging new opportunities, HP is dedicated to serving its people, its neighbors, its partners and all those who aspire to build a better future. As an industry leader in construction, Hensel Phelps believes it is their role and responsibility to spearhead positive change within architecture, engineering and construction (AEC).

Buildgirls.org was honored to work with the team at Hensel Phelps under Carol May, Project Superintendent. The buildgirls.org members were treated to an amazing afternoon with a few puzzles and challenges. The girls dissected plans from a local airport and were able to interact with members of the Hensel Phelps team to better understand what it is like inside the company.



buildgirls.org, was founded by Sami Goldsteen, Mackenzie Goldsteen and Emmie Goldsteen, three sisters who were inspired by a series of discoveries that angered them into action with the goal of changing the infrastructure industry. Throughout the pandemic the girls had the opportunity to personally observe a large construction company via online conferences, meetings, and presentations, as their dad who was in the industry, was suddenly working from home. While observing his work, they began to realize that they never heard female voices nor saw female faces. Asking their dad over and over again - "why not" and getting no real answer, inspired the three sisters to investigate why in this trillion-dollar industry, women are less than 10.0% of the workforce, less than 2.0% of leadership roles and are 0% of public company CEOs.

The gender disparity in infrastructure has been widely recognized, but no sustainable initiatives have been established at a younger age when girls decide what they may want to pursue. According to a Microsoft survey, girls cited a lack of female role models a key reason they did not follow a career in the sector. Today, schools offer STEM programs but don't really focus on applications in ACE. As the girls discovered, this is a fast-growing space, an important

component of the economy and is an industry with amazing career opportunities — but most females learn about it too late or not at all.



Having always been taught if you can't find a way then you make one, the girls co-founded [buildgirls.org](https://www.buildgirls.org) to empower, educate and engage females in high school in ACE (Architecture, Construction & Engineering). Through [buildgirls.org](https://www.buildgirls.org) activities and initiatives, high school females can learn more about different careers, which can help solidify plans for their future. [buildgirls.org](https://www.buildgirls.org) members gain hands-on experience that can be valuable for future employers. buildgirls accomplishes its mission through several initiatives, including facilitating discovery experiences, industry interviews, hosting events, creating inspiring competitions, partnering with universities and companies to join buildgirls in its mission.

Contact: Kenzie Goldsteen, [kgoldsteen@buildgirls.org](mailto:kgoldsteen@buildgirls.org)