

What is your role in the industry?

- Christie DeLuca is the Director of Strategies at Shimmick Constructions, where her job involves managing the strategic planning process, setting goals for the company, and providing market research.

When did Christie DeLuca enter the construction field?

- Despite wanting to pursue a different path out of college, Christie was recruited to enter the corporate communications sector after college, which ties in her background of journalism.

What barriers, if any, has she experienced, generally or specifically tied to being a woman?

- Construction, in general, is a male-dominated field. Entering the industry at a young age, Christie specifically struggled with a lack of female role models at the top and the challenges, in terms of career progression and development, that being one of the only women poses. She therefore urges young women seeking a career in construction to voice their aspirations and concerns.

What type of mentorship did Christie have?

- Despite being great guys who taught her a lot, all of Christie DeLuca's mentors were men, which plays into the challenges that being one of the only women in a male dominated field poses.

What internships, if any, are offered to women at or interested in joining Shimmick?

- Christie and a few colleagues recently started Women at Shimmick, a group aimed at identifying women with potential to grow and increasing women participation on the leadership team. Besides Women at Shimmick, the company recently launched a big sister program, matching new female employees with existing female employees to build lasting relationships. However, she did not mention any internships specifically offered to younger women looking to joining Shimmick.

As a successful female leader, how has Christie DeLuca's experience been working in a male dominated field?

- Christie's experience working in a male-dominated field seems to be relatively positive. Despite having a majority of male bosses and colleagues, she phrases her experience by saying that she has had a "lot of great leaders and supportive

colleagues in the field who just happen to be men.”  
Christie hopes that more women will enter the field.

What is the best advice Christie offers young women looking to work in the construction field?

- Christie believes that her exposure to many different aspects of the business when she first started was a valuable opportunity, that most should have, because it allowed her to understand the business as a whole. Moreover, she encourages young people to communicate what they want, not be afraid of asking to learn or do something new in the business, to expand their education and gravitate towards their interests.

What common misconceptions about women working in construction has Christie DeLuca experienced or faced?

- Christie believes that many assumptions about women in the industry stem from them having children; these assumptions include the misconception, which, in her experience, has proven to be wrong, that having children causes women to become less ambitious or dedicated to work.

What is one achievement that Christie would like to accomplish in the future in her career?

- While Christie did not have a specific achievement in mind at the time of the interview, she would like to see the Women at Shimmick program continue and other programs like that to be implemented. Similarly, she would like to continue learning new things, for she believes that just resting on one's laurels is often not enough.

If Christie DeLuca was a superhero, what would her ideal superpower be?

- Although not a typical superpower, Christie DeLuca would love to be a bestselling author because she writes in her free time.

What is Christie's favorite candy?

- An ice-cream snicker bar