

1. What is your name?

Whitney Karplus

2. What is your job/role/title?

Superintendent

3. How or why did you enter your industry?

Growing up I liked math and science. I wanted to do something practical with that so got into engineering. I was drawn to how civil engineering meets our basic needs - clean water, transportation and movement - so picked that as my college major. I had a few engineering internships in college and my favorite part was always the site visits, so coming out of college my first job was in construction.

4. What are the barriers/obstacles of being a woman in this industry?

I think one challenge is the limited number of role models and women at the top. It can be hard to imagine yourself moving up when you don't see women in leadership roles above you.

5. Why do you think there are so few females in the industry and what would you do to change that?

I think many women don't know that careers in construction exist - growing up, I certainly didn't. I love that organizations like this are working to change that.

6. What does an average day in your work life look like?

I have a lot of variety in my days but usually start off with a morning foreman's huddle, have a few project meetings, review coordination items with the team, work on schedule updates and walk the jobsite at least once.

7. What would you title your autobiography?

hmm I'm not sure!

8. What is your favorite hobby?

I like being outside - hiking, camping, gardening - and cooking.

9. What is your go to song at karaoke?

I'm not much of a public singer...but would probably pick a country song.

10. What is advice you would give your younger self?

Don't underestimate your worth, and don't make decisions based on fear. What would you do if you knew you wouldn't fail?

11. What do you like most about your work?

I love all the different people I get to work with - craftspeople, clients, engineers & architects, and trade partners.

12. What is the best career advice you have ever been given?

Ask questions until you get an answer that makes sense - and don't assume someone else has it figured out just because they're talking confidently.

13. What was your first job?

Working on my parents farm - irrigating, pitchforking hay and driving tractor.