

## Space Coast Chapter of Women in Construction has a banner year, honored at regional and national levels

By NAWIC Space Coast Florida Chapter #355  
[nawicspacecoast@gmail.com](mailto:nawicspacecoast@gmail.com)

MELBOURNE (Oct. 13, 2025) — The National Association of Women in Construction Space Coast Chapter 355 is coming off another successful year of innovative and inclusive activities to promote and support women in construction in Brevard County and beyond.

To date, the Space Coast Chapter has:

- Hosted a Building Block competition at Gemini Elementary School in Melbourne Beach, with more than 100 kindergarten through sixth-grade students participating.

- Held a Welding and Wine night at GEM Industries Inc. in Cocoa. This event was open to the public for those who were interested in trying their hand at the art of welding, under the supervision of seasoned veterans of the trade.

- During Women in Construction Week, the organization delivered lunch and appreciation gifts to the female tradespeople working on the Westin Cocoa Beach Resort and Spa project.

- Met up with a local girl scout troop to help them earn their STEM badges by teaching them ways in which the construction industry is shaped by science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

- With the assistance of the Brevard County Public libraries, put together a wide display of children's books geared toward encouraging young people to read about construction, architecture and engineering at the Eau Gallie and Titusville libraries.

- Attended high school career fairs in South, Central,

and North Brevard to share information about construction-based career opportunities.

- Alongside the Brevard Public Schools Summer Enrichment Program, put on a free, weeklong construction camp for middle school girls. The camp was held at Viera High and campers learned about safety, tools, blueprint reading, project management, carpentry, framing, drywall, plumbing, welding, tiling, electrical, heavy equipment operations, soft skills, all while gaining valuable mentorship from women that have decades of experience in the industry.

- To encourage young women to pursue advanced educations and certifications in construction and the trades, offered scholarships to local students. This year's recipients were a high school senior from Space Coast Jr./Sr. High who received \$2,000 toward her college education and a local welding student who also received \$2,000 to support her certification coursework.

- Continued to find ways to give back to the community notably through their partnership with the Make-A-Wish foundation by helping grant construction-based wishes for children here in Brevard County.

- Hosted monthly meeting events where members and guests learned from a variety of speakers with topics ranging from Getting Organized, Drones in Construction, New Technologies in Apprenticeship Programs, and even Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in the Industry.

The award-winning Space Coast Chapter received numerous accolades at the regional and national level for their accomplishments throughout the year, putting Space Coast on the map. Kate Howick was recognized as the Southeast Region Member of the Year while Donna Skarosi received the Regional Rookie of the Year

award presented in Atlanta. Howick was also recognized at the National Conference in Boston for her exemplary leadership, engagement and connection within the organization and inducted into the National Member Strong Class of 2025.

The Space Coast Chapter has announced that it won the bid to host the Women in Construction Regional Spring Forum 2027. Women in construction and trades from Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama will converge upon the Space Coast to continue to learn and grow in a male-dominated industry and to find out what all the buzz is about in Brevard County.

The year wrapped up in September at the Brevard Zoo with the installation of a new leadership team and the recognition of the accomplishments of the Space Coast Chapter and its members.

Newly installed officers and board members include: President Jamie Hogrefe (BRPH Inc.), Vice President Ann Miner (GEM Industries Inc.), Secretary Ellie Lucas (Ivey's Construction Inc.), Treasurer Donna Skarosi (David Boland Inc.), Director Debra Mallard (V.A. Paving Inc.), Director Jacqueline Williams (Sunbelt Rentals Inc.), Director Jennifer Wynn (Universal Engineering Sciences Inc.), Director Jennifer Yoli (Waste Pro of Florida), and Immediate Past President Kate Howick (Danella Engineering and Construction Inc.). Ellie Lucas of Ivey's Construction Inc. received the esteemed Member of the Year Award while Megan Robillard of Hensel Phelps took home the Rookie of the Year award. The future remains bright for the Women in Construction on the Space Coast.

For more information or to learn more about NAWIC Space Coast Chapter, visit our website at [nawicspacecoastfl.org](http://nawicspacecoastfl.org).



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