

## Women in Construction Space Coast set to host industry-focused community events for area students

By Kate Howick  
nawicspacecoast@gmail.com  
President  
NAWIC Space Coast Florida Chapter #355

MELBOURNE (Jan. 27, 2026) — The National Association of Women in Construction Space Coast Chapter 355 is gearing up for another year of giving back and supporting the community through industry-focused initiatives.

The organization recently hosted its annual “Block Kids” event at Ralph M. Williams Jr. Elementary School in Rockledge, where more than 300 kindergarten through sixth-grade students competed in a school-wide, building-block competition.

Judges from the construction community and beyond volunteered their time to score each build and interview each student during the event. Partnering with Brevard Public Schools’ STEM Department, teacher and parent volunteers made this a community-driven event.

In the upcoming months, the local chapter will be attending high school and middle school career fairs across the county with the intention of sparking an interest in students pursuing careers in construction, from both a trade and professional aspect.

The NAWIC Space Coast remains actively engaged in conversation with young people who are looking for unique and rewarding career opportunities. Along the way, it continues to emphasize how the importance of what the students are learning in class today directly translates into the skills that they would utilize tomorrow.

In February, NAWIC Space Coast is supporting and sponsoring the Design and Conquer event hosted by

Brevard Public Schools Career and Technical Education Department. This district competition will bring students from the varying Construction CTE programs throughout the county to Viera High School Feb. 18 as they put their construction, carpentry, electrical, and HVAC skills to the test in a timed, scored, team build event.

Every year, NAWIC Space Coast presents a scholarship to a female high-school student looking to advance her education in the construction, engineering, architecture, design or trades that support the construction industry.

The scholarship application is available through the Brevard Schools Foundation website and will be open until March 16, 2026.

The web address is [BrevardSchoolsFoundation.org](http://BrevardSchoolsFoundation.org).

The NAWIC Space Coast is set to once again host the all-girls construction camp to complement Brevard Public Schools’ Summer Enrichment Program. Enrollment is free and limited to 25 middle-school students looking to learn a wide range of construction basics.

Last year campers learned about safety, blueprint reading, tools, project management, welding, carpentry, drywall, tiling, electrical, plumbing, equipment operations, and soft skills. This four-day camp will take place in the Viera High School Carpentry Facility during the second week in June. Registration will be available through the

BPS Summer Enrichment Portal.

Perhaps NAWIC Space Coast’s most notable series of events will take place during the first full week in March. Commonly known as Women in Construction Week, and initiated by NAWIC, the program was created to celebrate, promote and inspire women in the industry on a national scale.

Locally, NAWIC Space Coast will have events planned throughout the week designed to spotlight construction and some of the women who helped shape the industry.

The signature event, “Welding and Wine,” is open to the public and will take from 5–8 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at GEM Industries Inc. in Cocoa. This is a local, woman-owned metal fabrication business and it is opening their shop to offer guided practice in the fine art of welding. This is a free event and guests can register to attend through at <https://www.nawicspacecoastfl.org/event-details/welding-and-wine-2026>.

Additional events during WIC Week will include community service projects, promoting careers in construction, highlighting some of the pioneers in the industry that have led the way, and networking with like-minded women in the profession.

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

## Elise Geary to present solo exhibit, First Friday Opening Reception set

MELBOURNE (Jan. 24, 2026) — The Fifth Avenue Art Gallery ([fifthavenueartgallery.com](http://fifthavenueartgallery.com)) will present Elise Geary’s solo exhibition, “Abstract Inspirations,” March 3–29. Geary is a multiple award-winning artist from Vero Beach. Since retiring from her medical practice in North Carolina, she has devoted herself to her long-standing “love of creating art.” Her art inspiration stems from the widely “varying energies and elements of nature” — calm vs. turbulent, gentle vs. forceful, and quiet vs. energetic. There will be a First Friday Opening Reception for Geary from 5:30–8:30 p.m. March 6. The Fifth Avenue Art Gallery is at 1470 Highland Avenue in the Eau Gallie Arts District of Melbourne.



## Doctor of Business Administration

### The Ultimate Business Degree.

- Real-time, interactive lectures online twice a week
- A part-time doctoral program that can be completed in less than three years
- Accredited, affordable and convenient education
- Taught by full-time faculty members who are active scholars in their fields

Florida Institute of Technology does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, protected veteran status or any protected minority in the admission of students, administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, employment policies and athletic or other university-sponsored programs or activities. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Florida Tech does not discriminate on the basis of sex.

20241081



GET MORE INFO

