

Carisa Barrett

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - May 2021



Level of Experience: Journeyworker

Years in Trade: 22

Union: IUEC

Local: 19

Bio

Carisa Barrett is a member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 19, and is from Seattle, Washington. She was originally an accountant, but after 13 years in the career, knew she had to make more money and better benefits to support her two boys. Her father, a longshoreman, had helped her get summer work as a longshoreman casual worker, so she knew she liked physical work. He had also taught her how to operate a boom truck and excavator, so when she went to him for advice, he suggested that she enter the Operating Engineer Apprenticeship. She worked as an Operating Engineer for two years, but really had her eye on becoming an Elevator Constructor. After years of applying, in 1999 she finally got in. She worked in modernization and repair, but really became an expert on installing and troubleshooting escalators, earning her the title of Escalator Expert. In 2006 she took her mechanics exam and became journey-level. One of her favorite jobs was at North Gate Plaza where she was mechanic-in-charge of a 6-unit installation of escalators. She became an escalator installation trainer and trouble shooter. She gained other credentials as well, becoming a Qualified Elevator Inspector, a Certified Electrical Safety Worker, and an OSHA Outreach Instructor. Later she worked as a



state elevator inspector, before becoming National Coordinator for the Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund in 2010, due to her outstanding abilities and her many qualifications. In this position, she is working to keep the Elevator Industry safe and continually growing with model legislation, new technology and an educated workforce.

Why Carisa Was Nominated

Carisa has always been there for young people in need. She raised two boys, along with her own, she adopted her sister's young son when her sister was unable to care for him. Carisa also helped raise her boyfriend's daughter ever since she was a year old. When her boys were teenagers, her house was always the safe and welcoming space for the boys and their friends to hang out after school. She filled a refrigerator with food for any kid who knocked on her door. Sometimes she would have 15-20 kids in her backyard, all grateful for a safe place to come and be with their friends. She has been a preschool teacher at her church and taught leadership classes for a Purpose Driven Life. As one of the few women Elevator Constructors, and in a leadership position, she has reached out to all the Locals to locate women members, invite them to the Facebook group and worked with her sister Elevator

Constructors to get everybody connected.

Carisa has become an expert on elevators in Wind Turbines and provides her expertise on the American Society of Mechanical Engineers A17.8 code writing committee, writing codes for elevators in Wind Turbines. She also sits on CLEANPOWERS standards committee, service lift task group, and operations and maintenance committee. Carisa is the first woman from the field to be in a position of leadership in the IUEC. Because of her leadership, she was appointed by IUEC General President Frank Christensen to serve on the NABTU Women's Committee. She is blazing a trail for more women to join her ranks and is truly deserving of being selected for the Tradeswomen Heroes Award.