

Jinnie Freeman

Tradeswomen Heroes Award

Winner - May 2021



Level of Experience: Apprentice

Years in Trade: 4

Union: SMART

Local: 16

Bio

Jinnie Freeman is a fourth-year apprentice with the SMART Local 16 Sheet Metal Institute and is currently working for Arctic Sheet Metal in Portland, OR. She is on the Board of Directors for Oregon Tradeswomen and co-chairs SMART Local 16's Diversity Committee. In her spare time, she is a stand-up comic.

Why Jinnie Was Nominated

It is a huge honor to nominate Jinnie Freeman, a member of SMART Local 16, for the NABTU Tradeswomen Heroes Award. Sister Freeman is a promising up-and-coming union leader. As a sheet metal apprentice, she already holds leadership positions. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for Oregon Tradeswomen, which is an organization that promotes success for women in the trades through education, leadership and mentorship, and also co-chairs SMART Local 16's Diversity Committee. I had the opportunity to meet her during our SMART women trade caucus last October, where she shared with me her recommendation that incoming members be provided with contact information for local union diversity committees or other



constituency groups to help connect them with those groups as soon as they join the union in an effort to help reduce isolation. I shared her recommendation with all of the SMART local union leadership at a meeting less than one week later. In her Local, Sister Freeman is known as a member who is always eager to help those who need a hand and has a huge heart. She is known for her generosity and will regularly bring Latinx pastries to the school or union meetings to share with her fellow members. She has a talent for meeting people where they are and making those who feel unseen are seen, those who feel unheard are heard, and those who feel they might not belong feel like they have a home. I am incredibly proud to call her my Sister.