

## Alisha Crespo

Tradeswomen Heroes Award

Winner - July 2021



**Level of Experience:** Apprentice

**Years in Trade:** 4

**Union:** OPCMIA

**Local:** 528

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### Bio

Alisha Crespo is an 80% Apprentice Cement Mason working out of Local 528 in Seattle. Alisha became interested in becoming a Cement Mason while participating in a Pre-Apprentice Program at the Mission Creek Women's Correctional Center. The TRAC Program, (Trades Related Apprenticeship Coaching), is a 16-week course that the women can apply for to gain entry. Alisha's instructor, John Brown, worked in the field for many years and brings real world expectations to the program.

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### Why Alisha Was Nominated

Alisha experienced childhood trauma that included the loss of both her parents. Drug addiction and a life of crime to support that addiction led her to (3) incarcerations. She discovered a natural artistic aptitude by working in body shops, but ultimately lost those jobs due to her addiction. During her last time being locked up, she took a Behavior Modification Class and worked with a counselor to deal with her past trauma.

Upon her release, she competed with over 40 others to earn a place at the Cement Masons Apprenticeship. They admitted 20 and Alisha placed 6th, overall. After 2 years in the trade,



Alisha has been gainfully employed and is currently working at Howard S. Wright. She acknowledges and is grateful to her co-workers in the field who continue to give her opportunities to learn and excel. Most especially, she is thankful to her instructor from the TRAC Program, John Brown. He keeps tabs on her progress and she checks in with him.

Alisha is engaged to be married, reestablishing her relationship with her daughter and is in the market to purchase a home. She is grateful to the people and opportunities that have led her to this new chapter in her life. She has an admiration for the hardworking, respectable Journeymen who are mentoring the next wave of workers.