

Erin Hansen

Tradeswomen Heroes Award

Winner - July 2021



Level of Experience: Apprentice

Years in Trade: 4

Union: IUEC

Local: 25

Bio

"What I love most about the trade I work is being able to drive or walk to the different buildings. It changes the day up some. Also working on a project with others makes me feel part of a team. I'm a team player. I'm here to get the job done so we ALL look good."

Erin entered her trade in 2016 and will take her mechanic's exam in July. Before she entered the trade, she was a dispatcher for Home Advisor. Her husband had a framing business, and she did project management for him.

Her husband passed away in a car accident and there was no insurance. Things fell apart and she had to look for a better paying job. A friend's husband suggested the elevator trade, she took the test, passed it and then scored #13 in the interview. Starting a new career in your 40's is not easy, but Erin has given it her all. She started with Otis in repair with a wonderful repair super, "best thing that could have happened," she said. She did not have previous trades experience, "things just clicked together for me." After 2 years and 2 months, she was asked to become a Temporary Mechanic.



Why Erin Was Nominated

Erin is deserving of this award because of her big heart. She said, "Working in the trades has given me more confidence and pride in my work. It has also enabled me to take care of my family better. I try to make sure nobody in our family goes without. Without the job I have I wouldn't be able to help out with things as much. I really love what I do. So all around it is a win-win!" Erin has also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and helped elderly people with their landscaping.

"All the guys I work with are so awesome, we share problem-solving tips and help each other out. I am active in the union, I go to the meetings and events like picnics or Christmas parties. If any of my sisters have a problem I'm there to support them in any way I can. I have set up dinners to help everyone stay connected. In our office we have two female supervisors. They seem to have fit right in. One of my sister elevator constructors had trouble at another company and when I found out she was starting with the company I'm at, I said to my team, "Let's make sure she doesn't have those problems here. OK guys?" She has had a few minor problems but for the most part the move was a success."