

Doreen Cannon

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - October 2021



Level of Experience: Journeyworker

Years in Trade: 22

Union: UA

Local: 55

Bio

Doreen Cannon is a full-time instructor for the Cleveland Plumber's Journeyman and Apprenticeship Training Center for the United Association of Plumbers Union Local 55. Blazing a trail for women in construction union leadership, she tirelessly promotes career opportunities for women in the building trades.

Doreen instructs, guides and mentors over 80 apprentices in various stages of the apprenticeship program. Her respectable dedication and genuine care for her students makes her a resource both men and women look to for advice and guidance. She is truly the highest standard to which all apprentices can aspire to become through their career. People respect how she carries herself both professionally and privately by volunteering and dedicating her time to those she cares about.

In 2004, Doreen decided to make a bigger impact on her apprentices by teaching an anti-harassment course. While researching this course, she found all the resources available included office scenarios on bullying, harassment or sexual harassment with nothing geared towards construction. She decided to create a custom curriculum to train apprentices and members which was well received and to this day continues to influence



hearts and minds about workplace behaviors for both men and women alike.

In 2014, Doreen Cannon saw an opportunity to organize a local group of tradeswomen and their supporters to co-found the Cleveland Building Tradeswomen Committee dedicated to recruiting more women into the building trades. They operate under the umbrella of the Cleveland Building trades and include hundreds of tradeswomen representing many different trades in the area. Some of their activities include fundraising to collect toys for a female rehabilitation center, a construction project on a women's foster home and even fun events including bowling to create camaraderie and fellowship with other tradeswomen in the area. Doreen continues to serve as co-chair of the committee. She also served as a co-chair for the Quality Construction Partnership Diversity Taskforce that encourages and enables more women and women of color to enter the building trades. She continuously advocates for women to earn their education through construction apprenticeships where they can learn and earn college credits at no cost.

Doreen also serves on the board of directors for the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) as International Region 6 director. She participates in many committees for her local union, local community and throughout the construction industry

benefiting not only her members but all disadvantaged women and minorities in her community. Her union continuously nominates her to represent them at national conventions and other convenings to be the voice for all women and men alike. Doreen was the first woman to be voted in as her union president and member of the executive board. This democratic process proves she is well respected and adored by many.

Doreen moderates multiple local and national women's committees, including a national virtual tradeswomen's group Lean In Tradeswomen Circles. These tradeswomen groups are a collaboration with the AFL-CIO and Sheryl Sandberg's Lean In Circle where Doreen leads other tradeswomen in exercises in on the job leadership and coping skills for newbies in construction. Doreen is a leader others aspire to be more like.

More recently, throughout the pandemic Doreen created lessons and transferred her entire curriculum to online, teaching students 8 hours a day virtually so they could continue their lessons and graduate on time without any delays to their pay increases.



Why Doreen Was Nominated

Doreen has become an unstoppable force in recruitment and retaining women in the trades, volunteering her time to local and national tradeswomen groups, and on the global scale as presenter at international conferences including Tradeswomen Build Nations. Doreen also teaches a recruitment course to training directors from all over the US and Canada who attend her classes at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor each year at the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitter's Instructor Training Program.

For all of the reasons mentioned above, I would like to nominate Doreen Cannon, UA plumber since 1999 for the NABTU Tradeswoman Hero Award to recognize not only her many accomplishments as a construction educator, plumber and proud tradeswoman but for her selfless contributions as an advocate for tradeswomen everywhere; paving the way for diversity and inclusion of both women and minorities.