

Mindy Alvarez

Tradeswomen Heroes Award

Winner - November 2021



Level of Experience: Apprentice

Years in Trade: 7

Union: UA

Local: 142

City: San Antonio, TX

Bio

Mindy Alvarez is a journey-level plumber, welder and certified brazer with UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 142 in San Antonio, Texas. She recently re-enrolled into her local's apprenticeship program as an HVACR service technician to explore other career opportunities at the United Association.

Mindy founded Women Build Texas in 2019 and currently leads her Lean in Tradeswomen Circle's virtual meetings to connect and support tradeswomen.

She is a passionate and vocal supporter of women entering the building trades and works tirelessly to help recruit and inform other women of the vast and varied opportunities and support provided to women at the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters.

Why Mindy Was Nominated

Mindy Alvarez is a first generation trades worker and journeyman. After completing her pipefitter training, Mindy went back for a second round of apprenticeship and was also trained as a HVACR service technician for the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA), Union Local 142 in San Antonio, Texas.



When she became a pipefitter and completed her 5 year apprentice program, she did not want to stop learning. She also wanted to encourage more women like herself to seek out careers in the piping industry. Because of her selfless dedication and desire to succeed and help others succeed, I would like to nominate Mindy Alvarez to be a Tradeswoman Hero.

Mindy regularly volunteers for local and national recruitment events. She volunteered to speak at the American School Counselors Association where she talked about careers for women in plumbing, pipefitting, sprinkler fitting and HVACR service and repair. Her audience of school counselors from across the country allowed Mindy to get the word out to school administrators and advisors that careers in the trades are a viable alternative to a four year college. Mindy's passion as a presenter at this event and other events like it, is critical in convincing teachers, counselors, parents and other influencers that there are a lot of great opportunities for young women in the building trades, specifically plumbing and HVACR. Mindy recognizes that the college paradigm has to be changed; she knows the only way to do this is to get the word out.

Mindy was a single mother who found self-reliance in the building trades. Every time she shares her story of struggling to make ends meet until she found a career at the UA,

she inspires those who hear it. She captures the hearts and minds of her audience by serving as an example of what is possible for women to achieve in the trades.

During the recent winter freeze crisis in Texas, Mindy diligently worked long hours responding to countless calls for service. At the company she works for, Service Mechanical Group in San Antonio, they were flooded with service calls by people in desperate need of help. Mindy was there; restoring water service and heat to countless families that would have suffered needlessly were it not for her.

Mindy's tremendous individual effort to get Texas back on track is not the first time she has helped the lone star state. In 2019, Mindy founded the group Women Build Texas to support other women in the building trades. Her leadership helped recruit and retain working tradeswomen throughout the state. When the COVID crisis came along, Mindy volunteered to run an online Lean In Tradeswomen Circle. The Lean In Tradeswomen Circles help connect women trades workers from across the country. By using the lean in circle group, Mindy helped connect tradeswomen who were affected by the COVID crisis. She helped women who were just starting out in the industry as well as veteran tradeswomen deal with the emotional and financial stress caused by the pandemic.



Her sympathetic ear, comforting words and generous friendship made an otherwise impossible situation bearable. Mindy is always there to help her fellow tradeswomen.

Mindy is a passionate and vocal supporter of women entering the building trades. She works tirelessly to help recruit women. Mindy is always informing women of the vast and varied opportunities and support provided to women at the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters. Mindy's dedication to the industry, her work, and her fellow tradesmen and trades women is why I am nominating Mindy Alvarez to be a featured NABTU Tradeswoman Hero.