

## Yvonne White

Tradeswomen Heroes Award

Winner - November 2021



**Level of Experience:** Journeyworker

**Years in Trade:** 23

**Union:** IUEC

**Local:** 25

**City:** Denver, CO

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### Bio

Yvonne White is a trailblazer! She was the first person in her family to go to college (Automotive Engineering) and the first Black woman to become a member of IUEC Local 25 in Denver. She has a service route at the Denver International Airport and is much sought after by her customers and her coworkers for her talents in maintaining escalators, trouble-shooting problems and finding creative ways to fix things. "I think outside the box" she says, "I figure we are engineers. If I see a better way to fix things, I do it."

Her road has not been easy; she has been subject to racial name-calling by coworkers and has been treated differently because she was both a woman and Black. She got support from a union rep, her church, her prayers and her Grandpa. "My Grandpa pushed me - he had a shop to work on cars and I learned from him, he inspired me to study cars in college. "Baby, just hang in there", he would say, "Take it and run! The world needs to see you!" What I love most about my trade, I like the hard work of it, fixing things. Tearing it apart and putting it back together. Women can do this too. It's hard, you have to have a strong mind and a tough skin, let it roll off and keep doing your job. In your mind, you are the end game, you want



this career, keep that dignity about yourself. If you are good at something, whatever your skill is, be the best at that skill so they can call on you. There is a future for women in our industry."

homeless families. Yvonne is part of the roofing crew because she's not afraid of heights! She is always using her skills of the trade to improve things around her. Women Work!

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### Why Yvonne Was Nominated

Yvonne is one of the go-to journeymen for her coworkers at the airport if they have problems that can't be fixed. She uses her engineering training to figure out special tasks as part of the team when tools are not available. Coming through the trade, she tutored fellow union members with their math so they could pass their mechanics exam (to become journeymen).

Because of her skills and compassion, her supervisors often put new people with her to get situated, trained with great work ethics and shown what is expected of them. Yvonne has a religious soul and is deeply committed to helping in the church. Whether it's cars, faucets, other plumbing and gardening, she's there to lend her hand in fixing things around the church. Through the church, Yvonne has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and Global Outreach Programs. The group has traveled to New Mexico and some parts of Africa for weeks, months if possible building homes for the low-income, sometimes