

Vanessa Carman

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - January 2022



Level of Experience: Journeyworker

Years in Trade: 18

Union: SMART

Local: 66

Bio

Vanessa Carman is a detailer with Hermanson Company in Kent, Washington. She previously worked as a Trimble/RTS foreperson, also at Hermanson. She completed a five-year apprenticeship with Sheet Metal Workers Local 66, and prior to her acceptance into the apprenticeship program, she worked as a residential installer and as a warehouse worker at a small residential sheet metal shop.

Vanessa discovered that she wanted to work in the trades after helping her brother repair a furnace in their uncle's house. Vanessa serves as a Trustee for the Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC, is a Co-Chair of the Local 66 Women's Committee, is a Trustee for the SMART Recruitment and Retention Council, and serves on the SMART Women's Committee. She enjoys spending time with her three sons, Jonah, Gabriel, and Elijah and their family dog, Chepe. In her free time, Vanessa competes in powerlifting, supports her children's sports in football and baseball, does community volunteer work, and explores the Pacific Northwest.



Why Vanessa Was Nominated

It is a great honor to nominate Sister Vanessa Carman, member of SMART Local 66, for the NABTU Tradeswomen Heroes Award. Sister Carman is a consummate tradeswoman leader and a tireless advocate for her sisters. She quickly advanced through the sheet metal industry from apprentice to journey person to foreperson. She helped form the SMART Local 66 Women's Committee and also championed the implementation of a mentoring program for women sheet metal workers in her local union, which provides a support system for women in the trade, especially apprentices. The mentoring program has been a huge success – the number of women in Local 66 has been growing and continues to grow. Sister Carman also serves on the SMART Women's Committee. As part of the SMART Women's Committee, she advocated for Constitutional amendments and resolutions to combat discrimination and harassment within the union, promote the recruitment and retention of women members, and support a mentoring study for apprenticeship programs, which is based on the Local 66 mentoring program that she founded. She strongly believes in giving back to the community, and she has organized successful community service events for SMART Sisters during the NABTU Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference. Sister Carman is also a Trustee of

the newly-established SMART Recruitment and Retention Council, which will focus on how SMART can better recruit, retain, and promote diverse groups at all levels in our union. She also serves as a Trustee on the Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC. Sister Carman is extremely dedicated to the sheet metal trade and volunteers at career fairs and outreach events to recruit more sheet metal workers. She has done all this while raising her three sons as a single mother. Due to her drive, generosity, and courage, she is a role model for many women in SMART and has made a tremendous impact on this union. SMART is indebted to her for all of the selfless work she does to improve the conditions for all of our sisters in SMART – we are incredibly fortunate to have her as a leader and member.