

## Shamaiah Turner

Tradeswomen Heroes Award  
Winner - June 2024



**Level of Experience:** Journeyworker

**Years in Trade:** 12 years

**Union:** SMART

**Local:** 17

**City:** Boston, MA

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### Bio

Shamaiah (Sha-mee-ah) Turner got her start in construction at 18 years old when she took a gap year as an AmeriCorps volunteer building houses with Habitat for Humanity in Fort Myers, FL. She got her start in union construction in 2012 as a Local 17 Sheet Metal Worker upon graduating from the Building Pathways Pre-apprenticeship Program.

Throughout her career, Shamaiah has been a sub-foreman leading crews to complete specific parts of a building project and has helped to advance the mission of diversity, equity, and inclusion in construction by starting Cannistraro Women United, an affinity group within that company.

Currently, Shamaiah is the Chair of the SMART International Women's Committee, a trustee on the SMART Recruitment and Retention Council, and the Business Development Representative for the North East Regional Council of SMART.

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### Why Shamaiah Was Nominated

Shamaiah's achievements and dedication to SMART are remarkable and Sister Turner's commitment to diversity and inclusivity in the



sheet metal industry shines throughout her career.

She has excelled in her role as a Sheet Metal Worker and is passionate about serving in her community. Beyond her workday, Sister Turner actively engages with community events and organizations, including the Greater Boston Labor Council, Building Pathways, MASS Girls in Trades, Boston Union Trade Sisters, The Boston Ujima Project, and Boston While Black, emphasizing her broader community empowerment commitment.

One of her most impactful contributions is mentoring sisters in the trade, from apprentices to journeypersons. Shamaiah is a natural leader who sees the potential of every person that crosses her path.

Sister Turner's career achievements, commitment to inclusivity, and dedication to mentoring make her a true Tradeswomen Hero. She is a role model and advocate for women in the trades, leaving a mark on the industry and paving the way for future generations of tradeswomen.