

Fiona Cleveland

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - October 2024



Level of Experience: Apprentice

Years in Trade: 5 years

Union: IUEC

Local: 19

City: Gig Harbor, Washington

Bio

Fiona Cleveland is a 36-year-old elevator mechanic apprentice in Seattle, WA. She has been in the union trades for 20 years now. First generation trades worker. Growing up she moved from house to house, motel to motel. Her mom did her best to raise her and her brother. She grew up seeing the struggle, the fight, the pains her mom went through to provide. When she reached working age, she joined her first trade. She knew working union was the route she needed to follow to provide for a future family in a way that her mom wished she could've provided for them.

Fiona has been with the IUEC for almost 5 years now and is currently the union's only open and out Transwoman in the US. "Because of my trade I have the means to provide for my spouse and our two children, as well as to be actively involved in DEI initiatives with my union, my company, and my state. My Union gives me the strength to fight for a better future for the next generation of trades workers."

Why Fiona Was Nominated

Fiona is a trailblazer as the first out transgender woman in the IUEC. She has



worked hard at creating a safe place for people of such. She speaks at LBGTO events and is scheduled as a panelist on the LBGTO session at TWBN 2024.

She is respected by her peers and has a can-do attitude with everything she does! She recently represented the IUEC at the trans & gender nonconforming Trade and Career Fair and was a panelist at the 3rd Annual Diversity Equity and Inclusion for the National Association of Women in Construction. She deserves to be recognized as a tradeswoman hero.