

NEF - NAWIC Education Foundation Press Release

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NEF Awards its 2018 Carol A. Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award to an advocate with a strong passion for projects and programs that targets everyone from grade school children to adults.

ORLANDO, FL, June 15, 2018 – NEF - NAWIC Education Foundation awarded its 2018 Carol A. Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award to Alise Martiny, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Greater Kansas City Building Trades Council. Martiny received this award for being a passionate advocate for educational opportunities in the construction industry.

Martiny was lucky to have worked with Carol Kueker when she served as NAWIC Midwest Regional Director. Kueker was a true inspiration and mentor to Martiny. Her leadership skills and “cut to the chase” attitude helped Martiny to develop the skills needed to work with area labor and political leaders while getting them to better understand the need to educate our future workforce and develop its diversity. In fact education has become her passion and as a result an overwhelming candidate selected as this year’s award winner.

Martiny has worked in the construction industry for over thirty-seven years. She began her journey after hearing a radio ad recruiting minorities and women into the construction industry. She was accepted into the Kansas City Cement Mason’s Apprenticeship Program after 3 months of training. She successfully completed her apprenticeship and has worked as a journey person on hundreds of jobsites.

Martiny has actively recruited women and minorities throughout her career. She has served in a variety of positions for numbers of associations such as Business Manager for Greater Kansas City Building & Construction Trades Council, Kansas Workforce Partnership Board, Cement Masons and Plasterers Local Union 518 Executive Board where she currently serves as President for the local union and NAWIC Regional Director – just to name a few! She has also received many coveted awards by a variety of trade associations.

Martiny also has a strong passion for projects and programs that target everyone from grade school children to adults – women and men. She is truly a spokeswoman for the development and continuation/expansion of the trades. She is active with programs that are geared toward today’s youth including NEF’s Block Kids Building Competition, Camp NAWIC and IBuild. Not to leave out adults, Martiny began an Inner City Career Fair that links the Urban Community with careers in the construction industry. She also saw an opportunity to develop a local Tradeswomen Council in Kansas City and “*Heartland Women in Trades*” was established in 2016 and has over 70 members.

Don Greenwell, President, The Builders Association, Executive Director, AGC of Kansas City states “Alise is the most well-rounded construction educator I have known or would hope to know.” He also mentions “Enthusiasm of students and construction industry recruits is set afire by Alise”. Robin Norris, President of NAWIC Greater Kansas City, MO Chapter 100 says of Martiny “Alise is one of the most passionate NAWIC members I know. Regardless of how busy her career is she finds time to support NAWIC and mentor fellow members. She points each person to the resources best suited for the individual. She listens. She finds a solution. She never gives up.”

The Carol A. Kueker memorial award recognizes individuals for their passion and dedication to NEF programs and the promotion of construction education through a variety of avenues. The special award is given to select individuals meeting the highest caliber of achievements demonstrated by Kueker. It is named in honor of the late Carol A. Kueker, a long-time trustee and volunteer who served as president of NEF. Kueker was instrumental in promoting the core purpose and goals of the organization.

NEF was founded in 1972 by volunteers from the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) who saw a need for quality training programs in the construction industry. Based in Orlando, FL, NEF is responsible for administering a variety of K-12 programs that help educate today’s youth to pursue construction careers. In addition, NEF offers a full-range of self-study construction industry programs for adults. NEF maintains partnering agreements with various education-related organizations that allow it to expand its offerings of educational programs, many of which are offered online. NEF is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit education foundation to which tax deductible contributions can be made.

The core purpose of NEF is to educate the construction industry today...and tomorrow. Its goals are to provide quality education programs for the construction industry and to promote the benefits of a career in the industry. For additional information about NEF, including its educational courses, go to www.nef-edu.org, send an email to nawicedu@gmail.com or call (866) 277-2883.

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