

HER BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

Unveiling the leading ladies of HCS

“The biggest challenge in working in a man-driven industry is sometimes they don’t take you seriously. Speak up — communication is key!”

Michelle Hardt, *owner of Hardt Construction Services*

ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO find skilled female workers in the construction industry, the woman-owned company Hardt Construction Services (HCS) has managed to do just that. The Bakersfield construction and design firm has secured top female leads in their industry to head the design department, operations, and administrative areas of their company.

HCS owner Michelle Hardt comments, “These women play an important role in the success of our company. We’re lucky to have qualified women moving our business forward.” The staff are hand selected based on expertise in their field, competence at their job, and overall industry experience. The company is officially certified as a Woman Business Enterprise (WBENC).

The leading ladies of HCS

Melissa Hieronymus, office manager says, “Besides handling the day-to-day finances, I have the privilege to meet with clients to go over their contracts and stay in touch with them throughout the process.” She is grateful for the opportunity to work in a positive environment and see all aspects of rta project—from start to finish.

Olga Perez, design and project engineering manager, has worked at HCS for four years. “My job consists of designing functional yet aesthetically pleasing spaces while overseeing the construction process.” Her favorite part about working at HCS is being a part of a supportive team that encourages thinking outside the box.

Melissa Shramm, project engineer, works with clients as their main point of contact throughout the project and oversees the construction and design team. Melissa says, “At HCS, everyone is friendly and willing to help each other grow and learn on a professional and personal level.”

Michelle Hardt breaks barriers

Michelle gives insight into her backstory of breaking barriers and navigating a male-dominated industry. At first, she was advised not to pursue interior design by her high school counselor and to pick another career path. “They told me there was no money in design, so I became a hairdresser and then sold real estate for a while.” Nevertheless, she returned to her love of design after her kids were in school. She began working at Sunshine Interiors, where the owner took Michelle under her wing and became an important mentor.

After working for Sunshine Interiors, Tim Hardt, co-owner of HCS, asked to bring his wife on board. Up until then, the company only handled construction. Her fresh vision and unique design perspective transformed the company into a one-stop shop for all construction and interior design needs. Michelle’s story is a testament to how following

your passion and mastering your skillset can transform not only a company but an entire industry.

We sat down with Michelle Hardt for a Q&A session on how to best achieve one’s goals as a female entrepreneur:

What has your journey been like as a woman business owner in construction and design? Have you experienced any challenges, and how did you overcome them?

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For those just starting, do you have any tips for finding your entrepreneurial spirit?

“Follow your passion. A lot of times, things don’t turn out the way you want them to — there can be unexpected delays or upset clients, so ensure what you’re doing is something you are passionate about. The best advice I can give is to trust your instincts.”

Hardt hopes this glimpse into HCS operations inspires other women entrepreneurs to excel and be leaders in their industry.

To learn more about the business or to inquire about construction and design projects, contact Hardt Construction Services at 661-333-7541 or nfo@hardtconstruction.biz. ■

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HCS

Under the Hardt Hat

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Lic.#972659

2900 E. Belle Terrace • Bakersfield, CA 93307

661-333-7541 • Info@hardtconstruction.biz

