

2013 Torchbearer Recipient

Kathy Reehling

Even in today's world, some industries are still male dominated and have made only few accommodations to encourage the integration of females. The construction and electrical fields are among them; yet, Kathy Reehling has found great success as an electrician, starting her own company and providing career opportunities for many others, particularly women, looking to get into the same line of work.

The Logansport, Indiana native began her career as a low level IT specialist with Eli Lilly and Co. and was quickly contracted to work on technical writing. Following her contract she asked to pull together partners and work on the validation of engineering projects. Her newly formed team, who became known as CREW, had the opportunity to work closely with electricians who were doing testing. CREW became very successful and their work stood on their own, leading to them being spun off as a separate company with Kathy being named as President. CREW is now a full service electrical contracting company with a supportive family friendly work environment.

When Kathy realized that only 1% of the Union Electricians in Indiana are female she went to leaders of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to find out why. She discovered many barriers for women looking to complete an electrical apprenticeship and immediately looked to rectify the issues. She worked with the Joint Apprenticeship Committee and the Indiana Plan Construction Training Program and led the formation of an all-female training program. This program allows women to get the same training offered in all Indiana Plan programs while receiving advice on how to handle a male dominated environment.

Serving children is also a passion for Kathy. She has been an Indiana 4-H Youth Development agent for over 25 years, helping children gain leadership and problem solving skills while participating in community service in their communities. As a leader with 4-H she helped grow the Boone County club from 16 members to over 100. Recently Kathy created the "Can Do Club" at Thornton Elementary School where she works with a select group of girls twice a month to give them some needed motivational and academic assistance.

Overcoming obstacles to reach personal success and giving back to help others do the same is why Kathy Reehling is a deserving Torchbearer Award recipient. She knows that women can be great electricians and is working to give them the opportunity to receive the good wages and great benefits that are offered with skilled trades. As a corporate and community leader Kathy has proven that women can succeed in any industry.



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