

WOMEN IN PROJECT CONTROLS



SPOTLIGHT ON DAYNA ANDERSON



Cindy Whitmill

Dayna Anderson was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. At a young age, she took an interest in math and science. From taking “blood and guts” science classes at age seven to being a member of a competitive math team in high school, her family was not surprised when she decided to study engineering in college. She received her Bachelors of Science degree in general engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. After graduation, Dayna pursued a niche career as a litigation consultant which combined her interests in construction, engineering, business, and law. She went to work at a mid-sized litigation consulting firm, which specialized in construction project controls and claims.

Today, Dayna is a Principal at The Kenrich Group LLC (“Kenrich”) in Chicago. She is a Certified Management Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner. She has spent the past 13 years preparing and analyzing construction cost overruns and schedule delay claims, as well as counseling subcontractors, contractors, and owners on project controls recommended practices. She has worked on both small and mega construction projects ranging from residential housing to oil refineries and power plants. She finds the work challenging and rewarding, as every construction project is unique and faces its own challenges. Dayna especially enjoys consulting with clients at the first sign of a troubled project, at which point, she assists by implementing cost and scheduling controls in order to minimize disputes down the road.

Dayna has been fortunate to have a number of mentors guide her throughout her career. These people have been crucial in helping her balance a fast-paced career and a busy life at home with two young children. Additionally, these same people helped promote her (and continue to help promote her) in a heavily male-dominated industry. Appreciating this support and understanding the necessity of such guidance, she implemented a formal mentoring program at Kenrich for incoming interns and staff consultants.

Dayna has been an active member of AACE International for over a decade. AACE has provided her excellent networking opportunities, quality technical training programs, and access to resource materials, including the Recommended Practices. She is currently the President of the Chicago-Midwest Section of AACE. She is working with other board members to recruit new members and to encourage current members to become more involved by joining various committees.

Choose a career that challenges you each day, one that excites you and pushes you to think outside of your comfort zone.

Dayna has attended the AACE Annual Meeting several times and finds the technical papers presented to be on-point and relevant. She has presented at these meetings on the topics of change order management and builders' risk insurance. At the 2016 meeting, she was a facilitator of a round table discussion held with the leadership of AACE sections throughout the world, many of which were women. She enjoyed the open forum where ideas were shared related to improved communication and increased membership at both the local and association levels.

When asked for words of wisdom, she responded, "Choose a career that challenges you each day, one that excites you and pushes you to think outside of your comfort zone. Boredom can transpire into laziness, and I do not know many (if any) lazy, successful people." ♦

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Seven Factors that Build Phenomenal Leaders

Dr. Kevin Coughlin

When looking for leadership in your business or organization—perhaps in yourself—there are several factors that are part of all great leaders. Consider the following seven factors to improve your leadership skills or help you identify those individuals in your organization that can take over leadership positions.

Motivation - Motivation is a huge key to any successful enterprise. Remember what motivates one person may not motivate another. True leaders can quickly identify motivating factors in an individual, in order to move them or influence them in a certain direction. In most cases individuals will be motivated by several factors, however one factor will prove to be the dominant one. When you find out what it is and how to use it your ability to influence will be greatly improved.

Tolerance - Tolerance is really the ability to respect others views, without selling yourself out. It is of utmost importance to understand where the people or organization are coming from and to realize that they may not understand your position. In order to accomplish this you must be an excellent communicator.

Trust - Trust is necessary to create the right environment. Consider the three sides of a triangle—or the BLT, which stands for Believe, Like, and Trust. Your goal is always to attempt to have individuals and businesses Believe, Like and Trust you and your organization. When you accomplish this you are well on your way to professional and personal success.

Purpose - Purpose is your mission—the driving forces behind your business. In some cases, your team may not fully understand the real purpose of their job or their organization. It is a leader's job to effectively convey their mission and purpose to others. Leaders know their purpose and the purpose of those around them.

Vision - All leaders have a clear vision, which is really what the ideal future will look like. It is important that a vision include values, and it is critical that good leadership make sure that the people and organization agree with your vision. When a leader's vision does not match the organizational vision in you will have problems.

Attitude - This may seem like a small thing, but a positive attitude can make a big difference and conversely a negative attitude can also make a big difference—but not in a good way. People and organizations feed off of leaders, and those with positive attitudes will receive the best response.

Awareness - A leader's awareness is the understanding of not just their own identity, but the identity of the people around them and their organization they represent. Each and every individual has a core identity, and the awareness to understand that core will improve your leadership. ♦