



Celebrating WIC WEEK!

Only **9.9%** of the
Construction Workforce
Is **Female.**

What Makes Our WICs Tick?

Emily Dean, PE

F&R Crozet Construction Services Manager



F&R Crozet CMT Engineer Emily Dean, PE manages multiple crews of technicians on dozens of concurrent testing and inspections project sites. She is organized, knowledgeable and formidable, having won more than a handful of awards for her fantastic work. Clients love her and so do we!

Was this career an accident or a plan?

ED: *Funny story, in high school I realized I loved math and science. So I went to my guidance counselor and she said "well you can be an accountant or an engineer" and here I am! I always knew I didn't want to be on the design side. I got a position here as a technician which led to the PM position and I've learned and grown with it since.*

What are some roadblocks you have met along the way in your career/education?

ED: *Getting the initial interview. Just getting in the door was the hardest part.*

What part of your work is most challenging?

ED: *I hadn't experienced any major challenges yet. But since becoming a mother, I now understand what I've heard forever. You are expected to work like you don't have kids and raise kids like you don't work. This field in particular and the hours that are truly needed to be efficient/effective make it very hard to balance work/life.*

Why do you feel there is such a shortage of females in this industry?

ED: *Construction sites are rough on the body and very demanding. There are just the day to day tasks on a*



site that take more effort to complete/manage. With that being said, two women I have met recently (one with AG Dillard and one with Barton Malow, both in high ranking, manager-type positions) are really rocking their jobs in this field. I know one has actually mentioned wanting to be able to mentor more young women in construction.

What is your dream project – the type of project that just thrills you every time you get to work on one?

ED: I prefer rebar and concrete and deep foundations. I don't get out in the field as much now (and I'm ok with that) but I really enjoyed these inspections. I also feel like when I show up, read the plans, and am able to speak the language and even find errors in, for example, rebar that a crew of rodbusters with YEARS of experience have missed, I take (undercover) pride in that.

What project are you most proud of?

ED: UVA Emergency Department Expansion and UVA Rotunda Restoration. It is less of pride in a specific project and more fun to drive around and be able to point out so much of our surrounding area that I've gotten the chance to be a part of.

If you'd like to rock the construction world like Emily, F&R has a place for you! Visit our careers page at: [FandR.com/careers](https://www.fandR.com/careers) and see how you fit into our family.



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