

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Tracey Abel has been with FM for 14 years. She started as a Project Manager in Capital Construction. She did not think she had a shot at the position, but not only did she get it, she later became and is now the supervisor for Capital Construction. After the first several months into her first role, she realized how much she loves working at CSU. Tracey shared that she believes the Capital Planning, Design, Construction, and Engineering field has made real strides over the past 14 years. She remembered that when she started, she was the only woman in construction project management and that Carol Dollard was leading the charge as the only woman in what would have been considered a non-traditional role as an engineer at the time.



Tracey Abel

Today is significantly different. Within the Planning, Design, Construction & Engineering sections, they are evenly split with 13 women and 14 men, and Tracey explains, “We don’t look at roles and responsibilities as non-traditional.” Tracey has a vision for the next 14 years: to help women enter the construction trades, breaking stereotypes and removing hurdles for those that want to work in the trades. To quote Tracey, “I admire the women that went before me, full of quotes and wisdom to pass on. My mother, grandmothers, and aunt helped me become both strong and gentle, teaching me to be thankful for the shoes I walk in, but willing to look at the shoes others walk in; to be compassionate but push through tough situations; to lead from the side and be wise enough to know when to follow. I would not have become the woman I am without all the good men that surround me personally and professionally. I am so thankful for the support and respect from those within FM and the University community.”

“Growth and comfort do not coexist,” said Ginni Rometty, CEO of IBM—a favorite quote of **Lindsay Brown**, who has experienced much growth over her 10 years working for Facilities Management. Her first position for FM came during her sophomore year when she became a Student Administrative Assistant that supported the Planning, Design, and Construction section, including the University Architect and Capital Construction Project Managers. She briefly supported the past FM Director, Steve Hultin, and his assistant at the time, Toni Scofield, with the Physical Development Committee, Master Plan Committee, and UFFAB. During the Canvas Stadium planning and construction period, she helped with the City/Community Engagement “Roadshows”—presentations that shared the development and construction occurring on campus.

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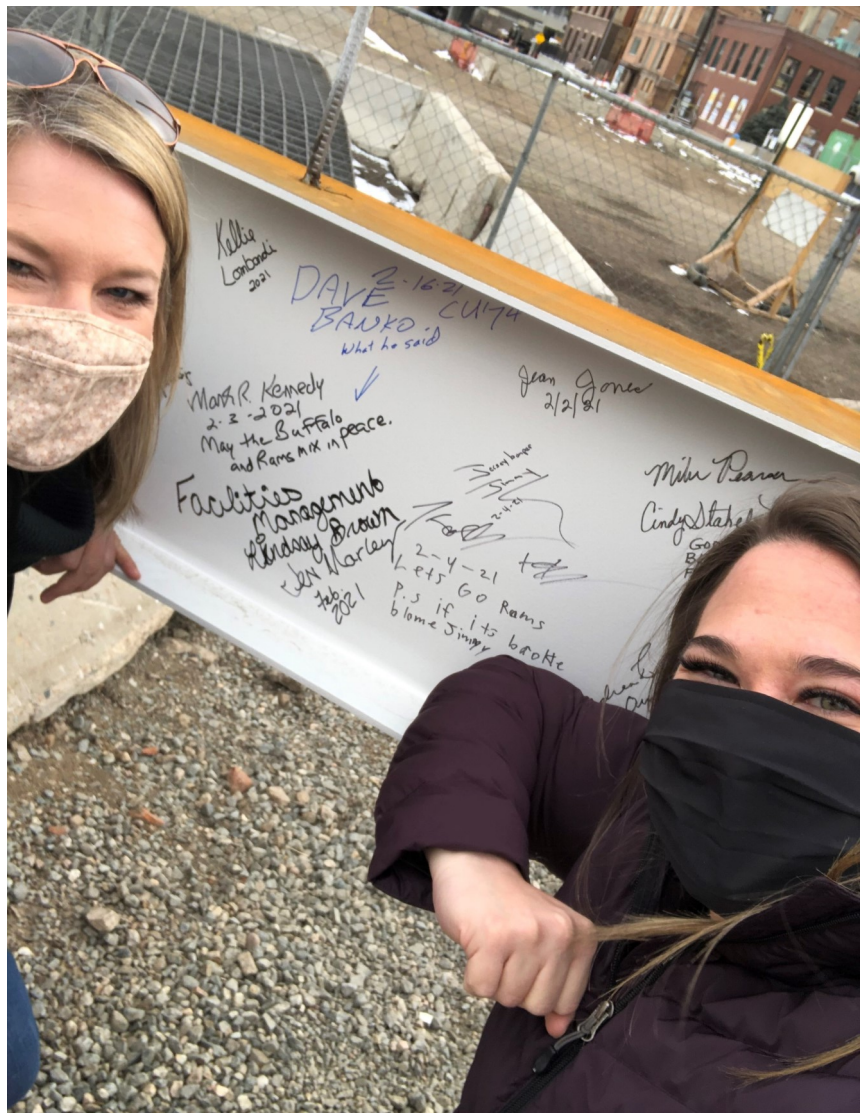
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And at another time, she assisted with the construction contracting process. Her most memorable experience in FM was planning and executing “Industry Day” in August 2018, which brought over 300 industry professionals to campus to learn about upcoming construction projects on the CSU Fort Collins and SPUR Campuses. While her position and roles have changed drastically during her career, Lindsay has continued to work with the same core group of people. Her current role is administering design/professional services and construction procurement and staff support for the Design Review Committee and Historic Building Review Board.

Lindsay expresses that, “All of these roles are now filled by incredibly talented women in FM who have developed and perfected these contributions to Facilities Management beyond what I could have imagined at the time.” She believes that women in the construction industry have advanced immeasurably since the time she joined FM when the field was majority male. “I believe that we have a few strong women leaders in FM, but I hope to see the ratio of women leaders in FM



Jen Marley (Left) and Lindsay Brown (Right) at beam signing - February 2021.

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