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Women in Construction on the Harbor Bridge Project

The Harbor Bridge Project (HBP) is proud to employ a talented female workforce involved in all departments, from administration to construction-related activities. We would like to recognize ladies who have contributed to significant progress in the field on the HBP this Winter. The HBP Construction Manager nominated Alezabeth Cadena and Lydia Cruz as up-and-coming engineers to watch when it comes to women in construction.

Alezabeth 'Liz' holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management and Applied Engineering with a minor in Construction Management and Business. Liz joined the HBP almost three years ago as an Equipment Engineer, transferred to a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) position, and now works in her third year as an Engineer on the Cable Stayed Bridge (CSB) North Pylon. Liz assists the North Pylon Manager with overseeing and providing technical support for five crews and subcontractors. Working nights to supervise concrete pours and climbing the 220-foot scaffolding several times daily to perform inspections around the tower table is common for Liz. In Liz's words: "I like construction for the people/culture and because there's always something new and exciting going on, so you never stop learning and you get to see what your impact is on the Project first hand." The CSB Manager praises Liz for her teamwork mantra and meticulous attention to detail and quality of work.

Lydia holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. In just 18 months, Lydia exceeded expectations on multiple assignments and was recently elevated from Cost and Equipment Engineer to Field Engineer for Superstructure Pier Segment installation on the South Approach. Despite being relatively new to major infrastructure, she accepts new scope assignments with vigor and a positive attitude. In Lydia's words: "Taking on new responsibilities and challenges allows me to continue growing in my career. I thrive on the stressful, controlled-chaos type of environment in major infrastructure, and it feels great knowing that I am working on a Project that will change the quality of life in this area." Lydia made an immediate impression with the Superstructure Manager as an essential asset to the team and someone with exceptional planning foresight in coordinating crews while maintaining their respect. She is a tough act to follow, and we admire her willingness to oversee a crane positioning a pier segment at 140-foot elevation while overcoming a fear of heights.

Also praiseworthy are several female managers and field personnel who consistently carry out their responsibilities despite hazardous live traffic and weather conditions.

Toni Locock is in her fifth year as the HBP Safety Manager with over 20 years of heavy construction experience. Toni's critical role oversees the safety training and compliance for more than 5,000 employees, subcontractors, and visitors who have set foot within the HPB footprint. Toni has a chess master's mind when it comes to executing her vision for no lost man-hours or recordable incidents. While fierce and strict at the helm, Toni embodies a 'Culture of Caring'. She genuinely has our back, and many of us believe she really does have 'have eyes in the back of her head.'

Christina Duskin is the HBP MOT and has been involved with the Project for four years. Christina enjoys construction because no two days are the same, and the ever-changing environment results from something evolving to be built better and safer. Christina is hands-on and continually seeks learning opportunities. The construction culture is team-oriented, and Christina goes the extra mile to make peers feel like an extension of her family and has built lifetime relationships after seven years in the industry.

Cristal Lopez joined the HBP four years ago and now has a primary role of a truck-mounted attenuator (TMA) vehicle operator. With over five years of heavy construction operations and maintenance (O&M) experience, Cristal is one of the trusted few to operate a TMA in strenuous traffic control situations. Cristal works all hours to protect roadwork crews by operating the attenuator during major detours and lane closures. Cristal is all business concerning her work in the field and care of the equipment and colleagues around her. Her Superintendent recognizes her hard work and wishes he could clone her.

Aracelis Rodriguez Sanchez joined the HBP last year as a laborer and quickly proved herself in the field to where Foremen were scrambling to snag her for their team. After advancing to a structures team, Aracelis learned to erect sign columns, pour bridge decks, and became trusted by her peers to work on the overhang installation. She is currently learning carpentry and continues to impress her Superintendent as a formidable team player who shoulders extreme weather conditions better than many of her male colleagues.

Please refer to our Facebook page or www.harborbidgeproject.com to see photos of the HBP women in construction.

