

SILICON VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Albanese construction firm named its first female project executive

Feb 14, 2022, 7:12pm PST

Construction firm Joseph J. Albanese has named its first woman to hold a senior-level project management position.

The Santa Clara-based company last week promoted Alexis Susnow to project executive. Susnow has been with the firm since graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2013, serving in positions including project engineer, senior project engineer, project manager and senior project manager.

"Throughout her eight years with the company, Alexis Susnow has shown exceptional commitment to our clients and team," Phillip Albanese, the firm's president & CEO, said in a press release.

Founded in 1955 by Joseph J. Albanese, Albanese has been family-owned and operated since then. It ranked No. 7 on the Business Journal's 2021 list of largest family-owned businesses, after bringing in \$295 million in 2020 revenue.

Although Susnow is Albanese's first female project executive, half of the team of engineers and project managers she leads is comprised of women. That's a big change from when she started out, she said.

"I used to walk into rooms, and I knew I was going to be the only woman in that meeting," Susnow said. "Now, I rarely find that that's the case."

Susnow's team is currently overseeing demolition and foundation work on projects including ones involving hospitality venues, Stanford University's campus and Meta Platforms Inc.'s corporate campus in Menlo Park.

Women make up 11% of the workforce in construction according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor's 2021 statistics. About 87% of the 1.2 million women working nationwide in construction jobs hold office positions, according to BigRentz, an Irvine-based equipment rental company. But women are severely underrepresented in positions on actual construction sites and in the executive suites, according to BigRents' report.

Although Susnow's college degree program — like the construction industry — was predominantly male, she had enough female peers that she realized that women had a place in the business, she said. Her own career and entry into the field indicates how important it is for the industry to make a concerted effort to recruit women, she said.

"I knew that I had wanted to try out construction as my first job and see how it goes," she said. "Then I really did fall in love with construction."



JOSEPH J. ALBANESE

Santa Clara-based construction firm Joseph J. Albanese has promoted Alexis Susnow to project executive.