Women in Mining



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How would you describe your experience as a woman working in the coal industry?

- Working in a male-dominated industry is normal for me now, but I had to a lot to prove at the beginning. You have to make your mind up that you want to do the job well and be strong-willed.
- You have to be determined to be successful and be persistent and consistent in your work.
- As a supervisor, my responsibility is to get my team to the work area, to keep them safe, to teach them about safety on the job, while at the same time being productive.

Do you think the coal sector should be placing more emphasis on hiring women?

- Historically, most industries have been dominated by men. It's not just the coal industry.
- It takes strong-willed, confident women to step up and make a name for themselves to help bring more women into the workforce.
- I think the coal industry should place more emphasis on hiring women. A woman can do anything she wants if she has a "want-to attitude." There are a lot of women out there like me who are capable of doing the job if given the opportunity.

What are some of the benefits of more diverse workplaces?

- Women think differently than men, and men think differently than women. Older generations don't think like younger generations. When you put us all together, you have a lot of different ideas to consider in order to get the job done.
- Sharing and discussing all of those ideas allows you to choose the best solutions to solve problems.

What would you say to women considering a career in coal mining?

- To women considering a career in coal mining, I would say go for it. It is very rewarding, yet demanding. It is a lot of fun, but you've got to want it.
- As a female coal miner, you have to give respect and demand respect. In an industry that has historically been male-dominant, respect is where it all begins for a woman. Then you build trust – let your actions and your work speak for you.

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