

WOMIEN TO WATCH 2024

From advocates to attorneys, doctors to directors and business owners to business advisors, this year's roster of local leading ladies stands as proud proof of a quote one honoree provided:

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.”

And as women continue to claim their spaces and use their voices to secure a well-deserved—and long-overdue—seat at the table, they're not only advancing their own careers but also making sure there's room for the next generation of female go-getters and rising stars. These 18 women comprising 2024's Women to Watch offer up their advice, stories and lessons learned throughout a variety of careers, and while their experiences may be varied, they often share the same view that working together, supporting one another and going for that scary leap are all crucial steps taking women further than ever before.

**EDITED BY MADELEINE MACCAR,
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PATRICIA MILLER

Owner, Blue Diamond Construction



Miller has more than 30 years of experience in commercial metal framing, working with general contractors, architects, engineers and developers to design and build office buildings, apartments, supermarkets, restaurants, retail stores, and medical and educational facilities. At the same time, she has been blazing a path for women in construction. Recently, the Women Builders Council named her an Outstanding Woman Builder. She also added author to her ac-

complishments with the publication of her memoir, *Kicking Karma's Ass: Unbelievable Stories of Strength, Resilience and Perseverance, All Told with a Twist of Humor*.

What advice do you have for women developing their leadership styles?

My men call me "Lady Boss." It's a compliment I appreciate. But there are critical differences between being a boss and being a leader. A boss demands. A leader coaches. A boss relies on authority, a leader on goodwill. Bosses issue ultimatums, leaders generate goodwill. A boss says "I." A leader says "We." One takes credit, the other gives credit. Same with blame: One places it, the other accepts it.