



Progress & Perspectives

WOMEN IN STEEL

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Can you share with us a little bit about your background and how you got your start in the steel industry?

I have been working in the steel industry for more than 30 years and have spent 20 of those with Nucor.

I got started in the industry as a receptionist at a service center and over time I worked my way up to billing clerk and later I got an inside sales position with that service center. I continued to advance through the sales side to become general manager of a couple of service centers before joining Nucor.

Why did you choose to work in the steel industry?

I think it is fair to say that I did not so much choose the steel industry, as it chose me. When I took that initial receptionist job at the service center, I did so because it was an available job. I did not take it because I had an interest in the steel industry, but that soon changed.

As a new person in sales in my early 20s, I participated in a training program with my employer at the time. As part of that training, they took a group of us through five steel mills so that we could learn about how steel was made. We toured Bethlehem Steel – Burns Harbor, U. S. Steel – Gary Works, Inland Steel, LTV and Nucor Steel–Indiana.

I was blown away by the difference between Nucor and the other four mills. While it was interesting to see how steel was made, it wasn't something that I really liked or could see myself doing.

But when we got to Nucor on the last day, Nucor teammates were so excited that we were there and would pull us aside to show us what they were doing. It was easy to see that they believed in Nucor and felt that what they were doing each day made a difference.

As we prepared to head home later that evening, I said to my general manager at the time that I would work for Nucor one day. He laughed at me and asked me what I would do for Nucor. I told him that I did not really care, but that I wanted to be a part of a team that believed in what they were doing. It was 15 years later when I got the opportunity to join the Nucor Steel–Arkansas team. I was thrilled and have experienced that pride I saw in the faces of the Nucor teammates I met on the tour that day.

“It isn’t always easy being the only female or one of just a few. But I believe as more women advance in male-dominated fields, it will get easier for those who come after us.”

Tell us about how you have advanced within Nucor to achieve your current role as executive vice president.

When I joined Nucor, I started as a district sales manager at Nucor Steel–Arkansas. I moved to Nucor Steel–Decatur LLC to serve as sales manager and then became operations manager.



I got my chance to be a general manager at Nucor Steel–Auburn’s bar mill before returning to Nucor Steel–Arkansas to serve as vice president and general manager. About two years ago, I came to the corporate office to serve as an executive vice president.

At Nucor, we believe the sky is the limit when it comes to each teammate’s career. It is one of the things I love about Nucor: only you limit what you are able to do here.

Can you talk about support or advice that you have received that has helped you advance to the executive level?

At Nucor, the concept of team is core to who we are as a company. We support each other, so all the teammates I have worked with along the way have played a role in helping me advance in my career and I have tried to do that for others.

Before I was promoted to the cold mill manager in Decatur, our former chief executive officer asked me who I would recommend for the job. I listed several names but not my own. It wasn’t until he asked me why that I realized I was selling myself short. That experience changed my perspective going forward.

Another trusted teammate and mentor helped me to see that although my background was not that of a traditional engineer, my passion and intuition were tremendous assets and that to be successful, I could not compare myself to others.

What advice do you have for women who are interested in pursuing a career in a field that is typically male-dominated?

My advice is to go for it. Find a company that fits your values and that allows you to be authentic at work.

Earlier I talked about our belief at Nucor that the sky is the limit for your career and only you limit what you are able to do. To women who are interested in careers in fields that are dominated by men, I say don’t limit yourself and be willing to take chances.

I’ll be honest, it isn’t always easy being the only female or one of just a few. But I believe as more women advance in male-dominated fields, it will get easier for those who come after us. ♦