

## FACES OF THE INDUSTRY

# Industry Trends

Members eagerly share their answers to the question:

What New Year's resolutions have you made for your professional life?



**Ksenia Tretiakova, P.E. | Greater New York/Long Island, N.Y. Chapter  
Senior Design Engineer | Leslie E. Robertson Associates Consulting  
Structural Engineers**

“When I began my career at Leslie E. Robertson Associates (LERA), I was fully focused on putting my best foot forward and producing high quality work. Although I still consider myself a young engineer, it is remarkable how much I’ve been shaped by the past three years at LERA. From resolving unique structural conundrums in new construction to understanding the symptoms and aging of historical buildings, I’ve learned so much from my work environment and from being involved in the wider AEC industry.”

“For the coming year, I’m determined to give back to the community that has helped me to grow as an individual and professional by contributing to volunteer and industry organizations where I can put my knowledge and enthusiasm to good use, such as Structural Engineers of New York (SEoNY), Association of Preservation Technology (APT), NAWIC, and the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen. Through volunteering, researching and networking, I hope to provide meaningful experiences and to create lasting relationships with others in the AEC industry.”



**Connie Lilley | Detroit, Mich. Chapter  
Territory Sales Manager | North Coast Roofing Systems/Carlisle SynTec  
Systems**

“While complaining to a friend about a colleague who had voiced an unfavorable opinion about my work, he calmly said to me, ‘You can’t help how others react to you.’ His comment hit me like a ton of bricks. No one had ever said that to me before. It was something I needed to hear.”

“My friend’s comment lead me to realize that I was letting other people’s opinions of me actually stifle me. I was wasting too much time worrying about other’s opinions, which in turn was causing me to be unproductive. [The year] 2017 will be the year I focus on the opinions of only those that truly matter. I plan to disregard comments from negative people in my midst. I believe if I can accomplish this, I can truly excel at my work and reach my full potential.”



**GeKai Halton | Austin, Texas Chapter  
Superintendent | Balfour Beatty Construction**

“I’m an extremely ambitious person; I’ve always felt like I was meant to do more than work a regular 9 to 5. Pursuing a career in construction was the best decision I ever made. I truly love what I do and with the New Year approaching quickly, I have set my sights on tackling goals that will put me in a position to reach and exceed my maximum potential and purpose in life. This includes: learning Spanish; attaining a LEED AP certification; assuming a leadership role in both my professional association (NAWIC) and within my company; increase both my and my company’s community involvement; pursue opportunities to educate, motivate, and inspire future generations; brand myself in a way that my face and my name becomes synonymous with industry excellence; network to establish and maintain both new and existing relationships to promote business development; and step outside of my comfort zone.”