



Minority-Owned Commercial Construction Company Places Majority Focus on Integrity

Plainville, CT based Network Interiors, Inc. is far from plain or ordinary. This woman-owned, 30-person commercial construction company – which specializes in interior and exterior metal framing, drywall, insulation, acoustical ceilings and rough and finish carpentry – has earned awards for its endeavors and repeat business from the general contractors/construction management firms for whom it subcontracts. The company has leapt ahead of the industry curve in safety training, apprenticeship training, information technology (IT), LEED® and Green Building construction.

What truly marks small but highly competitive Network Interiors and its owner, Melissa Sheffy, as extraordinary, is the company's personal approach and insistence on integrity; dual commitments which translate into longevity and success.

The business was established in 1991 by Melissa and her late husband Jay, with Melissa as sole owner, qualifying the company as a minority contractor. In 1998, Jay died of cancer, leaving Melissa as sole head of both her family, with two young daughters, and business.

"My company is like my family," she confirms, saying many core employees have been with her since day one. "I am equally passionate about my business and compassionate toward my employees. I love what we provide to our customers and the way we work together as a team," she states.

Network Interiors considers customers part of its extended family, working with them from project conception to provide the information needed to prepare budgets and perform value engineering. Foremen work

well with job superintendents, and the entire staff, from Sheffy down, utilizes a hands-on approach.

That approach has paid off. Network Interiors has successfully completed projects on schedule in a variety of industries, including healthcare (hospitals, medical offices, assisted living facilities), auto dealerships, federal buildings, labs, corporate edifices and educational institutions.

A recent example of the latter is Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. As a subcontractor for Cheshire, CT based FIP Construction, Network Interiors performed extensive interior construction on this historic campus.

Confirming Wesleyan University was the company's largest contract to date, Sheffy reports, "The project required a great deal of coordination on a taut time-frame, with students scheduled to return to classes. We surmounted the challenges of molding a contemporary design into a turn-of-the-century facility and working around exposed structural steel."

Sheffy recalls, "From the beginning, it was not a typical framing and drywall project. We supplied engineered shop drawings for all cold-formed exterior walls. The design also showed high ceilings, open mezzanine areas and several radius stairs and walls, many of which were laid out at an angle. The details called for thorough planning. Our foreman coordinated daily with the client and other trades. Needs were addressed immediately. Together with FIP, we completed the project successfully and on schedule." The project earned an Excellence in Construction Award as a Specialty Interior Contractor, Sheffy proudly reports.



Kevin Boyle, project executive for FIP, says his company's relationship with Network Interiors dates back 15 years and many successful projects. To him, Network Interiors is Melissa Sheffy, and vice-versa.

"I appreciate the company's quality of work and Melissa's integrity. When Melissa tells you she's going to do something, it gets done. When you find a person and a company like this, you want to go back. FIP has, many times," said Boyle.

Boyle concludes, "Network Interiors is always a team player with positive results." Melissa Sheffy says that is her ultimate goal. "We work hard to make our customer look good to their client," she says.

Small. Woman-owned. Hands-on team approach. Network Interiors proves beyond a drywall of a doubt that these traits, when backed by expertise and permeated with integrity, make the recipe for success in a highly competitive industry.