



2025 Women in Construction: Lea Cosenza, IMEG

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Lea Cosenza
Client Executive

IMEG

What is one project or achievement in your career that you are most proud of, and how did it impact your organization or community?

The University Center at Stevens Institute in Hoboken, NJ, is a project I am especially proud of. While not the most challenging from a design perspective, it was complex in terms of navigating value engineering while working closely with both the contractor and the design team. This required adaptability, problem-solving, and leadership. It also coincided with my transition to director of the New York office, reinforcing our presence. The experience shaped my growth, strengthening my ability to mentor others and lead with confidence.

Who or what has inspired you most in your career, and what advice would you share with the next generation of women entering the A/E/C industry?

IMEG project executive Jan Vacca. Seeing a woman (and mother) excel in a principal role showed I could advance my career while having a family. I gained invaluable experience from her in structural engineering, client relationships, team management, and work-life balance. I continue to learn from her and seek her guidance. My advice: There is a path for everyone. If you are passionate about the work, the rest will follow. While traditionally male-dominated, the industry is evolving, with more support for women to thrive. Stay focused, build strong relationships, and know that you belong here.

What's your favorite way to recharge or get inspired outside of work?

I work out — it gives me balance, energy, and focus, helping me stay present and motivated daily.

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