Denise Berger  
Senior Vice President and Chief Operation Officer, Northeast Region Design and Consulting Services  
AECOM

Denise Berger, FAIA joined AECOM in February 2020 as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Northeast, which includes Metro New York. Previously, Berger was Chief of Operations for the Engineering Department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) where she oversaw day-to-day operations as well as key strategic priorities, enterprise wide-engineering initiatives, and the expansion of integrated project delivery and use of Design-Build as the PANYNJ’s prime contracting strategy. In this capacity, she managed a team of more than 550 architects and engineers responsible for the planning, design, construction, and commissioning of $1.3 billion annually in critical transportation projects for the region. During her 30-year career at the PANYNJ, Berger led many complex, large-scale capital projects, including those related to the World Trade Center Master Plan. In 2016, she founded the PANYNJ’s Women’s Council to empower and advance women in leadership roles. She currently serves on the advisory board of NYIT School of Architecture & Design and the Board of Directors of Professional Women in Construction and Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) International. Berger has received numerous awards, and in 2019, WTS’ Greater New York Chapter named her “Woman of the Year.”

Luciana Burdi  
Deputy Director for Capital Programs and Environmental Affairs  
Massachusetts Port Authority

Architect and planner, with almost 20 years of experience working and managing design and construction projects, Dr. Luciana Burdi, Intl. Assoc. AIA, CCM is the Deputy Director for Capital Programs and Environmental Affairs for the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). In her role, Burdi is leading the shift of Capital Programs towards a more innovative, progressive, BIM and Design Technology-driven department. By adopting Lean and Lean Construction principles and concepts, she is committed to create a culture of continuous improvement focusing on maximizing the value for customers, improving quality outcomes, while reducing non-value-added activities. She was instrumental in implementing an employee engagement program in the department which received Authority-wide recognition and still exists today. Prior to joining Massport, she held several positions at the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She is a member of the CMAA National Board of Directors, the Chair of the CMAA (Construction Management Association of America) Emerging Technologies Committee, and is an instructor at both WPI (Worcester Polytechnic Institute) and WIT (Wentworth Institute of Technology). Burdi is an active member of the Lean Construction Institute New England Community of Practice, and AGC (Association of General Contractors) of America.

Jean Carroon  
Principal – Design, Preservation and Sustainability  
Goody Clancy

Jean Carroon, FAIA LEED Fellow, is a principal at Goody Clancy, a Boston-based design firm committed to building social value through a practice embracing architecture, planning and preservation. Carroon’s focus is on the opportunities inherent in the stewardship of existing places to shape a healthy resilient world.
She combines an understanding of history and building technology with a commitment to transforming places – redefining their relevance, utility, and flexibility while sustaining and enhancing essential beauty and value. Carroon is a Fellow of both the American Institute of Architects and the LEED program of the U.S. Green Building Council. She has served as a peer reviewer in the Design Excellence Program of the General Services Administration since 2008. Carroon is a frequent speaker, teacher and advocate for holistic design and the author of Sustainable Preservation: Greening Existing Buildings published by Wiley. She holds a B.A. and M. Arch. from the University of Oregon and served as the president of the Boston Society of Architects in 2019.

Laura Cooley
Associate Vice President & Director of Training and Development
Limbach

Laura Cooley is currently Associate Vice President & Director of Training and Development for Limbach, a nation-wide integrated building systems provider, which manages all components of mechanical, electrical, plumbing and control systems, from system design and construction through performance and maintenance. She oversees all training and development for the company’s ten business units and holds a seat on the company’s Women In Construction and Service Advisory Board with special emphasis on mentorship, leadership and training. Cooley graduated as an Industrial Engineer. With over twenty years in the construction industry, her diverse experience includes: project account management in micro-electronics; validation and commissioning management on bio-tech projects; and regional internal consulting for performance and operational excellence. As a private consultant she has contributed to the development, peer review and management of processes, procedures, development and execution of data analytics, audit, training and continuous improvement. Cooley has been an examiner for the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence - Baldrige Award; an ISO 9000 auditor; a QualTec SixSigma Instructor for Facilitator Skills, Team Leaders and Project Success Planning. She is an experienced partnering facilitator, instructor and coach.

Laura Cruickshank
Associate Vice President, Master Planner & Chief Architect
University of Connecticut

Laura A. Cruickshank, FAIA, the University of Connecticut’s Master Planner and Chief Architect and Associate Vice President for University Planning, Design & Construction, is responsible for the immediate and long-range planning, design and construction of UConn’s $2B Capital Plan for Storrs, the Regional Campuses and Law School. Prior to UConn, Laura Cruickshank was the Yale University Planner and directed planning and design on the Yale central campus; and led Yale planning, design and construction for the Yale-NUS College in Singapore. Prior to Yale, she was in private practice for over twenty years. Cruickshank received a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Holyoke College and Master of Architecture from the University of New Mexico School of Architecture & Planning. She holds architectural registration in Connecticut and is an elected member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, the Society for College and University Planning, the Association of University Architects and the National Organization of Minority Architects.

Carolina Cudemus-Jones
Director, Design and Construction Management
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Mireya “Carolina” Cudemus-Jones is the Director for Design and Construction Management for the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Cudemus-Jones has over 20 years of experience in complex private and public commercial construction projects including healthcare, higher education and K-12 schools. Prior to joining UMass – Amherst, she served as a Pre-Construction Executive with Gilbane Building
Company. Her responsibilities included her assignment as Deputy Director of a $1.7 billion School Reconstruction Program and Preconstruction Manager for the University of Connecticut as well as direct on-site construction management. Cudemus-Jones holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master’s in Business Administration. She is also a certified Design Build Institute of America Associate, a 2016 American Arbitration Association Higginbotham Fellow, and was recognized by the Connecticut Association of General Contractors as the 2016 Project Manager of the Year. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Construction Institute, and is actively involved with the Connecticut Professional Women in Construction.

Jane Edmonds  
Vice President, Programming and Community Outreach  
Babson College

Jane Edmonds career spans over 30 years of business experience. She has successfully led and managed small and large business and government organizations, including her own business that she founded in 1981. In her work, she helped organizations such as GE Capital Corporation, Fidelity, Bureau of the Census, United Technologies & McKee (now called CDM Smith) expand the contributions of their diverse human resources through leadership development, coaching, team-building and dispute resolution. She has served as a member of Governor Mitt Romney’s cabinet and as head of the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development. Following graduation from law school, she was also appointed by Governor Michael S. Dukakis as Chair of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (“MCAD.”) Edmonds serves on a variety of for-profit, state, and non-profit boards, among them Lahey Health & Medical Center, Goodwill Morgan Memorial, the Group Insurance Commission, the Boston Women’s Workforce Council and Facing History & Ourselves. She holds a B.A. from Harvard University and a Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School.

Natasha Espada  
Principal  
STUDIO ENÉE architects

Natasha Espada, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP is the founding Principal of STUDIO ENÉE, a women and minority-owned design firm with an expertise in architecture, urban planning, and interior design. She has over 25 years of design and construction expertise in both renovation and new construction of institutional, civic, and commercial buildings and has a special interest in design excellence and sustainability. The majority of her projects are for colleges, universities and public institutions, which require innovative planning and design, creative solutions, limited budgets, and successful user/client/team collaboration. Espada is the 2020 President of the Boston Society of Architects/AIA. Among many initiatives, her focus is on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the profession and in making Boston a Design City by promoting the value of architecture, design, and art equitably to all of the neighborhoods in Boston. She is a mid-career mentor for Women in Design and an adjunct professor at Northeastern University. As a Puerto Rican, she is dedicated to helping rebuild Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria as a collaborator with ResilientSEE and she serves on the board of the Town of Needham, Massachusetts’ Permanent Public Building Committee.

Katherine Faulkner  
Vice President Design  
Katerra

Katie Faulkner is currently the Vice President for Design at Katerra, a technology-based construction company specializing in end-to-end integration for full project delivery. Before that, she was a founding partner of NADAAA, an award-winning Boston-based architecture and design firm. NADAAA’s commitment to a process-based material research and fabrication has received global attention. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, the office was ranked no. 1 in design for Architect Magazine’s Top 50 Firms in the United
States. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Faulkner received her M. Arch. from Harvard’s Graduate School of Design. She has been working for twenty-five years on spaces for education, working, living, and healthcare. In 2010 she received an MBA from Boston University. Faulkner frequently lectures and serves on design juries. She has been recognized with notable awards, including the 2014 Holcim Award, three Green Good Design Awards, four Progressive Architecture Awards, as well as numerous AIA and Boston Society of Architects accolades including the 2017 Women in Design Award.

Jane Henry  
Founder and CEO  
SeeHerWork

Jane Henry’s background begins as a Division 1 Collegiate Athlete where she learned clothing and equipment matter when it comes to performing at a high level. Yet, as she says, “I spent 20 years in the oil and gas industry dealing with ill-fitting personal protective work clothing and equipment (also known as PPE).” It was not until Hurricane Harvey hit Houston in 2017, when she was forced to use the gear on a day-to-day basis, that she was inspired to start her company. Henry’s career began as a consultant with Accenture. She founded her first company in 2020, Xcution, a consultancy specializing in cultural transformations within the workforce. Post Hurricane Harvey recovery, Henry researched the breadth and depth of the ill-fitting work clothing and equipment issue. Henry unearthed information going back 50 years where women talked about how the PPE did not fit; thus, leaving women feeling as if they were not a part of the team, isolated and eventually leaving their roles. Today, Henry works with employers to set up PPE programs that support safe and inclusive work environments. She speaks to groups about the challenges many entrepreneurs have in implementing their ideas, and how to overcome what she calls “The Natural Human Instinct to Resist Change.”

Barbara Kroncke  
Executive Director  
University of Massachusetts Building Authority

Barbara J. Kroncke is the Executive Director of the University of Massachusetts Building Authority. She oversees an ambitious $2.1 billion growth plan that includes the acquisition and construction of and renovation to academic and research buildings, student residence halls and dining and athletic facilities on all five of the University of Massachusetts campuses. The Building Authority is currently managing more than 36 construction projects, each designed to improve teaching, learning and student life at the Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Worcester campuses of the University. Kroncke works together with the University president, Board of Trustees, and the campuses to deliver cost-effective, sustainable and high quality construction of world class buildings to support the mission of the University. Prior to joining the Building Authority, Kroncke was the Managing Partner of the Boston office of McCarter & English and Chair of the Public Finance Practice Group. Her practice was primarily in the area of public finance, advising clients on all aspects of capital financing including issuance and sale of tax-exempt and taxable securities. She served as bond counsel and as counsel to underwriters, and also represented borrowers, purchasers of municipal securities, and credit enhancers.

Colleen Moore  
Founder and President  
City Point Partners LLC

Colleen Moore founded City Point Partners LLC in 2009. City Point Partners is a woman-owned construction services firm serving the engineering and construction industries with a skilled team with experience in a broad range of projects – public and private; horizontal and vertical. With a nearly 30-year career in the AEC industry, Colleen understands the value of client service. Her career has been shaped by her experiences with some of the most respected engineering and construction firms in the New England
region and the lessons learned from these experiences are being applied to the management and operation of City Point Partners today. She has been guiding the firm through a period of steady growth helping to build the firm’s reputation as a trusted consultant who delivers quality work to clients while also serving as a great place for staff to grow professionally. Moore has a Masters in Construction Management from the Wentworth Institute of Technology, is an active member of WTS/Boston, the American Council of Engineering Companies, Massachusetts, the Construction Management Association of America New England and the Construction Industries of Massachusetts, Inc.

Jessica E. Murphy
Of Counsel
Mirick O’Connell DeMallie & Lougee

Jessica E. Murphy, Esq. is Of Counsel with Mirick O’Connell DeMallie & Lougee, LLP in Massachusetts. She is part of the firm’s Litigation Department, Construction Group and Creditors’ Rights, Bankruptcy and Reorganization Group. For the past fourteen years, she has litigated cases concentrating on commercial disputes and construction issues. She counsels and represents a variety of local and national companies, including manufacturing companies, construction companies, banking and financial institutions, and professional service firms. She provides legal services and advice on credit and collection matters, and often lectures and writes on these topics as well. Murphy is a member and past President of the Greater Worcester Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) and involved in Professional Development and Education Committees for NAWIC at all levels. She is also currently President of the Board of Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester, Inc.

Aisha Nadar
Senior Consultant
Advokatfirman RunelandAB

For over 30 years, Aisha Nadar has been actively involved in all phases of the negotiation and implementation of large-scale cross-border infrastructure and defence programs. Her consulting engineering experience includes holding senior level positions in the public and private sectors in the United States, the Middle East and Europe. Today, Nadar’s professional activities focus on procurement and contract management. She regularly advises clients on strategic procurement planning, contract drafting, contract management and dispute resolution and acts as arbitrator, mediator and dispute board member and has experience of proceedings under ICC, LCIA, SCC, DIAC, AAA, CRCICA, UNCITRAL and FIDIC rules. Nadar has carried out assignments related to procurement reform for organizations such as the World Bank, USAID and US DoD and is a regularly invited speaker at universities and specialized conferences on construction contracts and dispute resolution. She is a member of FIDIC’s Board, with primary responsibility for the FIDIC Contracts Committee, and is listed on FIDIC President’s List of Accredited Adjudicators. Nadar holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering (University of Nebraska), an MBA (University of Texas-Austin), an LL.M. in International Commercial Dispute Resolution (Queen Mary, UoL) and has completed the CIArb Diploma Course in International Commercial Arbitration, Oxford.

Siggy Pfendler
Director of Improvement & Innovation
Columbia

Siggy Pfendler, LEED AP, is the Director of Improvement & Innovation for Columbia, a leading construction management firm in New England. With more than 20 years of experience in the construction industry, she has held a variety of roles from a laborer, to a field engineer, to project manager, to Director of Virtual Construction in which she developed and implemented BIM workflows throughout Columbia, improving the delivery of high-quality projects to clients. In her role as Director of Improvement & Innovation, Pfendler interacts with all departments to define, identify, and develop best practice workflows and deploy the
technologies that support and improve operational efficiencies across the company. She has her M.S. in Construction Engineering & Management and her B.S. in Civil Engineering, both from Stanford University. She has served as Treasurer, Vice President, and Board Member of the National Association of Women in Construction, a past Committee Member of the AGC Building Women In Construction, and is currently Co-Leader of the Society for Construction Solutions’ Boston Chapter. Pfendler was recently honored with Constructech magazine’s Women in Construction award, as well as recognized by BuiltWorlds in their Adoption Leaders 50 List.

Anamaria Popescu
Managing Director
Berkeley Research Group - Construction Practice

Dr. Anamaria I. Popescu, P.E.,PSP, PMP, is a Managing Director of BRG’s Construction Practice based in Denver, CO. She is a construction arbitrator with the AAA and a licensed Professional Engineer with more than 26 years of experience in project management, construction claims, schedule delay analysis, project controls, and contract management. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas in Civil Engineering. Her doctoral thesis was on Forensic Schedule Analysis. She is also the Chairman of the Society of Construction Law North American Section. Popescu’s project experience includes power generation, natural gas drilling, pipelines, petrochemical and process plants, oil and gas production platforms, mining, water treatment plants, airports, telecommunications, and commercial construction in Australia, Canada, United States, Mexico, South America, South Africa, and China. She provided program/project management and project control services for projects ranging from $500,000 to $50 billion. As an expert witness, she has written numerous expert reports that led to successful settlements as well as testified in international and national arbitration hearings and dispute review board proceedings regarding delay and disruption claims. Popescu has also taught seminars and courses on scheduling, effective project controls, and dispute avoidance in the United States and internationally.

Paige Sarazin
Vice President
Sarazin General Contractors

Paige Sarazin is the Vice President of Sarazin General Contractors located in North Windham, Connecticut. Sarazin General Contractors is a certified Women-Owned Business specializing in commercial construction in both the public and private sectors. As Vice President of a small business, Sarazin oversees customer engagement, project management, contract compliance, and serves as Affirmative Action Compliance Officer. She is passionate about minority opportunity and inclusivity within the construction industry. Sarazin is focused on helping educate students about opportunities and helping grow the construction industry. She obtained a bachelor’s degree in Natural Sciences from Hofstra University. She is active in the Associated Builders and Contractors and served on the board of directors for the Emerging Leaders Group. Sarazin believes that the experience and knowledge gained from growing up in the family business helped ensure her success as a woman in the construction industry.

Catherine Schoenenberger
President
Stay Safe Traffic Products

Catherine Schoenenberger is President of Stay Safe Traffic Products, Inc. (established 2002). She has taught work Zone Safety throughout New England since 1998. She is among only a handful of approved certified instructors for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ flagger certification program and the sole female instructor. Schoenenberger served as the 2017-2018 National President of National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC); she is an active member of the Granite State Chapter #218. She is the founder and President of the NH Construction Career Days, which held its 11th Annual event in 2019. Schoenenberger is
Jessica Smith
Director of Human Resources
Bergmeyer Associates

Jessica Smith is well versed in the workings of the Boston architecture scene. She has recruited, interviewed, hired, coached, and advised hundreds of architects and designers at firms large and small including Shepley Bulfinch, Cannon Design, and Bergmeyer Associates. In addition to being Chair of the BSA Human Resources Committee and a former Trustee of the BSA Foundation Board, Smith has worked as a volunteer in India and was Director of Personnel for Earthwatch. Born in Berlin, educated in France, England and the United States, she is still somewhat nomadic but calls Ipswich, Massachusetts home.

Sean Sweeney
Vice President
ARCADIS U.S.

Sean Sweeney is the Boston Operations Leader for Arcadis’ Building practice and serves as a Higher Education Sector Lead for Arcadis US. In this role Sweeney partners with many colleges and universities to create strategies for their capital programs to better align with their mission. This includes "campus-based" owners such as healthcare and biopharmaceutical firms that wish to improve their service delivery through intelligent capital investments. He helps teams create the framework, project controls, and governance to help his clients achieve more consistent outcomes. Sweeney is a recognized leader in deferred maintenance issues and in the development of capital investment strategies for buildings and operational effectiveness. Sweeney developed and led MIT’s Accelerated Capital Renewal Program which strategically invested in the physical renewal of existing building MEP, building envelope, and life safety systems.

Catherine Walsh
Associate Vice President, Facilities Management
Northeastern University

Catherine Walsh is responsible for overall fiscal and administrative matters in her division, including the development, analysis and control of operating and plant fund budgets. She oversees all procurement and contract administration including designer selection, contract negotiation, award and all professional services phases of agreements to ensure project goals are fulfilled. Walsh manages the award and execution of construction contracts and other related support. In addition, Walsh is responsible for project control functions and the Program/Project Controls Group that tracks all project financials, schedules and documents within a computerized management information system and the Facilities Customer Service Center, a 24/7 operation coordinating response to over 70,000 work orders annually.

Joe Wargo
Senior Managing Consultant
Helbling & Associates

Joe Wargo has been a search consultant with Helbling since 2006. His recruitment experience is broad, having completed searches for AEC firms, general and specialty contractors, healthcare and higher education institutions, independent schools, and non-profit entities. Within the construction realm, he...
attracts professionals for roles within senior executive management, regional management, operations, finance, and business development. Wargo holds a B.S. in Business Administration, Finance from Robert Morris University. In representing diverse clientele, he has gained a valuable knowledge of recruitment and an appreciation for both the client and candidate perspectives.

Wendy Zang  
Managing Consultant  
Helbing & Associates

Wendy Zang has been a search consultant with Helbling since 2015. Her experience at the firm includes representing healthcare and higher education institutions, independent schools, corporations, and general contractors in securing mid- to senior-level planning, design, construction, and facilities professionals. With nearly 20 years of prior experience in journalism and management, she brings strong research, communication, and problem-solving skills to the executive search process. Zang holds a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism from Ohio University and an Advanced Certificate in Executive Search and Leadership Consulting from Cornell University. She is passionate about diversity in the workplace and has been a speaker, sponsor, and planning committee member for events empowering women in construction.