



DFI WOMEN IN DEEP FOUNDATIONS COMMITTEE PRESENTS

Converting Crisis into Opportunity – Different Perspectives

Webinar Series ▶ Supporting and connecting industry participants during this challenging COVID-19 time.

Tuesday, November 3, 2020*
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Eastern Time
Elizabeth Velez | Chair, New York Building Congress

Elizabeth Velez is an outspoken advocate for diversity and inclusion, and a sought after speaker on construction and infrastructure, leadership and mentoring. She is the President of the Velez Organization, a 50-year-old family owned and managed construction services firm - creating schools, hospitals and parks throughout New York. She is a Trustee of Boricua College; an accredited private institution serving students through three campuses in NY.



She is the Chair of the New York Building Congress – notably the first Latina in its 99-year history. She serves on the advisory boards of numerous NYC and NYS agencies, industry non-profits, and groups supporting mentorship and scholarships for youth. She is a Board Member of Catholic Charities NY, the NYC Police Foundation, the Women’s Builders Council, Columbia University’s Center for Buildings, Infrastructure & Public Space, ACE-Mentor NY and Youthbridge. She serves as a Commissioner on the NYC Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reform, and following the COVID-19 pandemic, serves as Advisory Board Member for the NYS Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board, and on NYC Real Estate & Construction Sector Advisory Council. Following Hurricane Maria’s disastrous landfall, Elizabeth was appointed to Governor Cuomo’s NY Stands with Puerto Rico Recovery & Rebuilding Committee, and she has spearheaded numerous workforce and economic development programs – including a satellite corporate office in Ponce Puerto Rico. On the international front, Ms. Velez is Co-Chair of Iran 180 – an organization that advocates for human rights. She was recognized as a “Manhattan Power 100” from *City & State*. She is a contributor to media outlets such as *MSNBC*, *Matter of Fact TV with Soledad O’Brien*, *Fox News Latino*, *The Daily News*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *El Diario La Prensa*, *Hispanic Business*, *ENR*, *City & State*, *Commercial Observer* and *Crain’s New York Business*. Elizabeth holds a Master of Business Administration from Hofstra University. Her greatest joys in life stem from embracing culture, family, and her son, David.

Tuesday, November 17, 2020*
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Eastern Time
Ashley Shirer, Ph.D., P.E. | Geotechnical Engineer, DiGioia Gray
“Not Being Afraid to Help Others”

Ashley is a senior geotechnical engineer for DiGioia Gray, whom has over ten years of experience designing foundations and evaluating subsurface conditions. Her research includes ancient earthwork construction, forensic geotechnical analysis, and more recently, deep

foundation design for the power delivery market. Additionally, she has experience in soil isotope analysis, micromorphology, geophysical survey techniques and traditional subsurface sampling. She is a technical expert and instructor for the Foundation Analysis and Design software, FAD Tools. Dr. Shirer holds a bachelor's degree in both Anthropology and Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University, a master's degree in archaeology from Arizona State University, and a Doctorate in Civil Engineering from Arizona State University from the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment. Her dissertation focused on developing a correlation between pressuremeter modulus and geophysical shear wave velocity measurements for the design of laterally loaded deep foundations. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in Arizona.



*November dates are subject to change.