

Pave the Way

5 Top Tips for Women in Construction

It's no secret that there is a lack of women in construction. But it may surprise you to know that only [1 out of 100](#) employees in the field are women. Given that women make up 47 percent of employed individuals, this means that the construction industry is only harnessing the power of only 1.25% of women in the U.S. workforce.

While construction companies are trying to recruit more women, the question remains: What can women do once they're hired to help propel their career in construction? Here are 5 tips that can help pave the way for women.

1. Understand your Peers

When first getting into a new industry, the first thing you must do is [listen](#). When you understand who you're working with, you can then find a way to be yourself but also understand how to do it in a way that fits in with the larger group—and you can [work together](#), instead of working against each other.



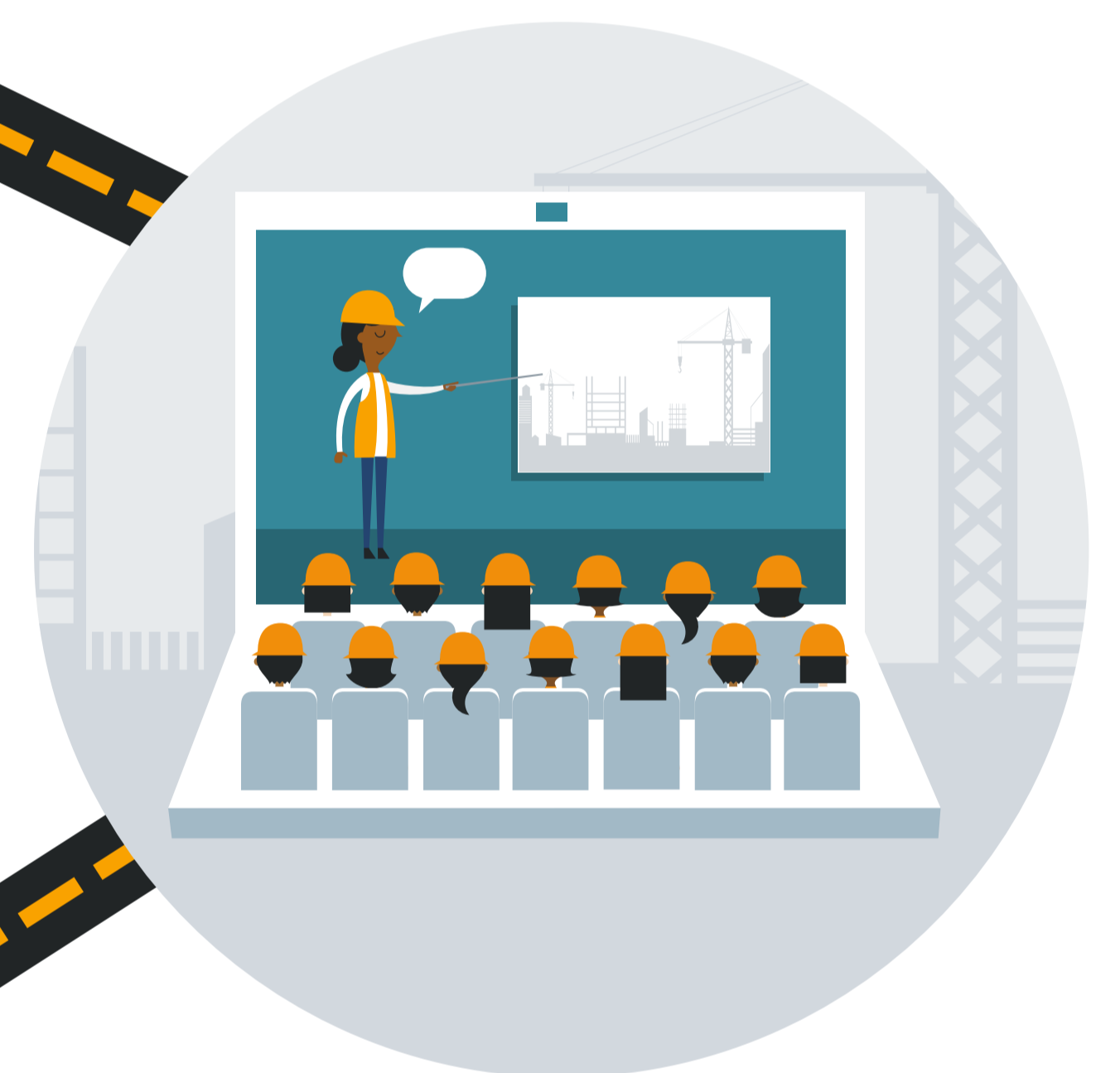
2. Get a Mentor

If you're new to the industry, you may not know what to expect and how best to get ahead. That's when having a mentor may be to your advantage. You can find one inside of your organization or join a group like the [National Association of Women in Construction](#). Mentors can be a valuable source of information and support as you begin your journey.



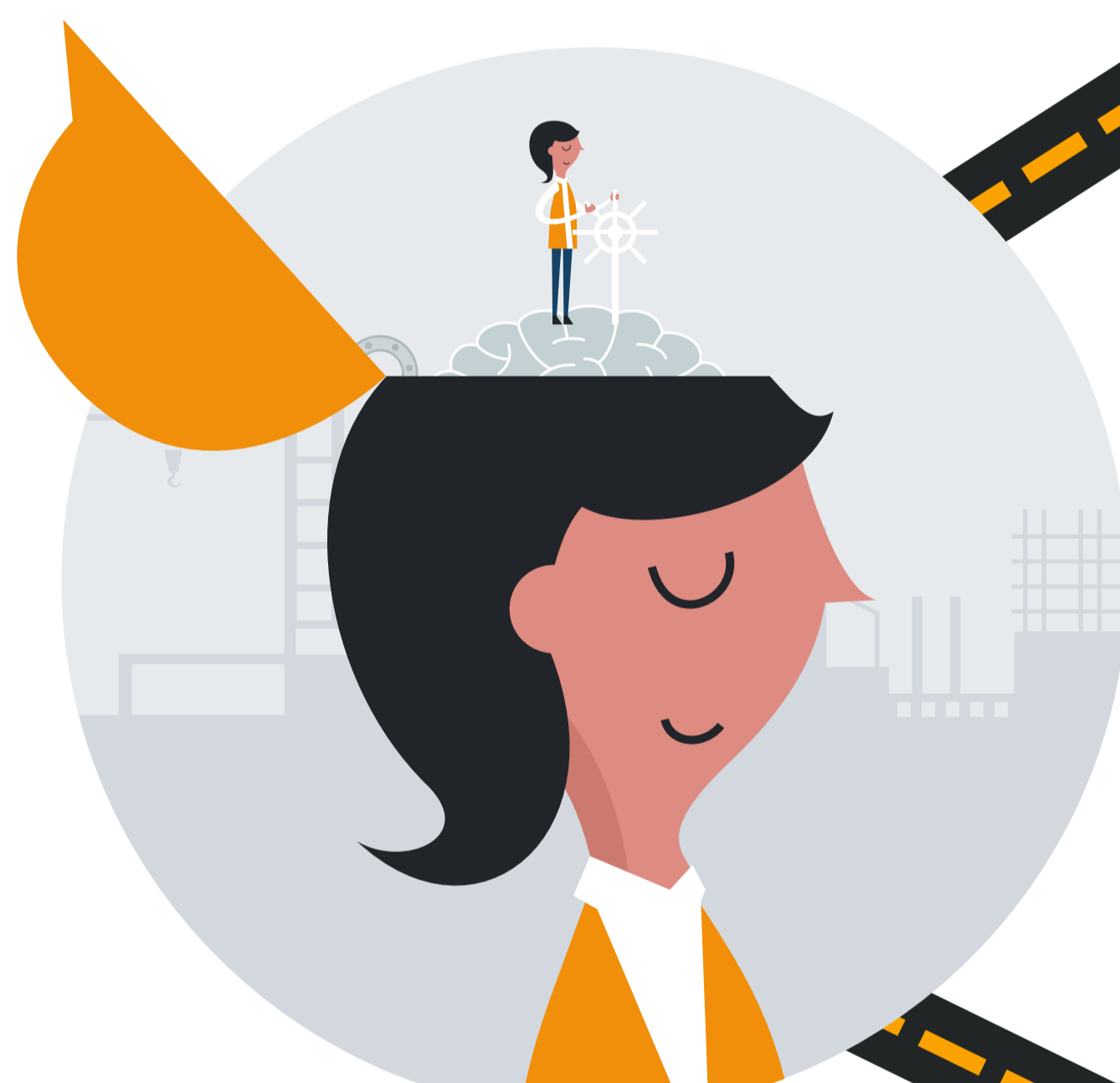
3. Keep Tabs on the Industry

When you know what's happening, you know how best to position yourself for success. To catch relevant seminars and workshops, women can attend events like NAWIC's annual conference as well as the [Groundbreaking Women in Construction Conference](#). Can't go to these events? You can still keep up to date by reading blogs like [Oregon Tradeswoman](#) among others.



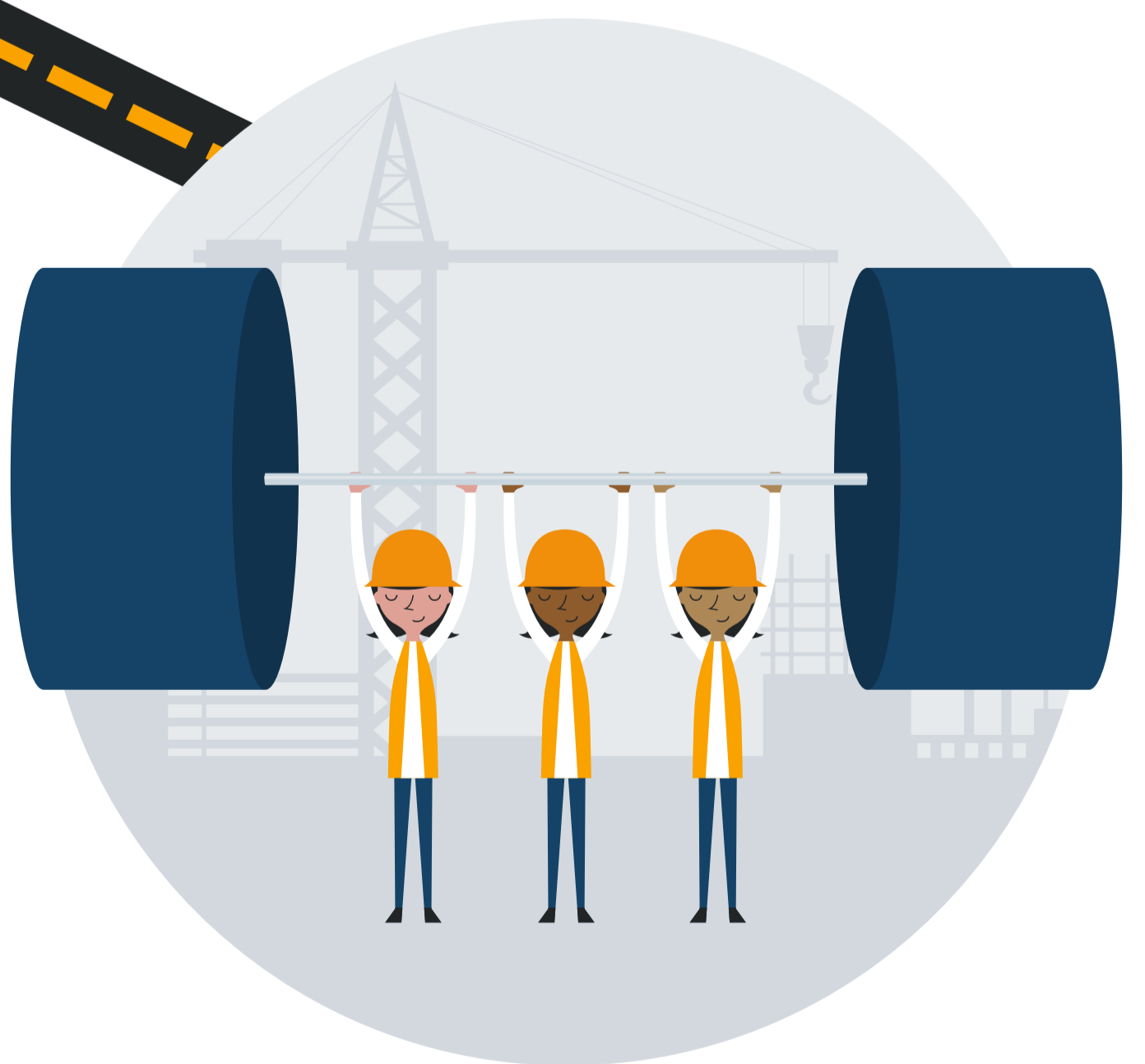
4. Show Your Critical Thinking Skills

Even though physical strength is lauded in the construction industry, workers must also be able to think cognitively and solve problems effectively. This is where women can excel. The success of any project depends on the successful adoption of a diverse set of ideas, whether employees are actively working on a project site, creating blueprints, or budgeting for a new project. Women have much to bring to the table and can visualize a project differently from male peers.



5. Empower Others

At the end of the day, when you start looking at challenges as opportunities, you are better able to grow professionally. Attempt to be the person that speaks up for positive changes on your team. And, once you know what you're doing, you can always give back and mentor others who are in a similar position to where you were when you started. By doing so, you can help the construction industry diversify its workforce and elevate new voices. Remember, **empowered women empower women.**



What's Next for Women in Construction?

Undoubtedly, workforce participation by women is an often-untapped economic driver. A 2017 report estimated that *“increased female labor force participation could accelerate US GDP growth, adding a staggering \$5.87 trillion to the global stock market in 10 years.”*

With that said, now is the time for employers to take a look at how to create an [inclusive workplace](#) for women in construction and leverage the power women hold.

Do you want to learn more about how encouraging diversity can take your construction workforce to the next level? Read [“What Does Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mean for Construction Companies?”](#).