

# TOP WOMEN TO WATCH

Women In Trucking (WIT) applauds these top performers who have achieved significant accomplishments in their career and who go the extra mile to help improve gender diversity — at their own companies and/or industry-wide. This second annual list highlights notable achievements by some of the most remarkable women in our industry.



**TINA ALBERT**

*Assistant Plant Manager  
Peterbilt Motors Company*

Recently promoted from accounting to operations. Led development of first mentorship program at PACCAR Engine Company and shaped its first-ever Diversity Council. Peterbilt Women's Initiative (PBWIN) 2019 Co-Chair.



**TAMI ALLENSWORTH**

*Senior Vice President,  
Customer Experience  
J.B. Hunt*

Trailblazer who now leads unit she helped create. Co-founded employee resource group GROW (Growing and Retaining Outstanding Women). Recently discussed the need for organizations like GROW with U.S. Department of Labor.



**LISA ANGARA**

*Enterprise Architect Manager  
Navistar*

Spearheaded development of products to improve driver experience. Lead developer for application to streamline customer service experience. Mentors, encourages and uplifts women around her.



**CATHY BAUDER**

*Driver, Owner Operator  
Steven Davis Trucking*

More than 25 years with a perfect driving record. Extremely supportive of fellow women drivers. Takes time to talk with them, offer advice and encouragement. Runner-up for Peterbilt's SuperFan search.



**COURTNEY BECKHAM**

*Sales Specialist  
SelectTrucks of Atlanta/  
Peach State Trucks*

In the top 3 percent of salespeople for over 10 years. Views truck sales as partnering, educating and supporting clients, so they can realize their dreams. Passionate about Women In Trucking.



**MONA BEEDLE**

*Founder  
Trucking Angels for Christ*

Hosts weekly call to inspire women to overcome everyday obstacles they face out on the road as well as at home. Chaplain for Channel 21 Ministries and active with Trucker Buddy International.

For a downloadable PDF, visit [WomenInTrucking.org/womentowatch2019](http://WomenInTrucking.org/womentowatch2019)



**JOSEPHINE BERISHA**

Senior Vice President, Global Compensation and Benefits  
XPO Logistics

Developed industry-leading compensation/benefits

policies for women and families, including a highly progressive Pregnancy Care policy. Helped increase female LTL drivers at XPO in North America by more than 30 percent.



**TRACY BIRD**

Branch Manager  
Trimac Transportation Inc.  
Strong leadership has led to increasing responsibilities and multiple promotions

in Bird's 17-year tenure at Trimac. With her guidance, her branch achieved biggest turnaround in the company's western U.S. region.



**MELISSA (MISSY) BLAIR**

Program Manager, Center for Transportation Training  
Pima Community College  
Promotes the industry to females of all ages – from

outreach in elementary schools to adults. Helped increase female enrollment from 8 percent in 2017 to 14 percent in 2018.



**DONNA BOESEN**

Customer Service Leader  
Veriha Trucking  
Passionate about ensuring success for both the company and its customers.

Leads by example. Boesen's productivity and response time exceed most, and she leaves a trail of dust behind her.



**JENNIFER BRAUN**

Vice President,  
Kansas City Operations  
Trinity Logistics

Progressed through the company to become first

female Vice President of a Regional Service Center. Her innovative ideas played key role in its profitability. Highly respected by peers, team and executive leadership.

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*Kary Schaefer of Freightliner Trucks (left) and WIT President/CEO Ellen Voie (right) with award finalists Nozuko Mayeza, Angela Eliacostas and Brooke Willey.*

## WIT Honors Influential Woman In Trucking

Angela Eliacostas got an early start in the trucking industry, learning how to fuel, park and wash trucks for her father, a long-hauler who also ran a trucking company. Her logistics career began in earnest when she joined BBI Trucking Company as a young, single mother of four. She started out as a part-time billing clerk, worked her way up to general manager and then ventured out on her own.

In 2005, she launched All Girls Transportation and Logistics from a basement office. As CEO, she worked hard, stayed on top of trends and technologies, and delivered on her promise to "keep the world turning" for her clients.

Today, the company, now AGT Global Logistics, has a strong client base for its utility logistics management services and is consistently ranked as a top-50 Illinois and top-1000 U.S. certified women-owned business.

In recognition of her success, the Women In Trucking Association (WIT) presented Eliacostas with the 2018 "Influential Woman In Trucking Award" at the *Accelerate!* Conference & Expo in November.

Sponsored by Freightliner Trucks, the annual award recognizes women in the trucking industry who make or influence key decisions, have a proven record of responsibility, and mentor and serve as a role model to other women.

Eliacostas was selected from a field of highly qualified nominees, including

finalists Brooke Willey, Vice President – Human Resources, CRST International, and Nozuko Mayeza, Managing Director, Tulsawiz Logistics.

Willey works with her team to create an atmosphere where CRST's nearly 8,000 employees can achieve what she calls "job joy" – enjoying what they do in a productive, safe and meaningful environment. The sole female executive in the C-suite when she started at the company in 2010, she embraced her position at the executive table and has successfully helped to recruit other female executives.

Mayeza defied the odds and started a trucking company, virtually unheard of for a woman in South Africa. Today, she is a mouthpiece for WIT in South Africa. A finalist for the Women in Africa Awards 2018, she influences decision makers in both government and the private sector to give business opportunities to women-owned companies.

"It is exciting to see so many remarkable women leaders in our industry," says Ellen Voie, WIT President and CEO. "We're honored to recognize Angela as the 2018 'Influential Woman in Trucking.'" She definitely will be an inspiration for Women In Trucking members."

Eliacostas plans to be a vocal advocate for the WIT mission. "I'm happy to show that dedication and perseverance lead to success in both business and in life, whether you're in work boots or heels." ■

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**DEBRA BRUNTON**

*Group Director Maintenance  
Ryder*  
Recently promoted, Brunton is the first woman to hold this position. Active sponsor of Women's Leadership forums at Ryder. Mentors women who are starting out in the trucking industry.



**ANGIE BUCHANAN**

*Vice President, Operations  
Melton Truck Lines*  
Recently named TCA's "Safety Professional of the Year" and promoted to Vice President of Operations. Her HR leadership helped Melton gain recognition as a top workplace by *The Oklahoman* and WIT.



**CYNTHIA CHAMPION**

*Transportation Safety  
Manager  
Martin Transport, Inc.*  
Named a "Rising Star" by the National Safety Council and "Responsible Care Partner of the Year" by the American Chemistry Council. An outstanding ambassador for women considering a career in transportation.



**DAWN COCHRAN**

*Professional Driver  
Old Dominion Freight Line*  
2018 Indiana State Truck Driving Champion for the 5-axel class. Sole female finalist across ALL classes in the National Truck Driving Championship last August. Tireless advocate for women in trucking.



**APRIL COOLIDGE**

*Driver/Trainer  
Walmart*  
Sets example for safe, conscientious driving. As a captain for Walmart's Arkansas Road Team and 2019 – 2020 America's Road Team nominee, Coolidge encourages women to seek opportunities in the trucking industry.



**KELLY CARGILL CROW**

*External Communications  
Manager  
FedEx Freight*  
Actively participates in diversity efforts and promotes the accomplishments of women at FedEx both internally and externally. Passionate about shaping the industry through communications leadership.



**MEZZALINA (LINA)  
DEJONGH**

*Branch Manager  
Trimac Transportation Inc.*  
Hard work and strong leadership skills have propelled Dejongh through the ranks at Trimac. Increased billable miles by 47 percent and driver count by 12 percent and added a profitable new product line.



**SHAYNE FANNING**

*B2B Communication & Events  
Michelin North America, Inc.*  
Played a key role in development of Michelin's Women's Network and piloted its first-ever B2B Women's Summit for marketing and sales professionals. Spearheaded top-tier sponsorship of WIT's *Accelerate!* Conference.



**SHIRLEY FOLEY**

*Vice President  
DTS Logistics, LLC*  
As an immigrant with no prior industry experience, Foley started as an office manager and worked tirelessly to master the business. Helped grow monthly sales 1000 percent. Treats employees like family.



**KRISTEN FORECKI**

*Vice President, Operations  
Convoy*  
Leadership marked by unflagging positivity, a willingness to roll up her sleeves and help, and the ability to bring out the best in her team. Founding executive of Women at Convoy.



**TRISH GARLAND**

*Corporate Vice President,  
Strategic Services  
Estes Express Lines*  
Highest-ranking female senior executive at Estes and leader at the helm of a significant transformation of corporate strategy and culture. Has helped blaze the trail for females entering the industry.

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“Blaze your own trail.”

– Brooke Willey



**Congratulations, Brooke**

For being named a finalist for the 2018 Influential Women in Trucking award, sponsored by Freightliner Trucks and the Women in Trucking Association!



BROOKE WILLEY  
Vice President  
Human Resources  
CRST International

www.crst.com | 1-800-736-2778 f t in



## Congratulations.

We are proud to celebrate **Kelly Cargill Crow, Communications Manager, FedEx Freight**, for being named a 2019 Women in Trucking **"Top Woman to Watch in Transportation"**



*Congratulations*  
to our **Two Top Women to Watch in Transportation!**



TRACY BIRD



MEZZALINA (LINA) DEJONGH

Trimac Transportation Inc. extends our heartfelt congratulations to branch managers Tracy Bird (Rock Springs, WY) & Mezzalina (Lina) DeJongh (Pensacola, FL) for being named a "2019 Top Woman to Watch in Transportation" by WIT's *Redefining the Road*. Tracy and Lina are sisters, and each has followed a path to their own success! Tracy & Lina have almost three decades of combined success within the industry and our company. Congratulations Tracy & Lina!



# 2019 TOP WOMEN TO WATCH

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**EMMA GELACEK**

*Safety Manager  
Garner Trucking*

A 25-year driving veteran, Gelacek now helps Garner's management team

understand the true issues out on the road. Helps facilitate Driver Advisory Board and create driver-focused programs that improve recruiting/retention.



**MARY ANN HUDSON**

*Executive Vice President  
Bibby Transportation Finance*

Driving radical change with focus on easy-to-access services for owner-operators

who are constantly on the move. Generated 70 percent more new business in 2018 by providing adaptable financing solutions.



**TRACY JAHNEL**

*Controller  
Sterling Transportation Services*

Actively seeks out professional growth

opportunities for Sterling staff. Works with non-profit Angel Share to create pathways to logistics and transportation employment for young adults aging out of foster care.



**TAMARA JALVING**

*Vice President, Human Resources  
Holland*

Encourages diversity and the recruitment and

development of females. The first woman to hold a Vice President position at Holland, Jalving is paving the way for women in the freight industry.



**TRACY JONAS**

*Operations Manager  
JX Enterprises, Inc.*

Consistently strong performer in a variety of positions. Recently

promoted. Known for taking on challenges and tackling them quickly. Passionate, knowledgeable about the industry and a powerful advocate for women.



**CHELSEA KENDRICK**

*Customer Education Manager  
KeepTruckin Inc.*

Recognized leader who sees needs and takes initiative to fill them. Helped to establish

and manage company's new Customer Education department. Dedicated to understanding and advocating for the customer.

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**Congratulations to Tina Albert  
Assistant Plant Manager  
Peterbilt Motors Company**

Recently named a  
"2019 Top Woman To Watch  
in Transportation" by WIT's  
*Redefining The Road.*



**JX Truck Center**

**2018 TOP COMPANY**  
FOR WOMEN TO WORK FOR  
IN TRANSPORTATION  
WOMEN IN TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

**CONGRATULATIONS TRACY JONAS**  
NAMED TOP WOMAN TO WATCH IN TRANSPORTATION 2019

**JXE.COM**

**THANK YOU TRACY FOR REDEFINING DIVERSITY IN THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY AND YOUR CONTINUED CONTRIBUTIONS TO JX.**

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OUR PEOPLE

## CONGRATULATIONS MARY ANN HUDSON

Bibby Financial Services is proud to acknowledge Mary Ann Hudson, EVP and Managing Director of Bibby Transportation Finance and member of our North American Executive Leadership Board, for her career achievements as a strong leader in the transportation industry. Mary Ann exemplifies our passion for doing the right thing for our clients and we are pleased she has been honored as a “Top Woman to Watch in Transportation.”

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# 2019 TOP WOMEN TO WATCH

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**TINA LEWIS**  
*Director, Legal Services  
 TVC Pro-Driver*  
 Positive, strong work ethic,  
 skilled in working with  
 drivers and companies.

Manages multi-lingual  
 department that is nearly 90 percent  
 female. Expanded company focus by  
 kickstarting CSA/DataQ Challenge  
 department.



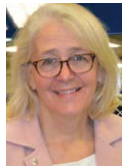
**MARY MALONE**  
*Vice President, Business  
 Development  
 Stay Metrics*  
 High-performing leader  
 who focuses on the unique

strengths of each staff person and brings  
 innovative ideas to the table. Encourages  
 the full participation of women at all levels  
 of the transportation industry.



**KRISSY MANZANO**  
*Senior Director of Sales,  
 Enterprise & Mid-Market Team  
 KeepTruckin Inc.*

Opened KeepTruckin's first  
 Nashville office, growing it to  
 over sixty full-time employees in less than  
 a year. Drove the charge to get competitive  
 maternity and paternity leave policy for all  
 employees.



**JUDY MCTIGUE**  
*Assistant General Manager –  
 Operations  
 Kenworth Truck Company*  
 Promoted multiple times

within the past two years to  
 positions of increasing responsibility due to  
 her outstanding dedication and diligence.  
 Encourages and promotes women within  
 the transportation industry.



**MACKENZIE MELTON**  
*Recruiting Manager  
 Garner Trucking*  
 A veteran driver, Melton uses  
 her firsthand knowledge  
 to find ways to recognize  
 and motivate drivers and ensure they're  
 treated fairly. Helped to develop Proactive  
 Communication Program for new hires.



**MELISSA NISHAN**  
*Vice President, Driver  
 Recruiting  
 Epes Transport System, LLC*  
 Company's first female Vice  
 President. Led charge to

improve driver onboarding experience,  
 increasing driver applicant flow by about  
 50 percent within nine months. Encourages  
 women in the trucking industry.

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**KATLIN OWENS**

*Corporate Communications Manager  
CFI*

Created the company's SheDrivesCFI program to

advocate for professional drivers and the industry, and recently expanded CFI's Women in Leadership to all female employees. Strong advocate for female co-workers.



**JENNIFER PIATT**

*Elite Support and Diversity Manager  
Stoops Freightliner*

Always up for a new challenge, Piatt has risen

through the ranks at Stoops. Her current focus? Creating a diversity program and growing a culture that supports women for the company's dealerships.



**JENNIFER RADCLIFFE**

*President  
Insight Technology, Inc.*  
Management team is 100 percent female. Discounts and referral bonuses for

new FactorLoads customers with a woman owner or driver. Top-notch health care and workplace health program.



**MICHELLE RICHARD**

*Vice President, Human Resources  
Saia LTL Freight*

Recent initiatives include revamping Saia's wellness

program, implementing a driver-friendly Applicant Tracking System, creating a female driver focus group and implementing programs to increase employee engagement.



**ERIKA RIOS**

*Retail Sales Consultant  
Arrow Truck Sales*

Her transportation career started in high school.

Valuable resource for women

who want to learn about the industry. Driven to provide excellent customer satisfaction. Earned 2018 Diamond Level Sales Award.



**AMANDA RODRIGUEZ**

*Account Manager/Regional Sales Consultant  
Navistar, Inc.*

First female sales consultant and account manager

for Connected Services. Her passion is infectious, especially among new female employees. Takes a personal interest in her customers' success.

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Old Dominion would like to congratulate **Dawn Cochran** from our Indianapolis service center on being recognized by *Women in Trucking* as a **Top Woman to Watch in 2019!** Dawn is a selfless advocate for women considering a career in trucking. Her contributions of safety and professionalism are invaluable to the industry.

visit [odfl.com/careers](http://odfl.com/careers)



**Congratulations to  
Courtney Beckham,  
Sales Specialist for  
SelectTrucks of Atlanta/  
Peach State Trucks**

Recently named a "2019 Top Woman  
To Watch in Transportation"  
by WIT's *Redefining The Road.*

[PeachStateTrucks.com](http://PeachStateTrucks.com)

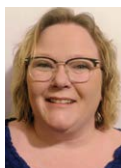


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**JANE ROSAASEN**  
*Plant Manager – Mount Holly Truck Manufacturing Plant Daimler Trucks North America*  
Mentor for up-and-coming women at Daimler Trucks and advocate for women in the industry. Active supporter of company's Executive Women's Roundtable and Women's Interactive Network.



**ROXIE SANFORD**  
*Director, Driver Services Winnipeg Motor Express*  
Brought new energy to the company's driver services team. Dramatically improved driver recruitment/retention as well as the safety program. Ensures that women in the organization are given fair and equal opportunity.



**CRYSTAL SEQUIN**  
*Vice President, Distribution Channel Strategy Navistar, Inc.*  
Worked her way up from Technical Writer to Vice President. Strong leader who consistently includes strong, intelligent women on her team and encourages them to think freely and offers guidance for growth.



**LEAH SHAVER**  
*Chief Operating Officer The National Transportation Institute*  
Recognized expert helping to shape how the industry responds to the driver shortage. An active WIT board member, Shaver helped develop the WIT Index to monitor the percentage of women in the industry.



**SHANNON SPENCE**  
*Trailer Sales Representative Stoops Freightliner - Quality Trailer*  
The only woman in the Indianapolis truck/trailer sales market, Spence ranks in the top five in sales at Stoops, generating \$11 million in sales last year. Strong ambassador for the trucking industry.



**AMANDA THOMPSON**  
*Vice President, Human Resources U.S. Xpress*  
With a driver-first mentality, Thompson spearheaded transformation of company's driver training program from a traditional classroom-style program to a multi-platform ongoing career development center.



**MELISSA TOMLEN**  
*Senior Vice President, Accountability & Performance YRC Freight*  
Committed to paying it forward to women across the company. Executive sponsor of WE at YRC, an employee resource group focused on women which includes a multi-year women's leadership development program.



**CARIANNE TORRISSI**  
*Partner Goldberg Segalla LLP*  
Specializes in the defense of trucking companies. Learned the business from the ground up as a third-generation member of a trucking family. Member of steering committee for her firm's Women's Initiative.

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**Congratulations to  
Nozuko Mayeza  
Managing Director, Tulsawiz  
2018 WIT "Influential Woman  
In Trucking" Finalist**





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Midwest applicants visit [careers.hollandregional.com](http://careers.hollandregional.com)

West Coast applicants visit [reddawayregional.com/careers](http://reddawayregional.com/careers)



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**SAUNNY TUCKER**

*Vice President  
Art Pape Transfer  
DBA/Tucker Freight Lines*  
Transformed company culture by recognizing the value of female employees and their vital role in the success of the organization. Company size has nearly doubled since Tucker became majority owner.



**CONNIE VAUGHN**

*Government Relations  
Manager  
McKee Foods Corporation*  
First woman Chairperson of the Tennessee Trucking

Association. Experience and in-depth knowledge in governmental affairs and trucking positions her to make great inroads for women in the industry.



**ELAINE WEACKLER**

*Customer Service  
Representative  
Veriha Trucking Inc.*  
Tops the leaderboard for customer service metrics by

focusing on doing the right thing for her customers and for Veriha. Readily shares her experience and recognizes efforts of other team members.



**MEGAN WELLS**

*Director of Employee Services  
Veriha Trucking*

Recently promoted to the newly created Director role, Wells is the heart of Veriha's employee relations and a main driver of corporate culture. She inspires employees to bring their "A" game every day.



**HEATHER WILSON**

*Chief Commercial Officer  
BMO Transportation Finance*  
An inclusive leader with a passion for innovation and creating a best-in-class

employee and customer experience. Active member of BMO's Executive Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee and 2019 WIT board member. ■



## New Column for WIT eNews: Ask the Influential Woman in Trucking

**Who better to answer industry questions than a successful businesswoman who also was named WIT's 2018 "Influential Woman in Trucking"?**

Angela Eliacostas, Founder and CEO of AGT Global Logistics, will offer advice and words of encouragement as she participates in WIT's new column beginning in March.

Eliacostas has made it her mission to give back and will personally respond to questions concerning the trucking and logistics industries. Her column will be featured in the WIT newsletter and blog and on the AGT Global Logistics blog. Her goal is to increase her outreach with WIT throughout the upcoming year and to support the organization's efforts to encourage the employment of women in the trucking and logistics industries.

In addition, Angela looks forward to talking with the women who are featured as WIT Members of the Month, being a mentor in the WIT Mentoring program and attending the *Accelerate!* Conference & Expo Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2019 in Dallas.

"Winning the 'Influential Woman In Trucking' award is a great honor," Eliacostas says. "I'm a proud member of Women In Trucking and have witnessed the growth of the organization. It's a great time to be a woman in the world of trucking, and I look forward to teaming-up with the association and promoting their initiatives in 2019."

WIT's goal is to feature the new recipient of the "Influential Woman in Trucking Award" each year through their own perspectives and experiences in this column. ■

