



Leadership of an Iron Worker

Background:

Liberty Steel Erectors is a Hispanic owned small business located in Portland, Oregon. Co-owners are husband and wife team Gil and Diane Carreon. After Gil spent 20 years as an ironworker on structural steel projects, Gil & Diane struck out on their own and started Liberty Steel Erectors in 1994. They built a business in commercial and industrial metal fabrication and steel erection. Gil focuses primarily on manufacturing, operations, and marketing while Diane's focus is contract administration and estimating. Liberty Steel Erector's contract on the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building modernization is miscellaneous metal, and building and installing the monumental staircase. Gil is an active member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, and the National Association of Minority Contractors. His leadership focus is promoting opportunity for all minority and women owned businesses and Gil encourages the small business owners he mentors to manage their business growth so that business capacity and growth increase at levels that are profitable and sustainable. Gil wanted to have his own business for as long as he can remember. He shared "I was under the presumption that being my own boss was where I wanted to be! Not realizing, that in the 18 years we have been in business, I have had more bosses than I ever imagined! Gil has been an Ironworker by trade, for over 33 years and Liberty Steel is a member of Local 29 which represents 1,000 journey persons and 265 apprentices in the state of Oregon and 6 counties of southwest Washington and is an important partner to Liberty Steel for ongoing training and promotion of iron work as an industry and a career pathway.

How the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Project Helped:

The Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Project has helped Gil & Diane keep their crew busy during a recessionary time in the construction industry. They have built a stronger business relationship with



Gil Carreon, leader of Liberty Steel Erectors

Howard S. Wright (HSW) and are part of HSW's Executive Roundtable of subcontractors. Schedule has been critical on the project and Liberty Steel Erectors has increased their skill coordinating with other craft subcontractors to deliver the project safely, per specifications, and on time.

FAST FACTS

Project: Renovate GSA's Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt federal building creating a high performance green building consistent with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) intention.

Location: Portland, Oregon

Impacts: Opportunity for local small businesses, workers, families, commuters, and students.

Contract Value: \$355,000

Company: Liberty Steel Erectors - Steel Fabrication and Installation subcontractor

Partners: Howard S. Wright, SERA Architects