



Electric & Gas Industries Association

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EGIA and EGIA Foundation Announce New Board Members

Brad Barron and Mary Jean Anderson Join EGIA Board of Directors; Alicia Centeno Named EGIA Foundation Trustee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA) is a nonprofit trade association serving the home services industry through divisions including Contractor University, HVAC Distributor University, and OPTIMUS financing. Its affiliated 501(c)(3), the EGIA Foundation, works to build the next generation of home services professionals through scholarships, industry research and workforce development and recruitment. The two organizations have named three industry leaders to their governing boards: Brad Barron and Mary Jean Anderson to the EGIA Board of Directors, and Alicia Centeno to the EGIA Foundation Board of Trustees.

New EGIA Board Members

Brad Barron, CEO & Partner, Barron Home Services

Brad Barron is the fourth-generation leader of Barron Home Services, a Northwest Washington contractor serving five counties since 1972. Since taking over as CEO in 2023, he has grown the company to roughly \$50 million in annual revenue without acquisitions or outside capital. A licensed Professional Engineer, Barron also founded WholeHome Alliance, a contractor network built around shared best practices and leadership development and serves on advisory committees at Bellingham Technical College.

EGIA CEO and Board Secretary Bruce Matulich said Barron's record spoke for itself. "Brad has built something most contractors only aspire to — a culture people want to be part of and a business that keeps getting stronger without taking shortcuts. His experience on the operator side, combined with his commitment to developing the next generation of trade professionals, makes him a natural fit for this board." For Barron, joining EGIA was a chance to give back to an organization he'd long followed from the outside. "EGIA has been a resource I've respected for years. The opportunity to help shape what contractor education looks like going forward is one I don't take lightly."

Mary Jean Anderson, President & CEO, Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air (Retired)

When Mary Jean Anderson took over Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air in 2005, the San Diego-based company was more than \$1 million in debt. Two decades later, it ranks among the top 1% of HVAC and plumbing contractors in the country, with revenue approaching \$60 million. A past PHCC HVAC Contractor of the Year and former Nexstar board member, Anderson is also the founder of the Anderson Career Builder Institute — a tuition-free apprenticeship program

built around recruiting women and military veterans into the trades — and the author of *Here Comes Cannonball!*, a memoir about the company's 40-year journey.

“Mary Jean spent decades proving that doing right by your people and building a great business aren't in conflict,” Matulich said. “She's one of the most committed advocates for getting more women and veterans into the trades, and that combination — seasoned operator and industry voice — is exactly what we need around this table.” Anderson said the workforce challenge is what motivates her most. “The shortage doesn't fix itself. Contractors who understand and act on that are the ones who'll still be standing in ten years. I'm looking forward to working with EGIA to push the industry forward.”

New EGIA Foundation Trustee Will Help Build Future Industry Workforce

Alicia Centeno, Dealer Development Manager, Amana Brand, Daikin North America

Alicia Centeno came to HVAC by way of financial services and global manufacturing, joining the industry in 2010 and spending the years since focused on dealer development and national sales strategy. She currently leads dealer development for the Amana brand across North America at Daikin North America and holds a degree in Marketing from the University of Houston.

Matulich, who also serves as Chairman of the EGIA Foundation, said Centeno brings a perspective the board has been missing. “Alicia works with contractors every day. She understands the distance between where young people are and where this industry needs them to be — and she brings a manufacturer and dealer viewpoint that strengthens this board considerably.” Centeno said the Foundation's mission hit close to home. “The trades reshaped my own career in ways I didn't see coming. The Foundation is doing the real work of making sure more young people — especially those who wouldn't naturally think of HVAC as an option — know that path exists. That's a mission worth showing up for.”

About the Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA)

EGIA is a nonprofit organization that empowers home services contractors to get the most out of their businesses through industry-leading training, financing and marketplace solutions. Its Contractor University offers access to the industry's most recognized educators, who deliver innovative keys to success through online training systems, in-person workshops, conferences and webinars. OPTIMUS Financing, which has facilitated financing for hundreds of thousands of residential and business projects valued at over \$9 billion, provides contractors with a best-in-class suite of financing options. EGIA's HVAC Distributor University delivers powerful and convenient training solutions designed to empower sales team success within HVAC distribution businesses. EGIA is also a recognized leader in delivering sponsored demand management and resource efficiency services on behalf of electric, gas and water utilities and municipalities. These services include financing; rebate program administration and rebate processing; contractor network management, training and certification; and sales channel development and support. Learn more at www.EGIA.org.

About the EGIA Foundation

The EGIA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to resolving the skilled labor shortage in the home services industry by making a career in the trades universally accessible. The Foundation focuses heavily on workforce development activities, specifically opening doors for individuals who are not currently represented in the industry or who cannot afford traditional education and training programs. By delivering targeted educational resources and removing financial barriers, the Foundation empowers aspiring professionals to enter the field. The EGIA Foundation bridges the critical gap between education and employment by connecting students who have completed HVAC training programs directly with EGIA's vast national network of thousands of hiring contractors, making a secure career in the trades a reality. You can learn more about the EGIA Foundation at its website, EGIAFoundation.org, or its student-targeted web portal, AlwaysInDemand.com.

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