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BUILDING CENTRAL FLORIDA



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Julie Holmes, P.E.

President, JK2 Scenic

Back at home and building forward.

They say you can never go back home again, but that wasn't the case for me.

Growing up, I was always surrounded by construction. My father has been working in the industry my entire life, and after years of gaining experience with contractors, he decided to start his own company, JK2 Construction. Although construction has always been the family business, I never pictured myself in it.

When I left my hometown of Apopka, Florida, for the University of Florida, I planned to pursue medicine. It wasn't until my third year of college when I realized I no longer wanted to become a doctor. During a brainstorming session with my dad, he suggested I pursue civil engineering, an important process in construction. I've always had a knack for math and loved designing and creating things, so it seemed like the perfect fit.

After earning my degree, I worked for a couple of large civil engineering firms. I enjoyed my work and was happy in Atlanta, but little did I know there were big plans in store for me.

In 2013, my dad approached me about coming to work for the family business. I never imagined myself moving back to my hometown and working in construction, but I knew I would regret not exploring the opportunity—so I said goodbye to my civil engineering career and returned home to Central Florida.

The first job I started at JK2 Construction was completed on time, on budget and was a huge success. However, I decided I would rather work on the creative side of our business, JK2 Scenic. I was named Vice President of the Scenic Division and began to implement a few changes to increase production capacity, refine our services, and strategically increase market share.

After seeing our revenues grow by over 1,000%, we decided to spin off the Scenic Division into its own company in 2017 to allow additional growth opportunities for the creative side of our business. At that time, I took on the role of president and continued leading the day-to-day operations of JK2 Scenic. In November 2018, we were certified as a woman-owned and operated business by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), which was a goal since joining JK2. In an effort to become more involved in the construction industry, I was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the Central Florida Chapter of ABC and am excited to share a woman's perspective to the board's initiatives.

They say you never go back home again, but I'm not just back where I started—I'm helping take our family business, my community and our industry further. I'm incredibly proud to be a part of Greater Orlando's strong community of future leaders and women in construction.