



KENDRA BATTLE

JOURNEYPERSON GLAZIER



SPOTLIGHT

On Kendra Battle:

Title Glazier for Advanced Glass & Metal, LLC (Palm, Pa.)

Hometown Southwest Philadelphia, Pa.

Family Engaged to Braheem; 3-year-old daughter Anbrea

Education Parkway High School, Neumann University, FTI Tri-Green

Certificate Pre-Apprentice Program, Rowan University

ABOUT KENDRA

Quick with a smile, a laugh, or a joke, Kendra Battle has good reason to be happy. She has taken full advantage of opportunities that have come her way in life. As a glazier for Advanced Glass and Metal of Palm, Pa., Kendra enjoys the versatility and options available to her. "I love that I am always able to learn new things and am always challenged," says Kendra. "I can go from a swing stage on the 60th floor of a building to inside doing mirrors in a matter of days."



INDIRECT CAREER PATH

After graduating from Parkway Center City High School in 2005, Kendra attended Neumann University. She combined her studies in psychology and Spanish for a career in behavioral treatment. She dealt with individuals and families affected by drug and alcohol disorders and domestic abuse. However, the emotional and mental stress of the job eventually prompted her to leave. Kendra considered the traits she developed – ability to hold her own in stressful situations, resilience, and people skills – and looked for other opportunities.

Perhaps the most unusual alternative to patient service, underwater welding caught Kendra's eye. She learned about a program for an underwater welding apprenticeship. "I had done welding before," she explained. "I thought it was interesting and I'd give it a try." Kendra was one of 10,000 applicants for 10 apprenticeships. She took a test on the spot and placed 17th, demonstrating terrific aptitude but still seven places away from a

At left: Kendra (third from left) along with Suzi Person, Kathleen Lopez, Jim Burke, Cindy Ortman, Tureka Dixon, and Stephanie McClendon



Kendra off and on the job; Anbrea and Braheem

position. Remaining upbeat, Kendra took the advice of someone at the program to consider glazing. She inquired about the Finishing Trades Institute (FTI) and was hired as a programmatic coordinator in 2010. The next year, Kendra entered FTI's Tri-Green Certificate pre-apprentice program.

TRI-GREEN PARTICIPATION

The Tri-Green program was a non-traditional partnership between organized labor, employers, and public and private workforce development systems, including the Green Jobs Innovation Fund, which focused on safeguarding the environment with skilled and unskilled workers for green jobs in painting, drywall finishing, glazing, and weatherization. As a Tri-Green pre-apprentice, Kendra earned three certificates: Green Advantage, OSHA 10, and First Aid/CPR, plus 10 college credits.

During her glazing apprenticeship and in her role at Advanced Glass and Metal, Kendra has worked on a variety of interesting projects. She currently divides her time between installing interior and exterior glass on the 45th Floor at the Comcast Technology Center and performing interior and exterior glazing for the new global headquarters of Axalta Coating Systems at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

CAREER ADVANCEMENT

In May 2018, Kendra will graduate from Rowan University with a bachelor's degree in construction management. She's proud of her 3.8 GPA and membership in the Tau Sigma National Honor Society. While she doesn't yet know what the future holds, Kendra promises "I'm open to anything, but I want to stay within the union."

ADVICE FOR WOMEN

Women are relatively few in the trades, especially glazing. As a confident woman who has built a successful construction career, Kendra offers advice to those considering the same. "First and

foremost, I tell all women not to be fearful. If they allow fear to move them, they will defeat themselves before they start." Kendra adds that as glaziers, "We make remarkable buildings. We build serious relationships. I trust [my coworkers] with my life."

Kendra's outspoken endorsement of the trades, especially for women, has earned her roles in two industry presentations. She participated in a video for the National Association of Women in Construction last year and was interviewed for a local PBS documentary scheduled to air in May 2018.

"I'm always laughing," Kendra says. She tries to maintain a positive and motivating temperament. "I need everyone around me to feel good." This way, she explains, they can do their jobs well, and "we can focus on what we need to do to stay safe."

FAMILY TIME

When she's not juggling full-time work and school, Kendra remains committed to her fiancé Braheem (don't ask about wedding plans; she's got too many other things on her mind, Kendra admits with a chuckle) and her three-year-old daughter Anbrea. She manages to find time once a week to lead a nutritional fitness class at Anbrea's preschool. She cooks and introduces the children to different cultural foods, explains what it means to be vegetarian or pescatarian, and helps them be open-minded about their diet.

PERSONAL TIME

"I'm a girly girl," Kendra admits. When she's not geared up for her glazing work, she likes to wear dresses and heels. She also enjoys travel and is planning upcoming trips to the Bahamas and Puerto Rico. But you're as apt to find Kendra at a makeup class as you are to find her at the gun range, and she's not shy about being strong and capable in her life and work, however diverse those pursuits may be. "Do everything whole-heartedly," she advises. "You never know what will come out of it."