

Miller says that his local strives to onboard a more diverse workforce comprised of all races, genders, and backgrounds. BAC Local 3 here in Rochester exceeds the national average for diversity. "

Currently, 29% of the Bricklayers apprentices are persons of color, and 6% are women, Miller said.

## **Female Iron Workers apprentice: 'We go up in the sky'**

Pamela Greer is now a second-year apprentice with the Iron Workers Local 33. Before her introduction to MAPP, she held a job at a local pharmaceutical factory.

She said she loves her job. "My heart is happy. From where I came from to now, I am in awe about how my life has changed. I am so grateful that I made the right decision. I am at peace."

She described her first days as an apprentice, "My first job was at the Spencerport bridge. In the beginning, you help the journeymen and work your way up. I had to overcome my fear of heights immediately. In this job, we install beams --the structure-- we go up in the sky."

MAPP's funding comes from New York state and local building trades unions. Even private companies such as ESL Federal Credit Union have granted financial assistance to them.

Berry hopes that women and men in the Rochester area who are interested in entering into a well-paying career that offers structure and long-term stability reach out to inquire about the next cohort.

"Bit by bit and year by year, we make a difference for families right here in Rochester," he said. "I can't ask for anything more than that."

*For more information about MAPP/Project Phoenix, visit [www.rocmapp.org](http://www.rocmapp.org)*