

Farah Harris, MA, LCPC

Farah Harris is a psychotherapist and workplace belonging and well-being expert dedicated to disrupting unhealthy work environments. She is the founder and CEO of WorkingWell Daily®, a company that approaches workplace belonging and well-being from a psycho-social and emotional intelligence lens. Farah has helped individuals and Fortune 500 companies develop healthier workplaces where employees want to stay and thrive because their leaders and teams have grown in empathy, self-awareness, social awareness, and cultural awareness.

As a mental health practitioner and consultant, Farah is aware of the intersectionality between well-being, equity, and inclusion. She is a sought-after expert on mental health, psychological safety, workplace culture, and emotional intelligence. Her work has been featured in media and podcast platforms such as Forbes, Fast Company, Business Insider, Harvard Business Review, Huffington Post, Essence, Good Morning America, Martha Stewart, Thrive Global, and Therapy for Black Girls.

Farah is also the author of the international bestselling book, *The Color of Emotional Intelligence: Elevating Our Self and Social Awareness to Address Inequities*, a groundbreaking exploration of how cultural background and identity influence our emotional intelligence and shape our relationships with others.

Jonathan Acevedo, CPA

Jonathan is a manager at Wipfli who has provided accounting, auditing, and business advisory services to construction companies for over nine years. He works closely with owners and management to improve processes and business operations, with a main focus on delivering the full client experience. He provides value to his clients through actively listening and identifying opportunities for advancement within the construction industry, including architecture and engineering firms, general contractors, specialty trade contractors, and home builders.

Mikel Mays

Mikel L. Mays began his construction career as an intern in 2020, driven by the goal of acquiring skills to build a music center for his nonprofit, the Mays Music Centre of Excellence (MMCOE) a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high quality, diverse music lessons, programs, and ensembles to the Chicagoland area that are affordable and accessible to all). In four short years, Mays has progressed from intern to the role of Project & Business Development Engineer at Bulley & Andrews, a prominent construction firm in Chicago, where his involvement has contributed to projects totaling over \$100 million.

At Bulley & Andrews, Mays oversees diverse aspects of construction projects, ensuring seamless planning and execution. His attention to detail and effective project documentation management have played a pivotal role in ensuring timely project completion and fostering relationships internally and externally. In addition to his role's responsibilities, Mays co-leads the company's Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) initiative alongside other colleagues. Furthermore, founded the Young Professionals Alliance, dedicated to the career development of the next generation of construction leaders at B&A.

Outside of the office, Mays actively contributes to the industry's growth by participating in the Chicago Building Congress' Future Leaders and IDEA committee, highlighting his dedication to staying informed about industry trends and promoting innovation. Additionally, serves on the Chicagoland Associated General Contractors Construction Leadership Council committee.

Lynn Smith, P.G.

Ms. Smith is a Senior Level Leader and Environmental Professional with over 25 years of experience with expertise in environmental due diligence assessments, soil and waste management consultation, regulatory site investigations and remediation. Her experience also extends to coordinating asbestos, lead, and mold inspection and abatement for public and private sector clients. She brings experience in project and program management and real estate and transaction advisory consultation, showing her versatility and commitment to environmental sustainability.

Ms. Smith keeps current on emerging contaminants and evolving regulatory developments with PFAS. In her current role with Fehr Graham Engineering and Environmental, Ms. Smith is directing business development efforts and overseeing a diverse range of projects, including brownfield redevelopment. Ms. Smith is a Commissioner for the Village of Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission.

Mary Davolt, CPA, CCIFP

Mary has spent her career working with and in the construction industry. After more than thirty years of honing her financial, operational, and workforce management skills, she has returned to the industry after a much-deserved sabbatical. Mary is now providing advisory/consulting services to construction and technology firms as well as exploring board opportunities to enable her to bring the value of her unique perspective, leadership, and experience to the construction industry in new ways.

After taking a 9 month sabbatical to travel with her husband. She is working part-time as an advisor to the executive leadership team at Berger Contractors, Inc as well as serving as the “Financial Titan” on the Board of Advisors for Richard Group, Inc. Prior to this, Mary spent 5 years as the CFO & SR VP Risk Management at an ENR Top 50 Contractor working abroad and ENR Top 400 Contractor. Mary’s efforts leading digital & operational transformations led to many organizational gains including improving predictability on topline growth, uncovering areas at increased risk of profit erosion, and spotting opportunities for both significant short-term and long-term cost savings. Rolling out corporate-wide analytics allowed management to proactively solve/mitigate issues and improve employee satisfaction. Mary is passionate about the construction industry and all the people in it.