The Professional Women in Construction (PWC) organization paid tribute to a group of outstanding women at its annual Salute luncheon at The Yale Club in New York City.

Barbara Armand, president of Armand Corporation and chair of the PWC Salute to Women of Achievement luncheon, said the ranks of distinguished women in the industry has grown each year.

PWC president Lenore Janis introduced Corporate Leadership honoree Karen Roberts, president, Walmart Realty, who is responsible for a portfolio of close to one billion square feet.

Roberts called Walmart “a proud partner with PWC” and noted that the retail giant has launched the Global Women’s Empowerment initiative which will invest $100 million in grants over the next five years to empower women in 27 countries around the world.

In addition, Walmart is doubling its purchases from women-owned businesses globally to $20 billion a year.
Executive Achievement honoree Tanya Pope, executive director, Construction Business Services (CBS), Columbia University Facilities, thanked “women in construction everywhere who work very hard to distinguish themselves in a male dominated field.”

Presenter La-Verna Fountain, associate vice president, Columbia University Facilities, noted that Pope had facilitated the graduation of 53 M/WBE firms from the CAP/Columbia University Construction Mentorship program who have since been awarded over $60 million in contracts with the City of New York and Columbia University.

Tom Lewis, group vice president, U.S. Operations with Louis Berger Group, called Professional Achievement honoree Juliana Atmadja, Sc.D., P.E, principal hydrogeologist, Louis Berger Group, “an integral and incredibly important part of our team” whose work “has formed the basis for many of the firm’s key projects” including the current Hudson River Remediation and planned remediation of the Passaic River.

Barry Manning, regional sales director with AON Construction Services Group, praised the “intense passion, in-depth knowledge and technical expertise” of Business Leadership honoree Heidi Strom, senior vice president, AON Risk Services, Construction Services Group. Strom thanked her team with helping her “meet the challenges” encountered each day.

Longtime PWC supporter Joy Crichlow, retired director, supplier diversity with Con Edison of NY, Inc., said that with Business Achievement honoree Lore de la Bastide vice president of purchasing, Con Edison of NY, “steering the ship we will reach out to many more W/MBEs.” De la Bastide credited Con Edison for giving her the opportunity to learn and grow.

Business and Professional Leadership honoree Gloria B. Glas, AIA, partner, SLCE Architects, LLP, said that while we see more women contributing in the construction industry as architects, “managers, executives, developers, engineers, "a lot more still needs to be done to inspire women and help them find their opportunities."

David Penick, vice president, Hines, applauded Glas for the projects“ she is involved with. Glas is the principal architect of projects done in collaboration with such firms as Foster & partner, Atelier Jean Nouvel and SOM.

Career Achievement honoree Elly Spicer, director, NYC District Council of Carpenters Labor Technical College, pledged to continue to prove that a diversified workforce is productive and successful and noted that women now comprise 15% of the College’s apprentices.

David T. Meberg, president and CEO of Consolidated Carpet applauded Spicer for breaking through the “wood ceiling.” Meberg represents one of the College’s major association partners.