**Trucking is No Longer Just a Man’s Career**

***By \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

The job market is in a state of rapid change, fueled by the “Great Resignation” as Americans exit their current jobs in search of new careers with better wages and room for growth. Women, in particular, are helping lead this charge. Pursuing change, they may find the very opportunities they seek in an industry that is desperately looking for talented individuals.

In an effort to address the growing shortage of truck drivers, the American Trucking Associations (ATA), is currently launching a new campaign called “Women in Motion.” The Women in Motion campaign is designed to raise awareness of and promote rewarding careers in the industry to women.

Women in the trucking industry is neither new nor novel, but women are still a small minority in the business. While women make up 46.6% of the total workforce, of the nearly 3.7 million truck drivers in the U.S. only 7.8% are female. Yet, that still translates into more than a quarter of a million women working as professional truck drivers, which is an all-time high.

As a truck driver, I applaud the ATA for its efforts to celebrate and highlight the contributions of women to the trucking industry. It also helps me to answer a question I hear quite often: what kind of a woman becomes a trucker?

INSERT PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE AND DETAILS

Women in the trucking industry want work that they enjoy, that pays well, and that provides the kind of environment where they can thrive. Like any other person looking for a career, I see women in this business who want what works best for them. Many of us have found it in the trucking industry.

The trucking business also provides many other jobs that do not directly involve driving. Less than half of 7.65 million people working in trucking industry are employed as truckers. A woman looking to join the trucking industry can find a position as a manager, a dispatcher, or as an office or clerical worker. There are also careers in sales, service, professional services like bookkeeping and logistics, and even executive and ownership positions.   And while fewer than 4 percent of diesel mechanics in the U.S. are women, that still amounts to nearly around 9,000 female diesel mechanics and the industry is still short

When I am on the road, I like to inspire and empower all generations of women to follow their dreams and not be afraid. Over the years, the number of women driving has definitely increased. I hope to open their minds to think outside the box. I encourage them to do the research, ask questions, meet other women professional truck drivers and follow their heart. Women in Motion is working to help by building and growing a community of engaged and empowered women in the trucking industry.

What kind of a woman becomes a trucker? I would say we are women who are adventurous, who are empowered, and who are leaders. We are wives, mothers, entrepreneurs, community volunteers, and friends.

Perhaps, we are someone just like you. The possibilities and opportunities are there for women in the trucking industry.

*AUTHOR BYLINE*

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