



OhioFBE

Celebrating Ohio's Women Owned Businesses

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Ronda Watson Barber —

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Volume 1—No. 2

Scaffold Caddy is finalist in BWC Safety Awards

The Scaffold Caddy is one of five finalists for the 2017 Safety Innovation Awards sponsored by the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

Designed by 2015 OhioMBE Top FBE Cathy Holloway and James Henderson, the Scaffold Caddy was created to alleviate the need for construction workers to transport conventional scaffold through a man door or on an elevator. It can also be utilized as a self-containment system, storing scaffolding when not in use. The Scaffold Caddy helps eliminate workforce injuries.

The Ohio Bureau of Workmen's Compensation performed an ergonomics study, and the results were astounding. The risk of CTD injury was decreased by 28% while production was increased by an amazing 88%. A task that previously took 70 minutes to complete can now be performed in only eight.

The final judging will be March 8 at the Ohio Safety Congress and Expo. The awards ceremony is March 9.

More information on the Scaffold Caddy can be found at www.ScaffoldCaddy.biz



Cathy Holloway

Business Profile: Williams Interior Designs



Carolyn Williams Francis

Williams Interior Designs is a highly successful Woman Owned Enterprise and Minority Business Enterprise (WBE & MBE) providing integrated office supply, furniture design, and procurement solutions for local, national, and international companies and organizations of every size. The company is owned by Carolyn Williams Francis.

Since their beginnings in 1985, they have created inviting spaces that help people work more efficiently and more harmoniously. Williams Interior Designs' mis-

sion is to provide high quality interior design and consultation, quality furnishings, and exceptional services at a competitive price by industry standards. Whatever the environment- Commercial, Healthcare, Institutional, or Educational providing quality solutions is the goal. Their professionals are experienced in space planning, facility planning, AutoCAD capabilities, furniture procurement, specification, and delivery and installation.

Williams Interior Designs, noted projects in Columbus, Ohio are: The Columbus Urban League, The renovation of the Lincoln Theatre, East High School and Linden McKinley High School and Dublin Methodist Hospital.

For the past 10 years, Mrs. Williams was co-founder and chair of Solomon's Scholars Ministry of Second Baptist Church. The group works with high school students preparing them for higher education. college preparation, college field trips, career day

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6 Startup Tips for Women Entrepreneurs

Women now own about 30 percent of U.S. businesses and employ nearly 8 million workers. Businesses owned by women provide one in seven jobs in privately-owned businesses, reports Womenable.com. Below are tips for women thinking about starting a business.

1. Find your passion. You are going to spend many long hours working in and on your business, so pick an industry that you don't just like, but are passionate about. When you are passionate, it shows, and your enthusiasm and belief in what you are doing translates to your customers, sparking their enthusiasm about what you are offering.

2. Fit your business to your personal goals. Are you looking to work part time to supplement the family income or work around the children's schedules or are you focused on building a full-time business? Is money or freedom the goal, or both? There's no rule that you have to work a full-time schedule when you run a business -- start a boutique business or work as a consultant. Choose a business and business style that suits your picture of a fulfilling life.

3. Keep your home and work life separate. It is important to set aside time for both personal and work lives, in order to give each the attention it deserves. Set specific office hours and unless there is an emergency, stick to them. Train yourself to work during office hours and do not accept calls or check emails after hours. Your customers and clients will also conform to your schedule as long as you stick to it. That means not calling or emailing others after hours. Create a separate work area,

whether inside the home or in outside office space, and shut the door to the office after hours.

4. Embrace technology. Don't let the lure of an incoming message get you off track, whether you are concentrating on a project or spending quality time with your loved ones. Let emails wait until morning or check them at certain times of the day only, allow your voicemail to take calls, and employ auto responders. Let technology work for you.

5. Form genuine connections. It can be difficult to work alone, so the connections you make will prove invaluable, and not only for business. Find a mentor or create a women's support group and share your ideas, goals and frustrations. Use the "village" to help you navigate the business landscape. Join a women's business association such as the National Association of Business Owners (NAWBO) or the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) for professional support and resources.

6. Define your brand. Carefully define your brand: what does it look like and what does it stand for? And stick to it. Make everything you do and offer conform to the brand, from color schemes, logo design, packaging, correspondence, and presentations, to customer service, and the company culture and mission. Do not deviate from your brand. It is the message and consistency by which your clients know, remember and trust you.

Having your own business is an adventure, so embrace the challenges and rewards it offers.

Source: www.entrepreneur.com

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visits and volunteering in the community with our students. American Red Cross, organizing blood drives at Second Baptist Church, volunteering for the American Heart Association.

Carolyn, has been married to attorney Stephen Francis for 29 years. They have 2 adult sons.

You can contact the company at www.williamsinteriordesigns.com

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Top Tips for Decluttering the Office

Many studies have revealed that there is a direct link between our working environment and productivity.

One of the many factors found to affect how well we work is the tidiness of our office. If you're tripping over boxes every time you walk to the printer or can never find the files you need for example, this will lead to feelings of frustration and anxiety which naturally, is no good for productivity levels.

If this sounds like a familiar scenario, below are some great tips for decluttering your office and freeing up more floor space.

• **Tame your cables.** With so many computers, keyboards, printers and phones to plug in, many offices find it difficult to hide and control all the necessary wires and cables. As well as looking very untidy, this also poses serious health and safety issues. There are lots of different cable management tools available which will help you to keep cables out of harm's way.

• **Involve employees.** The only way you're going to be able to stay on top of keeping your office tidy is by encouraging employees to do their bit. Whether it's keeping their desks or communal areas tidy, if everyone is helping out it's

much easier to keep mess to a minimum.

• **Use self storage.** If you have chairs, desks, printers or any other office furniture that isn't being used at the moment, why not put them into self storage? This is the ideal solution for companies who may need more or less staff at different times of the year. If you're particularly busy around Christmas for example, you may need to hire extra staff but when it quiets down you can store any unused work stations away.

• **Use clever storage options.** When buying desks, make sure they have plenty of drawers so employees can keep any paperwork and stationary neatly hidden. Chances are that you will need something to rest your printers on as well so rather than opting for a standard table, use a cupboard or drawers so you can store any supplies away. Also try to choose storage which can be stacked so that you can build upwards rather than outwards because this will save a lot of floor space. Shelves are another great storage solution because they don't take up any unnecessary space and they allow you to keep anything from paperwork and books to decorations and electrical equipment on them.

Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/9618435>

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Ohio Business Development Center
www.OHBDC.org




Women's Business Centers of Ohio
www.wbcoho.org

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