

Influential Women Profiles Joan Nabukeera: Senior Manager At CJ Logistics America

DES PLAINES, IL, UNITED STATES, August 13, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Driving Transportation Excellence Through Hands-On Leadership, Operational Accountability, and a Commitment to Advancing Women in the Industry

Joan Nabukeera is a seasoned logistics professional and Senior Manager at CJ Logistics America, based in Des Plaines, Illinois, whose career reflects resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to operational excellence. With more than a decade of experience in the trucking and transportation industry, Joan has built a reputation as a trusted leader who understands the importance of reliability, accountability, and strong relationships in complex supply chain environments.



Over the past six years, Joan has progressed through leadership roles overseeing fleet operations, coordinating teams, and driving performance across demanding transportation networks. In her current role, she plays an essential part in ensuring efficient and dependable delivery operations from planning through execution. Her hands-on management style, attention to detail, and ability to connect strategic goals with daily operations have made her a valuable contributor within the organization.

Joan's career journey is defined by transformation and determination. Before entering transportation, she built a foundation in social work, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Saint Augustine College. That background continues to influence her leadership approach today, providing her with strong interpersonal skills, empathy, and the ability to understand and support the people she leads.

Her transition into transportation began as a dispatcher, where she quickly demonstrated an

ability to manage complex situations, coordinate moving parts, and maintain strong customer relationships. Through dedication and continuous growth, she advanced into leadership roles including Dispatch Manager and Fleet Manager, developing expertise in operational coordination, team development, fleet performance, and service excellence.

Joan believes effective leadership requires being present and engaged. Rather than managing from a distance, she remains closely involved in her fleet's daily operations from "Step A to Z." In transportation, where reliability directly impacts safety and customer trust, she believes commitments must always be backed by action. When Joan gives a customer her word, she delivers on it.

She attributes much of her success to a foundation of uncompromising integrity and hands-on leadership. Joan combines a high-level executive mindset with the empathy gained from her social work background, often serving as both a strategist and a source of support for her drivers. She understands that strong operations depend not only on systems and processes but also on the people responsible for executing them.

Navigating a traditionally male-dominated industry has required Joan to develop confidence, resilience, and adaptability. She recognizes that women in leadership are often held to higher standards and face unique challenges, but she believes that meeting those expectations with determination, continuous improvement, and self-confidence creates opportunities for advancement.

One of the most influential moments in Joan's career came through the guidance of her mentor, Jessica Winters. After promoting Joan from dispatcher to manager, Jessica worked alongside her for three years as they built a successful team. However, Jessica eventually delivered advice that changed the direction of Joan's career.

She told Joan, "There is no more room for you to grow here."

Although it was difficult to hear, Jessica recognized Joan's potential and understood that remaining in the same position would limit her future opportunities. She encouraged Joan to pursue the next stage of her career, even though it meant losing a valuable team member. During Joan's final week, the two shared an emotional goodbye, with Jessica saying, "I really don't want you to go, but I really want you to go."

That moment reinforced the importance of intentional career development for Joan. It taught her not to settle for a position simply because it was comfortable, but instead to continue seeking opportunities that aligned with her potential and long-term goals.

For young women entering the transportation industry, Joan's message is clear: do not wait for an invitation to a table where you already belong. Pull up a chair and make your voice heard.

She encourages women to trust their expertise and remain confident, even when they encounter doubt or resistance. Joan recalls an early moment in her career when her boss, Doug, joined the company and questioned how he would build the transportation division. Joan responded confidently, “I’m going to run it.” While he was initially skeptical, Joan remained committed to proving herself. Today, she leads the division.

Joan believes confidence is built through experience, persistence, and surrounding oneself with mentors who support growth. She emphasizes the importance of finding leaders who recognize potential and create opportunities for advancement. While she was not born with complete certainty in her abilities, she has developed into a leader who understands her strengths and continues working toward her goal of reaching the C-suite.

As part of her commitment to professional growth and women’s advancement, Joan actively participates in initiatives that promote leadership opportunities and inclusion within transportation. She serves as a Women in Leadership Advisory Member through Valparaiso University and remains involved with Women in Trucking, where she connects with women leaders who have achieved executive positions across the industry.

For Joan, these connections provide more than inspiration—they demonstrate that leadership opportunities are attainable. She believes shared challenges can become shared progress when women support one another, and she is committed to mentoring future leaders as they navigate their own professional journeys.

While Joan recognizes that the transportation industry continues to evolve, she views its challenges as opportunities for women to create meaningful change. She believes women can bring valuable perspectives, strong leadership, and collaborative approaches to an industry where those qualities are increasingly needed.

At the center of Joan’s leadership philosophy are three core values: integrity, connection, and family.

Integrity, she believes, is not simply a workplace principle—it is a safety requirement. Every commitment she makes reflects her reputation and the trust others place in her leadership. By remaining actively involved in operations, Joan ensures that confidence is always supported by measurable results.

Connection is equally important to her approach. Whether mentoring interns, participating in industry organizations, or collaborating with colleagues to solve challenges, Joan believes success is built through relationships and that people rise by lifting others.

Her family remains the foundation that fuels her professional dedication. The demanding nature of transportation makes it essential for Joan to disconnect, recharge, and spend meaningful time with loved ones. Her commitment to supporting others also extends beyond the workplace

through community involvement, including providing support for women in domestic abuse shelters.

Through her leadership at CJ Logistics America, advocacy for women in transportation, and commitment to service, Joan Nabukeera continues to demonstrate what is possible when operational expertise is combined with compassion, confidence, and purpose. Her journey reflects not only professional success but also a broader mission to create stronger teams, better workplaces, and more inclusive opportunities for future generations of leaders.

Learn More about Joan Nabukeera:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/Joan-Nabukeera>

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