

2023 CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS
NOTABLE WOMEN
IN STEM



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Kari Steele

President Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Kari Steele leads MWRD, a governing board that oversees a \$1.4 billion budget and is responsible for protecting waterways and water quality throughout the Chicago area. The MWRD manages 76.1 miles of navigable waterways connecting the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. Steele oversees seven wastewater treatment plants as well as the tunnel and reservoir plan, one of the largest civil engineering projects in the world. Her civic work focuses on environmental preservation, hosting community service days that promote the proper disposal of medicines and the recycling of paper and electronics, as well as initiatives like the Canal Shores Golf Course Pre-Earth Week workday to remove debris and plant tree saplings.