



WINLPG

Women in LPG



Dr. Rebecca Boudreaux
President and CEO,
Oberon Fuels,
United States of America

“ While women leadership is increasing across the industry, we are not where we should be. I am still too often the only woman in the room, on industry panels, in strategy meetings. It’s hard for a person to be well-rounded, but easy for a team to be. As an industry, we need to keep creating opportunities to make our teams and companies more well-rounded with the integration of more diverse people – genders, religions, races, ethnicities ”

Dr. Rebecca Boudreaux

Meet the Role Models

WINLPG Role Models introduce successful individuals in the LPG industry and gives an insight into their career path, their challenges and their advice to fellow WINLPG members.

Trained as a chemist, Rebecca Boudreaux, Ph.D. is an entrepreneurial, technology executive with a unique blend of technical skills and business development expertise. She is President and Chief Executive Officer of Oberon Fuels. Oberon is the first company in the world to commercialise renewable DME as a straightforward way to both slash the CO₂ emissions of the huge LPG industry, and transport renewable hydrogen more efficiently and cost effectively. In addition to building the world’s first commercial renewable DME production plant, Dr. Boudreaux has driven first commercial sales of propane blended with DME. In addition, she has secured partnerships with and/or investments from industry leaders around the world including Suburban Propane, Lipigas, Volvo Trucks, Mack Trucks, and Ford.

Prior to joining Oberon, Dr. Boudreaux co-founded Intezyne Technologies, which developed polymer-based drug delivery systems to make existing cancer drugs work better, serving as CFO and Board Director.

Dr. Boudreaux is an invited lecturer around the world and has co-authored seven peer-reviewed publications and is a co-inventor on thirteen patents. She earned a B.S. in Polymer Science (magna cum laude) from the University of Southern Mississippi and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering from the University of Massachusetts.

For the past decade, she led the ASTM International DME Taskforce as its Chair and has previously served as a taskforce member with the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Dr. Boudreaux has co-authored seven peer-reviewed publications and is a co-inventor on thirteen patents. In 2022, she was named one of the top ten Industry Innovators by Butane Propane News magazine. Dr. Boudreaux currently serves on the Advanced Biofuels Association’s Executive Committee, WLPGA Industry Council, and Liquid Gas Europe’s Industry Executive Platform.

“I support WINLPG because I believe that this industry can become an even more impactful solution to bring energy and heat to billions of people around the world. We have not just an opportunity – but a responsibility – to make LPG as clean as possible, and we are pleased to be working with the industry association to make it happen.”

Dr. Rebecca Boudreaux

SIX KEY QUESTIONS

What is your goal today, this can be personal or professional?

As a trained chemist, I believe that the scientific process can solve almost anything. Today, I am focused on building Oberon Fuels as an innovative company bringing solutions that decarbonize major global sectors to the benefit of people, industries and countries. I am particularly focused on using truly renewable materials to create lower or carbon-negative forms of energy. Today, it is dimethyl ether (DME) that can decarbonize LPG. Tomorrow? Who knows – but we won't stop innovating!

Describe your pathway (your career path)

Well, I really haven't had a traditional career path. It's not like I graduated college and went immediately into the management track at a consulting firm or rose up through the ranks at an established brand.

I actually co-founded the company where I would start my career. I was 25 years old and leading a company without really any formal training or experience. It got so challenging I literally bought a book called "Accounting for Dummies"! I think the best learning I have taken from that experience is constantly figuring out what my strengths are and how to leverage those as a leader. Then, surround myself with people who make me better at my job and where I can in turn help nourish their strengths.

It was this initial startup experience that started on the journey of commercializing new technologies, where I have now spent two decades. When Oberon was only five months old, I met the founders of the company and initially joined in a business development capacity. Over the years, I have led various aspects of the business, served as President since 2011, and was promoted to President and CEO in 2020.

What are some specific challenges you believe face women in our industry?

The biggest impediment to getting more women in the LPG industry is that there are few role models – which is why this WINLPG initiative is so important. While great strides are being made to increase young women participation in STEM, we need to show younger women that there are rewarding career pathways in our industry. If they look at us and don't see many people working in LPG that look like them, they will pursue careers in other industries.

A close second is that the younger generation wants to work for companies that share their values on sustainability. We will not get the best and brightest women if we are not showing them that the industry is committed to sustainability. They will go work in the hydrogen, solar, direct air capture industries. We are going to have to compete for this talent pool.

Did you have a mentor and how did they help mold your business style?

I have been blessed throughout my education and career to have worked for and been mentored by many great leaders. One really stands out, however, Maureen Ryan who was the Dean of Honors college at the University of Southern Mississippi. She really helped me see how big the world is and challenged me to think bigger; to not be constrained by conventional thinking. She pushed me to be the best version of myself, which sometimes (ok, maybe often) calling me out when I wasn't.

What does leadership mean to you?

Leadership means many things to me, but if I had to break it down, I would say that leadership is some combination of helping people become the best version of themselves and building teams that leverage each member's strengths.

I like to say that while it's hard for individuals to be completely well-rounded it's really pretty easy for teams to be. You just have to hire the right people.

In addition, leadership can also be about making decisions that may not be in your best interest but are in the best interests of your team or your company. You have to be able to put your team/company needs ahead of your own.

What three pieces of advice would you give to someone embarking on their career with LPG?

I think the best advice for anyone embarking on any career in any industry is to find a job where you can find purpose in your work. In the LPG industry that could be seeing yourself as part of a group that is bringing cleaner energy to millions in developing countries. Or providing energy and heat to homes in remote or rural parts of the US. LPG has an important role to play in raising the quality of life for many. But it also has an opportunity to become an even cleaner and more sustainable product by boosting the use of truly clean options like renewable DME and bioLPG. It's an exciting time to be in the industry with so much innovation still yet to come.

To view more WINLPG Role Models: <https://bit.ly/41V8paV>
To learn more about the WINLPG Network: <https://bit.ly/3BNB6vL>



#WINLPG



Women in LPG Global Network

www.wlpga.org