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Our sixth annual unveiling of the most wondrous women in West Virginia sheds light on the movers and shakers, the makers, the can-doers and glass ceiling-breakers. These Appalachian women bring the mountain spirit to everything they do—from founding businesses and advancing the arts to upholding the law and lending a helping hand—and they do so without a golden lasso of truth or bulletproof bracelets. No matter where they are from or what they do, together they are building a better state.

Roya Maher - For the Girls

In a predominantly male industry, Roya Maher finds ways to encourage girls to pursue STEM careers. She promotes girls in STEM by working closely with programs such as Girls on the Run, First Lego League, and Cyber Robotics Coding Competitions. "If I can make a difference to motivate just one girl, that would make me happy."

Maher owns A3L Federal Works, a small business that provides engineering, technology, management, and training services for government and commercial clients. "As a business owner, something that is very important to me is equal pay for equal work," Maher says.

Maher and her family immigrated from Iran to the United States when she was just 13 years old, but she now calls the mountains of West Virginia home. "I came to West Virginia 28 years ago, but I now consider myself a West Virginian," she says. "I love helping provide jobs for the people of West Virginia so they don't have to leave." – SC

