



**Vickie J. Lewis**  
**President and CEO, VMX International,**  
**LLC. in Detroit**

**Her business:** VMX International is an environmental engineering firm specializing in waste management. In 2005, VMX won the National Association of Women Business Owner's Warrior Award as one of the top 10 woman-owned businesses.

**How she got started:** Years ago, after being downsized at her previous waste management business, Lewis "saw an opportunity" to start anew in a familiar field.



**On being female in the business**

**world:** Being in a male dominated business does have its downfalls. "Many, many times we felt like there were advantages [for men] because ... lot of deals are struck not in the office but out somewhere else," Lewis notes. Lewis believes however that, working with her clients, she has "built a reputation for service, and that's how you get additional contracts."

**Life lessons that have helped her in business:** Branching out on her own taught Lewis that "You have to build a great support system. You have to hand select the people that work with you that believe in your vision, that understand the direction of your company and that have the same type of drive in order to move the company forward. It really is all about the people you work with."