

CREW Charlotte Relaunches Mentor Program For Women In Commercial Real Estate

12-Month Program Focuses On Shared Benefits, Career Gains, Network Building

CHARLOTTE — Madeleine Albright, the first female U.S. Secretary of State, famously said “There is a special place in hell for women who don't help other women.”

She wasn't talking about CREW Charlotte, but she could have been. Women helping women — in commercial real estate — is the reason the chapter exists.

The local chapter, founded in 1990, is taking that sentiment to heart with extra vigor by reframing and relaunching its successful mentor program. The new 12-month program will debut in 2018; applications for mentors and mentees will be accepted starting Aug. 1.

The benefits of the CREW mentor program are tangible, from problem solving, networking and often for mentees, job promotions.

Sharing experiences and goal-setting where among hot topics for Charlotte mentor/mentee pair Jenn Stuart and Holly Alexander. Stuart is business development manager at Holder Construction. Through the CREW program, she was paired with Alexander, a broker at New South Properties with nearly 20 years of commercial real estate experience.

“Holly and I meet at least once a month for breakfast. We usually spend half our time catching up on life and half our time ‘talking shop,’ ” Stuart said. “We talk both long-term and short-term goals.”

Alexander helps Stuart develop specific action items and then is an accountability partner to help ensure those things get done. She's helped her mentee bring a strategic focus to her career.

“Mentors help give perspective,” Stuart said. “Holly's take on commercial real estate and life are real. She is a wife, mom of three and full-time broker; she's doing it all. It's important to have a person you can go to ... Holly has become that person for me. Everyone should have a Holly.”

As for Alexander, mentoring has been the greatest joy of her time in CREW: “I've spent half my career in CREW and have held leadership roles – including president – within the organization. But mentoring has been the most rewarding component of that work.”

The CREW Charlotte Mentor Program is open to CREW Charlotte members and sponsors. To find out more details on joining and/or to access a Mentor Program application, visit crewcharlotte.org. The deadline for applications is Aug. 23.

More about CREW Charlotte

Founded in 1990, CREW Charlotte has grown its membership to approximately 300 real estate professionals. We strive to build our membership to form a diverse organization consisting of commercial real estate professionals in the Greater Charlotte Region who are leaders in all real estate disciplines, including brokers, attorneys, engineers, lenders, developers, appraisers, accountants, property managers, and title professionals. CREW Charlotte is a Chapter of CREW Network, a national organization with 10,000 members in over 70 major markets globally, focused on promoting business, providing educational opportunities, and sharing information among members at local, regional, and national levels. For more information visit crewcharlotte.org.