

For CREW Charlotte, Philanthropy Is Part Of The Mission

26 local college students have benefitted from scholarships; application deadline is April 30

CHARLOTTE — In an era when women are using their voices to impact everything from pay structure to politics, CREW Charlotte is well-positioned to be part of the dialogue. The local chapter of the global networking organization that supports women in commercial real estate has always been about women helping women. The group does that, in part, through fundraising efforts that benefit real estate education for women.

CREW Charlotte's long-time partnerships with two local universities have resulted in more than \$65,000 being donated to UNC Charlotte since 2006 and more than \$30,000 going to Queens University of Charlotte since 2014. In addition, the chapter has donated over \$65,000 to CREW Network Foundation, the philanthropic arm of CREW Network that has given 760,000 in scholarships to 106 recipients since its inception..

“Our core purpose is to transform the commercial real estate industry by accelerating the advancement of women,” said Adrienne Bain, Senior Portfolio Manager at Citizens Bank and 2018 president of CREW Charlotte. “We are committed to bringing more women into commercial real estate by supporting future female leaders as they pursue degrees that will lead to careers in CRE. We are planting the seeds of change and helping to transform our industry.”

The CREW Network Foundation scholarship program supports future female leaders as they pursue university-level education that will lead to careers in commercial real estate. Scholarship winners receive \$5,000 academic scholarships as well as paid internship opportunities, a CREW Network membership and registration to the annual CREW convention.

Scholarship applicants must be female, a full-time junior, senior or college graduate (2018-2019 academic year), have a 3.0 or higher GPA, a citizen of the United States or Canada and enrolled in an accredited college or university with a focus on a qualified field of commercial real estate. Additional details and the application can be found online at crewnetwork.org/foundation/college-scholarships. The application deadline is April 30.

Robyn Swayne, a CREW Charlotte member for the past three years, received a \$1,000 scholarship last year toward her Master of Science in Real Estate (MSRE) at UNC Charlotte. She's worked in commercial real estate lending at BB&T for 14 years and was recently promoted to be a team lead in portfolio management.

She'll receive her diploma this June, but her graduate studies have already paid off in her career. “I now look at deals from a client's viewpoint,” she said. “My graduate program has enhanced my ability to understand the investment side – and not just the credit side.”

But, CREW membership has not just been beneficial to her professionally. She appreciates the personal relationships she's been able to forge with other women in the field. “CREW helps me network with clients and prospects,” Swayne said. “It's built my confidence and made me more resourceful.”

Swayne is one of 26 local students who have benefitted from CREW Charlotte's fundraising efforts. Over the last four years, CREW Charlotte has averaged more than \$25,000 annually in charitable giving.

CREW Charlotte's fundraising events, such as the recent Casino and Gaming Night, raise money to support scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students at the UNC Charlotte Center for Real Estate and Queens University of Charlotte who are pursuing degrees that could lead to jobs in commercial real estate.

More about CREW Charlotte

CREW Charlotte is a chapter of CREW Network, with the mission of transforming the commercial real estate industry by advancing women globally. Founded in 1989, CREW Network is the premier resource and referral network in commercial real estate. More than

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10,000 CREW Network members represent nearly every discipline within the commercial real estate industry globally and have a presence in more than 70 major markets. For more information on CREW Charlotte, visit crewcharlotte.org.

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