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NEWS RELEASE

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**Students Envision the Future of Schuylkill Yards
In the NAIOP-Drexel Case Competition**

Abu Saccoh of Philadelphia a Member of the Team That Took Top Prize

PHILADELPHIA – The bracket-style competition had parents and coaches tense in their seats as high school competitors fought through three tight rounds for the title. It might have been any high school athletic contest, and yet, it wasn't. Instead it was the final NAIOP-Drexel Summer Program Case Competition, the final event of the 10-day immersive experience.

In the end, Team NYP - Meelan Dessejour of Brooklyn, Noah Jones of Rockville, Md., and Abu Saccoh of Philadelphia - took home the win with their in-depth case study of West Tower in Schuylkill Yards, a major new life science, residential and retail development from Brandywine Realty Trust. Each member of the team went home with a \$200 gift card and a medal.

“Our 10-day long NAIOP-Drexel Summer Program is like training camp for rising high school juniors and seniors of color who have an interest in a career in real estate,” said Phil Butler, Sr, Senior Vice President of MRA Group and the NAIOP Philadelphia Board Member in charge of organizing the event. “They spend each day touring development properties, meeting leaders in the industry and taking classes, so that at the end of the experience they have gathered enough information to work on small teams to create their case studies, just as they will in college and beyond.”

Placing second was Team JVNC featuring Nicole Chen of Willow Grove, Pa., and Cyrus Chisolm, Victoire Ehinnou and Jaden Palmer-Waldron of Philadelphia. Each member won a \$100 gift card and a certificate.

Placing third and winning a \$50 gift card and certificate each were Jeriel Camacho of Egg Harbor Township, NJ, and Ashley Johnson and Nakai Merritt, both of Philadelphia. All 30 students who competed were awarded certificates of competition and gift cards for the Drexel University Book Store.

For the 250+ member NAIOP Philadelphia chapter of real estate developers, owners and related professionals, the program is a direct expression of their commitment to advocacy, diversity and career development. The prestigious final event judging panel included:

Drexel Faculty/Staff: Brian Ellis, Associate Dean; Jackie McCurdy, Senior Director, Undergraduate Office; Cheryl Renz, Assistant Director, Dean's Office; Patricia Robak, Academic Director of Real Estate Management and Development Program; and Kimberly Williams, Department Manager & Department Lab Manager, Marketing.

Commercial Real Estate Leaders: Tommy Choi, Practice Partner and SVP, Greenwood Commercial Real Estate; LeaAnn Molineux, Head of Real Estate EVgo; Donald Moore, Head of Real Estate, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Joe Ritchie, Managing Director of Business Development, Head of DEI at Tishman Speyer; NAIOP Philadelphia President; and Charlene Tucker, Drexel Advisory Board Member and.

This year's sponsors are some of the biggest names in the industry: (*in alphabetical order*): Brandywine Realty Trust, CBRE, Colliers, Ensemble/Mosaic, Hunter Roberts Construction, IMC Construction, LF Driscoll, Longfellow Real Estate Partners, M&T Bank, MRA Group, Pennoni Associates, Saint Gobain, Tishman Speyer, Ventas and Wexford Science & Technology.

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