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**NAIOP Philadelphia Chapter Wins Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award
From National Organization**

***NAIOP-Drexel Summer Program Honored for Opening Doors for High School Students
Considering Careers in Commercial Real Estate***

Philadelphia – February 2, 2022 – NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, has honored the Greater Philadelphia Chapter’s accomplishments in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) with a Chapter Merit Award for its NAIOP-Drexel Summer Program. The award, which recognizes a commitment to advance DEI within the chapter and in commercial real estate, was presented today in an online ceremony.

“NAIOP Greater Philadelphia’s commitment to developing a commercial real estate educational camp for rising high school juniors and seniors of color, at no cost to the students, is opening the door to a more diverse and successful industry in Philadelphia and beyond,” said Phil Butler, Senior Vice President, MRA Group and Chair of the DEI Committee, NAIOP Greater Philadelphia.

NAIOP Greater Philadelphia received the top award in the “Medium Chapter” category. Its NAIOP-Drexel Summer Program, in partnership with Drexel University’s LeBow College of Business, provides two weeks of challenging and exciting activities that introduces 20 - 30 high-performing students to the commercial real estate industry each year. Participants receive a full scholarship, individual coaching and mentorship from local industry executives, tours of Philadelphia real estate projects, classroom instruction and participation in group projects.

“Our chapter believes deeply that the future of Commercial Real Estate is diverse at every level,” said NAIOP Philadelphia Chapter President Joe Ritchie, Managing Director of Business Development and Head of Diversity and Inclusion at Tishman Speyer. “We greatly appreciate our national organization’s recognition of this program and our partnership with Drexel University and offer it as a template for chapters in other regions.”

The annual awards program honored a total of 14 chapters and nine individuals for their contributions and successes in the areas of education, special events, advocacy, membership, DEI, and leadership.

Applications for the NAIOP-Drexel Summer Program Available This Month

Applications for the 2022 program will open February 9. Interested rising Junior and Senior high school students from the Greater Philadelphia area are encouraged to apply. While the 2021 program was held virtually, the current plan for the 2022 program is for it to be held on campus at Drexel University with a 10-day residency component as originally offered.

To learn more, videos about the program are posted at www.naiopphila.org/home/naiop-drexel-program-landing-page/

About NAIOP Philadelphia

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of NAIOP is nearly 185 members strong. The chapter offers meetings on a broad range of topics of interest to developers, investors, brokers, and other industry professionals, as well as networking opportunities, an annual golf tournament and social mixers. Learn more at www.naiopphila.org

About NAIOP

The National Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP) is the leading organization for developers, owners and related professionals in office, industrial and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP provides unparalleled industry networking and education, and advocates for effective legislation on behalf of our members. NAIOP advances responsible, sustainable development that creates jobs and benefits the communities in which our members work and live. Visit www.naiop.org.