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Marquette University Center for Real Estate and NAIOP Wisconsin Unveil Summer Immersion Program for Students of Color to Experience Opportunities in Commercial Real Estate

MILWAUKEE The Marquette University Center for Real Estate and NAIOP Wisconsin are pleased to announce a partnership with REEC, the Real Estate Executive Council, to present the Real Estate Exchange (REEX) Summer Program in 2021. REEX is a virtual, two-week program for rising high school Junior and Senior students of color. REEX Summer Programs offer students the opportunity to learn more about careers in commercial real estate.

“NAIOP Wisconsin is committed to building a diverse pipeline of talent for the commercial real estate industry by providing tangible outlets for students to explore,” said Jim Villa, CAE, NAIOP Wisconsin CEO. “We are excited to provide an opportunity for these students to seek rewarding careers in real estate development where they will learn how they can contribute to building thriving communities.”

Marquette University will collaborate in the development of the curriculum with partners at REEC, Roosevelt University, and Southern Methodist University. Local industry professionals will join professional educators in providing virtual learning through engaged instruction, virtual site visits, and case studies with diverse students nationwide.

“Increasing diversity in the real estate industry has been a major goal for us at Marquette ever since Mark Eppli created the ACRE Program in 2004,” said Andrew Hunt, Director of the Center for Real Estate at Marquette University. “We are thrilled to extend this goal to high school students in Milwaukee, and we couldn’t be more excited to partner with NAIOP Wisconsin.”

Marquette and NAIOP Wisconsin are fundraising and will provide full program scholarships to Wisconsin students who wish to participate in the two-week virtual program to be held July 12-23, 2021. Interested students, and potential scholarship sponsors are encouraged to learn more about the program and scholarship information through the NAIOP Wisconsin website (www.naiop-wi.org/reex).

The Wisconsin program will also be guided by an Advisory Council of local minority community, business, and industry leaders.

“Our goal is to create an infrastructure of support and exposure for underrepresented populations early during high school through the REEX program all the way through their professional lives by establishing a continuing eco-system of knowledge-transfer, mentorship and career sponsorship from industry professionals. Ultimately, by establishing this pipeline early, we hope it promotes better opportunities and minority representation in commercial real estate,” said Michael Riopel, Assistant General Counsel at Northwestern Mutual, who also serves on the Advisory Board for the Marquette Center for Real Estate and as the REEX Program Leader for the Wisconsin NAIOP Chapter.

The deadline for students to apply for the program is March 15, 2021.

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