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## **CREW Network Recognizes Industry Leaders with Impact and Circle of Excellence Awards**

**Awards presented at 2017 CREW Network Convention and Marketplace in Houston**

**Houston, Texas, USA (Oct. 27, 2017)** – CREW Network honored excellence and outstanding achievement in commercial real estate with the 2017 Impact and Circle of Excellence awards, presented October 26 and 27 at the annual CREW Network Convention and Marketplace.

The Impact Awards recognize exceptional achievements in the areas of Career Advancement for Women, Economic and Community Involvement, Entrepreneurial Spirit, and Member-to-Member Business.

### **2017 Career Advancement for Women Impact Award - Marie McLucas**

The Career Advancement for Women Impact Award honors a CREW Network member who consistently exemplifies the organization's commitment to elevating the status of women in commercial real estate by working to advance the careers of other women. This award is presented to a member whose actions had a significant impact on one or more women, giving them the skills or confidence to pursue and succeed in new opportunities.

Marie McLucas has made it her mission to transform careers by mentoring and investing in women of CREW Network and beyond. Marie's involvement with UCREW and support of the CREW Network Foundation embodies her dedication to seeing the next generation succeed. She was instrumental in CREW Charlotte meeting the CREW Network Foundation Chapter Challenge for the first time. During her tenure as CREW Charlotte Chapter President, she spearheaded the chapter's Leadership Program, partnering with area companies to support the program and ensure its continued success, and initiated the Emerging Leader program for young professionals as well.

### **2017 Economic and Community Improvement Impact Award – Tamara Knapp and Krista Capp**

The Economic and Community Improvement Impact Award honors a CREW Network member or members who played a pivotal role in a real estate project that had a significant and measurable positive impact on the community.

On the surface, the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press newspaper headquarters move was simple – one location for another. But under the direction of Tamara Knapp and Krista Capp of Bedrock Real Estate Services, this downtown Detroit move proved to be much more.

In 2014, Bedrock purchased the original newspaper headquarters building from Gannett Company Inc., an American media holding company. Gannett was in search of a new building with state-of-the-art technology – imperative in today's media world. Tamara spearheaded the search for an appropriate site, and the decision was made to renovate the Federal Reserve building.

Once an iconic Detroit building with over 164,000 square feet, and close to the central business district, the Federal Reserve had been vacant for 15 years. Bedrock, under the guidance of Krista, renovated the building entirely, providing for the technology needs and adding community spaces, all the while ensuring that the transformation kept Gannett as a key employer in the city.

Following the renovation of the Federal Reserve, Bedrock turned its attention to the old headquarters building at 615 W. Lafayette. Another total renovation turned the building into a hot commodity, and is now 100% occupied by tenants including Quicken Loans.

The renovation of these two buildings and the surrounding area has widened the scope of the central business district of Detroit. Economic impact of the project is close to \$200 million annually. The buildings combined house around 2,000 employees. In the heart of the Midwest, this project shows Detroit's commitment to restoring the city and emblazing hope for the future.

### **2017 Entrepreneurial Spirit Impact Award – Deborah Bauer**

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Impact Award honors a CREW Network member who has achieved a unique career success or milestone as the result of taking a risk. The individual is willing to step outside of the box to create something new or different, and provide services, develop products, or improve practices by organizing, developing, or deploying available resources in an innovative way.

Deborah Bauer is no stranger to adversity. She launched her brokerage company, Drake Commercial Group, in the early 1990s, as one of the few women leaders in a male-dominated industry. She has grown her business to become one of the most well-known and respected companies in the San Antonio area today.

Even as a smaller firm, Drake Commercial Group consistently reports completing 20 to 32% of the area's top 25 deals annually – a large feat when compared with other companies with 20 to 40 agents. Deborah's company represents some of the largest and most prominent land, retail, and multi-family sites in the San Antonio area.

Deborah embodies the CREW Network spirit by advocating for her fellow members and leading the way to break the glass ceiling in our industry. She consistently uses the Network to ensure the entire transaction team is comprised of fellow members – including a current deal regarding one of the largest land transactions in San Antonio.

## **2017 Member-to-Member Impact Award – Tina Renee McCall**

The Member-to-Member Business Impact Award honors a CREW Network member who exemplifies the power and spirit of CREW Network and consistently demonstrates an extraordinary commitment assembling member talent, resulting in measurable business for other CREW Network members.

In 2017 alone, Tina Renee McCall has used the Network to connect with dozens of fellow members to include them in prospective business deals. She has completed deals with six fellow members along the east coast, totaling more than 7 million square feet in assets. Tina embodies the principal of “CREW first” by intentionally contacting fellow members when preparing the bidding process for projects. She is a member of the CREW Network Leadership Certificate 2016 cohort and is slated to serve as CREW Atlanta Chapter President in 2018.

## **2017 Circle of Excellence Award – Gail S. Ayers, PhD**

**Gail S. Ayers, PhD**, was named recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award, CREW Network’s top honor, which recognizes individuals and companies who consistently deliver excellence, and whose efforts advance the commercial real estate industry and show support for the organization’s mission. Inductees demonstrate excellence, integrity and innovation, and serve as thought leaders, change agents and champions of diversity.

Ayers served as CREW Network Chief Executive Officer and CREW Network Foundation President from 2005-16. A leading voice in promoting the benefits of diversity and gender equity in commercial real estate, Ayers led the development of CREW Network’s thought-leadership white paper initiative, which addresses issues directly impacting the advancement of women in the industry.

Counted among her many accomplishments at CREW Network include the organization becoming a member of the Real Estate Roundtable; establishing the CREW Network Certificate in Leadership program; and launching a Global Agenda to expand the CREW Network mission and business network globally. As President of CREW Network Foundation, Ayers developed a Scholarship Endowment which has awarded 106 college scholarships to date. She was also an inaugural inductee of the CREW Network Foundation Women of Vision program established in 2007 to recognize donors who personally reach \$10,000 in cumulative giving.

## **About CREW Network**

CREW Network is the industry's premier business networking organization dedicated to advancing the achievements of women in commercial real estate globally. CREW Network members comprise more than 10,000 professionals worldwide and represent nearly all disciplines of commercial real estate—every type of expert required to "do the deal." Follow CREW Network on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#), and visit us at [crewnetwork.org](http://crewnetwork.org).

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