

## Austin Student Experience Program Pairs Future Leaders with Industry Veterans

The 2018 Spring World Conference in Austin was proud to include the Student Experience Program, which featured a robust turnout of future commercial real estate industry leaders from both coasts and some of the best universities in the U.S.

Once again, the Program has proven to be one of the best methods to introduce SIOR and the SIOR Foundation to the next generation of brokers, developers, investment managers, and young professionals entering the field. “I felt completely welcomed by all of the SIOR’s who attended, with many giving me counsel on how I can become the best commercial real estate professional possible,” says University of South Florida student Caroline Figueroa, “whether this be through personal advice or their willingness to mentor me throughout my career.”

University of California, Berkeley student, Marcus Missirlian, expresses his own appreciation for not only the professional experience he

received, but the personal as well, “The SIOR World Conference provided students with an unparalleled opportunity to not only meet some of the best brokers in commercial real estate in a professional setting, but socialize with them on a personal level. As an undergraduate headed into commercial real estate finance, the advice and guidance I received will help shape my next steps and build my nascent career.”

All six students who were a part of the 2018 Student Experience Program either plan to work, or already are working, in the commercial real estate industry.



L-R: Del Markward, SIOR & SIOR Global President; David Hagan, SIOR, CCIM, SIOR Foundation Past President; Marcus Missirlian, University of California, Berkeley; Michael Litt; Carolina Figueroa, University of South Florida (Tampa); Brian Ordonez, Clemson University; Will Golonka, University of Connecticut; Andre Collins, University of North Carolina, Charlotte; Bill Ginder, SIOR, CCIM & SIOR Foundation President. Not pictured was Cameron King, also from the University of South Florida.

## **Further Praise and Takeaways for the 2018 Student Experience Program**

"I am very grateful to have been selected among a pool of outstanding scholar students to attend the SIOR Spring World Conference. I had the opportunity to engage some of the industry's top producers, meet some of the iconic guest speakers, gain new mentors who truly want me to succeed, win new friends, and have lots of fun. I also look forward to inspiring the next generation of young professionals, just as much as I was inspired by all the SIOR veterans I had the opportunity to meet. I hope to attend the SIOR conferences annually as I strive to earn my SIOR designation and officially become a member of this esteemed and very elite society of professionals. I have nothing but love and the utmost respect for the SIOR Foundation. Thank you very much for giving me a chance."

*Andre Collins*

"Overall, I thought the student experience program was an incredible opportunity to meet industry leaders both within brokerage as well as member associates whom succeed in other avenues such as development, acquisitions, and asset management. Allowing member associates the opportunity to speak with us at networking events gave me a more holistic view of the industry and how brokers play a crucial role in bringing everyone together to facilitate a deal."

*Will Golonka*

"Getting to meet and spend the week with the other SIOR Foundation Scholars

was an unbelievable experience. Getting to know them and to learn from their experiences was so much fun and I am excited to see what they continue to accomplish in the future and look forward to working with them in the future. The week in Austin with SIOR inspired me and is something I will keep talking about for the rest of my career. I will never be able to find the words to express to the Foundation and everyone in SIOR how grateful I am for this opportunity."

*Brian Ordonez*

"Although all the students that attended SIOR's Austin conference have plans to work in the commercial real estate industry, Carolina and I don't have a formal real estate degree program nor platform at the University of South Florida. As a result, I was initially nervous and overwhelmed at the thought of coming into such a large event with a disadvantage. This feeling was far from the truth and passed as soon as I stepped inside the hotel in Austin to kick-off the weekend. I was immediately overwhelmed for an alternative reason; there was not a single person there that wasn't willing to invest their time and expertise in us. There was

an aura of extensive professionalism, industry experience and impeccable ethics that surrounded the SIOR veterans and their counterparts throughout the week."

*Cameron King*

