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Hartford Teen Girls Introduced to Commercial Real Estate Industry
Twelve High School Girls Inspired by Local Real Estate Professionals

HARTFORD, CT (May 29, 2012) – Twelve girls from Capital Prep Magnet School and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford participated in the interactive career development program *Welcome to The Real (Estate) World* on May 19, 2012. Presented by [CREW CT-The Real Estate Exchange](#) (Commercial Real Estate Women) and hosted by Robinson & Cole LLP, the program included presentations from CREW women about jobs and careers in commercial real estate, a professional field that has been traditionally considered an “old boys’ network.” Over 30 professionals representing a broad spectrum of disciplines volunteered for this event, including Robinson & Cole [real estate](#) attorney [Candace M. Cunningham](#).

Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra welcomed the girls to the day-long workshop that immersed them in the world of commercial real estate by participating in a tour of downtown Hartford and a scavenger hunt for real estate landmarks and listening to presentations from female commercial real estate industry leaders. The students also competed in a real estate planning challenge. For the challenge, teams developed a site plan, created a floor plan and design board for their project, and presented the plans to a panel of judges who are members of the local real estate industry.

“The goal of this dynamic program was to expose teenage girls to the exciting commercial real estate field and myriad career opportunities within the industry,” according to Jade Paunovich, CREW-CT program co-chair and property manager with The Simon Konover Company.

Through the volunteers’ presentations the girls learned about the varied opportunities within the commercial real estate industry, including real estate law, property management, real estate investments, interior design, environmental clean-up and compliance, and more.

Organizations from Greater Hartford supporting the event included AETNA Foundation; First Atlantic Realty, LLC; Diversified Project Management; Winstanley Enterprises, LLC; The Simon Konover Company; Kroll McNamara, Evans & Delehanty, LLP; Turner Construction Company; Herman Miller; Robinson & Cole LLP; and CBRE New England.

“Our thanks to CREW CT-The Real Estate Exchange, to host company Robinson & Cole and *all* of the supporting companies making this dynamic workshop and city tour for promising young women possible,” said Samuel S. Gray, Jr., President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford. “All of us at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford are all about ‘opportunity,’ inspiring youths to dream big, set reachable goals and securing Great Futures. Programs like this one provide important exposure and access to teens who are just beginning the exciting journey of adulthood and career.”

Welcome to The Real (Estate) World was modeled after the national CREW Careers™: Building Opportunities® program, which was developed by CREW Foundation, the philanthropic arm of [CREW Network](#). The interactive one-day educational program is designed to introduce high school girls to career opportunities, and to encourage more women to pursue careers, in commercial real estate. CREW Network chapters in approximately 23 major markets across the country presented a CREW Careers™ program in 2011.

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“The positive feedback from all of the participants was extremely rewarding,” Ms. Paunovich said. “The energy and enthusiasm expressed by these young women was inspirational.”



Pedro Segarra (center back), Mayor of The City of Hartford, poses with the youth participants and their leaders.



Robinson & Cole real estate attorney Candace M. Cunningham talks to the students about money, risk, and the law in real estate.

About CREW-CT The Real Estate Exchange

CREW CT-The Real Estate Exchange provides a networking and social forum for commercial real estate professionals of every related field and discipline. CREW CT is a chapter of the CREW Network, whose mission is to influence the success of the commercial real estate industry by advancing the achievements of women.

More about Robinson & Cole LLP

Robinson & Cole is an Am Law 200 firm with approximately 225 lawyers in nine offices serving regional, national, and international clients, from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. Since 1845, Robinson & Cole has expanded to meet the changing needs of clients. The firm represents corporate, governmental, and nonprofit entities, as well as individual clients, in a wide range of matters, including corporate; business and insurance litigation; tax and tax-exempt; finance; public finance; land use, environmental and utilities, and real estate; health law; labor, employment, and benefits; intellectual property and technology; and government relations. For more information, please visit www.rc.com.

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