

ULI Fall Meeting

WLI Prologis Scholarship Experience

“Providing leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide” is not just a mission statement to the more than 6,500 real estate professionals who descended on Dallas for the ULI’s 2016 Fall Meeting. It represents the values that are unique to ULI members who, for the past 80 years, have remained consistently dedicated to pioneering urban innovation.

Over the course of four days attendees had the rare opportunity hear from, and share ideas with, the best-of-the-best from around the globe on an impressively broad range of subjects. Industry icons and former President of the United States, George W. Bush, delivered thought provoking addresses on topics from sustainability and innovation to finance, emerging trends and leadership.

As the recipient of a WLI Prologis Scholarship I was privileged to travel from Australia to attend the Fall Meeting and was humbled to be mentored throughout the journey by Gayle Starr, Managing Director of Capital Markets at Prologis.

The quality of all of the 50 plus sessions at the Fall Meeting was second to none and there is no doubt that every attendee – from students to leaders at the top of their game – departed Dallas armed with a newfound wealth of knowledge. Of the sessions I attended, the WLI’s View from the Top conversation with Lucy Billingsley, the Global Exchange Council meeting, and the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear in person from a former President of the United States were the highlights of the official program.

Dialogue that focussed on the financial, social and economic drivers associated with successful communities and transformative urban regeneration projects, as well as debate that centered around the value of human capital were of particular interest to me and highly relevant to the real estate industry in Australia.

Outside of the official program I met and formed meaningful connections with many fellow ULI members. I was overwhelmed by the spirit of knowledge sharing amongst the delegates, their candid approach to revealing lessons learned (good and bad!), and their motivation to proactively support the pursuits of their peers to achieve best practice outcomes.

I have returned to my home city of Brisbane in Queensland, Australia inspired by my Fall Meeting experience, with a renewed sense of professional purpose, and grateful to the WLI for their devotion towards raising the visibility and number of women leaders in the real estate industry.