

The Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) has been one of the more rewarding experiences in my career. Since the 2012 kick-off in my hometown, Charlotte, North Carolina, I have been actively involved in our local District Council, particularly with our WLI Executive Committee to plan program and participate in impactful initiatives to support national WLI's mission. More recently, I'm excited about the new partnership with Prologis and Cushman Wakefield which has the potential to truly transform the program and broaden the audience to enrich, encourage and empower women in their professional career and their leadership roles in the ULI organization.

Enrichment – WLI is committed to providing events and training opportunities to enhance skills and the ULI experience. During the fall meeting, I attended two panel discussions about leadership from a women's perspective and how to navigate the corporate ladder or "jungle gym" and maintain authenticity. Those lessons will always be valuable as I continue to grow in my career.

Encouragement – It's so empowering to see a room full of powerful, intelligent and articulate women. The WLI breakfast was a very engaging panel about four women and their journey in corporate leadership. Although they share very specific stories, the primary message was "be encouraged" and "don't give up". I left the breakfast feeling a sense of responsibility to encourage others and I have.

Empowerment - The premise of WLI is to empower women to be their personal best by providing a strong mentorship program and just being "accessible leaders" in the organization. My mentor was amazing and the conversations we had and will continue to have allow me to appreciate the WLI experience even more.