

## **WLI Prologis 2018 Fall Meeting Scholarship Essay**

Kimberly Stephenson

I am proud to have received the WLI Prologis Fall Meeting Scholarship to attend the ULI Fall Meeting in Boston from October 8-11, 2018. It was very encouraging to see the level of diversity and female attendance and exciting to see so many young people interested in real estate development. Looking back over my more than 18 years in the industry, it's amazing how tangible efforts to achieve this are. At the beginning of my career, it was not uncommon for me to be the only woman involved in a project. Now, I feel honored and fortunate to network with peers who have become leaders in their professions. It is also a relief to have a supportive environment where this network is seeking to lift others up through shared experiences and peer mentoring. From the walking tour in Jamaica Plain's Jackson Square and Lower Roxbury's Dudley Square to the Leveraging Public/Private Partnerships Workshop to the variety of WLI Networking and Committee events, the ULI Fall Meeting was full of information and professionals with a wide range of perspectives. In particular, the Urban Revitalization pre-council day tour of Boston's South End and the council day beginning at Hibernian Hall and ending at the AutoDesk Build Space was amazing. Marty Jones, my mentor and product council host, was gracious and ensured she connected me with other members like Daniel Cunningham from PNC Real Estate. He was friendly and knows the importance of a good post-lunch donut! It was also great to share the experience with other WLI Committee members from Louisville. Gretchen Milliken and Mariah Gratz were welcome faces and it was wonderful to share this experience with individuals who I admire and respect.