

PREA-Toigo Fellowship Grant Recipients

PREA and the Robert Toigo Foundation have collaborated for the past 19 years to support the educational and professional development of minority students pursuing careers in real estate. We congratulate the following 2023 recipients of the PREA-Toigo Fellowship Grants.



Alma Maldonado Figueroa



William Harris



Antoine Keels



Deborah Owolabi

Alma Maldonado Figueroa is an MBA candidate at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. Prior to graduate school, she worked as a public affairs professional, serving corporate clients in the state of California and the Los Angeles region. She is the Vice President of Events for the USC Marshall Graduate Real Estate Association and served on the board of the Real Estate Association of Latinx Professionals.

William Harris is a second-year MBA candidate at the Southern Methodist University Cox School of Business, with a concentration in Real Estate Finance and Entrepreneurship. He is a Cox Distinguished Scholar, a Cox Community Scholar, and an Associate at the Cox Real Estate Impact Investment Fund. Harris is also a Neimi Fellow, researching real estate trends to produce nonpartisan policy recommendations that advocate for innovation districts and affordable housing. He earned his BBA in Computer Information Systems from Howard University. After his undergraduate studies, Harris joined Microsoft as a Cyber Security Consultant and an Account Manager, supporting Fortune 500 clients. Most recently, he interned with the Howard Hughes Corporation, working with both the Capital Markets and Development teams. Harris's ambition is to blend his passion for real estate, finance, and community development by seeking value-added and opportunistic investment opportunities that offer obtainable quality housing.

Antoine Keels is a second-year student at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he is pursuing a dual concentration in Real Estate and Finance. His academic journey began with an undergraduate degree earned at the College at Brockport. Launching his career at Morgan Stanley, Keels immersed himself in the alternative investment space, overseeing clients' interests in private equity and real estate. Subsequently, he further honed his financial acumen at Neuberger Berman, where he played a pivotal role in managing high-net-worth client portfolios. This past summer, Keels worked at a real estate private equity firm, where he contributed to both the Acquisition and Capital Raising teams. After business school, he plans to follow his passion as an investor and become an active mentor in both the real estate and the private equity industries.

Deborah Owolabi is an MBA candidate at Harvard Business School. She earned a BS and an MS in Civil Engineering from Columbia University. Upon completion of her master's degree, Owolabi started her career in construction management at Shawmut Design and Construction in the retail group. Prior to Harvard, she worked at Jones Lang LaSalle as a Project Manager on the project and development services team. She spent four years working with different clients across the US on a number of commercial office building projects. Most recently, Owolabi interned with Nuveen, a TIAA company, on the Office and Life Sciences team as a Roger W. Ferguson Jr. MBA Fellow. She is PMP certified and an alumnus of Project REAP. Owolabi is heavily involved in community service and has served as Chair to the NY Associate Board of America Needs You.