

Through ULI Etkin Scholars program I can confidently say that I have evolved to align with the four purposed principles of the founding member's philosophy; to introduce students to ULI, introduce students to the benefits of cross-disciplinary learning, provide learning opportunities to supplement academic studies, and foster future leaders for the industry. More pointedly, I have accessibility to resources that help me take actionable steps to expand my commercial real estate financial/industry literacy (I completed the ULI certificate course for the Foundations of Real Estate (FoRE), enhance my networking opportunities, and prioritize this transitional moment in my career with mentor/mentee coaching.

We scholars have tremendous opportunities for interns, jobs, and leadership roles through the wonderful connectivity that the ULI ecosystem fosters. I believe being a continual seeker of growth helped me get comfortable with engaging with a variety of professionals at events sponsored by and conjugation with ULI. To that end, for the summer, I will be engaged in fellowship work with Community First Fund + M & T Bank in eastern Pennsylvania.

At last, I would like to specially thank the combined efforts of our ULI Etkin Scholars Chairwoman Jenae Valentine, ULI Charlotte Program Manger Ariel DiDonato, and last, however certainly not least, the namesake of our program Mr. Bruce Etkin.

Respectfully,

Dyesha Jones, MRED '22 (Clemson University)