



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

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Three CEW Scholars study leadership at INSEAD

Chief Executive Women (CEW) has announced the winners of three scholarships to the highly regarded Leading for Results program run by world business school, INSEAD, in Singapore:

- Seraphine Bray, from CIMIC Group’s international construction company CPB Contractors (this scholarship is awarded to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander woman, in partnership with The Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation);
- Dr Rebecca Johnson, from the Australian Museum Research Institute; and
- Maria Zappala, from Anglo American.

The scholarships are awarded to middle to senior women managers looking to take their leadership skills – and careers – to the next level.

Announcing the winners, CEW Scholarships Committee Chairman Belinda Gibson, said: “We are delighted to provide three talented Australian women leaders from diverse industries and backgrounds with the opportunity to attend INSEAD’s Leading for Results program.

“We congratulate these scholars, who have each demonstrated significant achievements and the talent and desire for greater career success.

“We see the Learning to Lead scholarship as offering vital links between skills, experience and aspirations. Supporting women to strengthen their leadership skills through education is an effective way of enabling more women to join the C-suites of tomorrow.”

The winners

Seraphine Bray is the Group Manager, Indigenous and Social Inclusion, at CPB Contractors. CPB Contractors is the CIMIC Group’s construction company, with a

team of around 23,000 people working at operations across Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Asia and India. Seraphine is responsible for Indigenous participation and social performance strategic initiatives across the organisation.

“It is a privilege to be undertaking the Leading for Results program and an honour to be awarded the CEW Scholarship offered in partnership with Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation,” says Seraphine.

“I look forward to my further development as a leader towards positive future outcomes for our teams and projects, as well as the people and communities who work with us.”

Dr Rebecca Johnson is Director, Australian Museum Research Institute, Science and at the Australian Museum (AM). She leads a team of more than 120 scientists, researchers, educators and support staff, and is responsible for the vision and strategic direction of the AM’s science, collections, research vision, and education programs.

“I am thrilled and excited to be offered the opportunity to further my leadership skills at the renowned INSEAD school through the generous support provided by this CEW scholarship awarded,” said Dr. Johnson.

“I am passionate about science – the good it does and the important role it plays in all our lives. With the help of this world renowned program my goal is to be a leader and tireless advocate for all our scientists, researchers and industry supporters. By focusing attention on the wonder of our natural world, and by providing rigorous, evidence-based, impactful research, we can inspire governments, corporate businesses and employees, to be stronger partners that together can deliver value and prosperity for all our communities.”

Maria Zappala is Head of Business Improvement (Coal Global) at Anglo American. She has functional accountability for business improvement strategy and programs across the Coal Business Unit, which consists of 18 mines in Australia and South Africa. Maria has 20 years’ experience in the resources sector in business improvement, leadership, cultural change, strategy development, governance and risk management.

“I know that what brought me to the current point in my career is a great foundation, but it’s not sufficient to meet my career goals in a global business environment.

“The Leading for Results program gave me the opportunity to hone my leadership skills to better manage myself and my teams, and help me provide the vision, strategy, direction and aligned resources to positively impact the business bottom line,” says Maria.

The scholarship

The scholarship has enabled Seraphine, Rebecca and Maria to participate in the Leading for Results program at INSEAD, Singapore. The program provides experienced managers with the crucial skills for leading people in a globalised business environment. It equips participants with a concrete strategy for transforming their leadership abilities, and helps them communicate a compelling vision that can inspire others to perform beyond even their own expectations.

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About CEW Scholars (www.cew.org.au/scholarships)

The CEW Scholars program enables women leaders by supporting them at critical junctures in their careers, from their first management roles to top executive positions. More than 100 women have been awarded scholarships to business schools in Australia and internationally since CEW commenced its executive program for women leaders in 1992.

Award Partner: Roberta Sykes Foundation (www.robortasykesfoundation.com)

CEW Scholars program is funded through the CEW annual dinner and the generosity of sponsors including:

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About Chief Executive Women (www.cew.org.au)

Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing more than 370 of Australia's most senior women from the corporate, public, academic and not-for-profit sectors. Its mission is "women leaders enabling women leaders". Through advocacy, targeted programs and scholarships, CEW works to remove the barriers to women's progression and ensure equal opportunity for prosperity. CEW offers innovative and substantive programs aimed at enabling women's participation and future leadership.

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