



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

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BlueScope's Kristie Keast: 2016 CEW Scholar

Chief Executive Women (CEW) today announced BlueScope's Kristie Keast is the winner of a scholarship to attend the prestigious leadership program at MIT Sloan in Cambridge, Massachusetts this year.

The scholarship is offered in partnership with Audrey Page & Associates to a senior executive woman working in a functional HR role.

Announcing the winner, President of CEW, Diane Smith-Gander, said "Supporting women in senior roles is not only a social justice issue, it makes economic sense: companies with female leaders will outperform those with none, making about 15 per cent more profit.

"But women need to have equal opportunity to attend career-transforming programs such as this. So until equality of opportunity is a reality, CEW is proud to continue to provide scholarships enabling more women to lead."

Speaking on behalf of Audrey Page & Associates, joint CEOs Michele Jackson and Tricia Shaw said "This scholarship is a wonderful way to honour the legacy of our late founder, Audrey Page, and the incredible impact she made to many women's careers."

Jannine Fraser, Managing Director of The Career Insight Group (parent company of Audrey Page & Associates), said "It's great to provide an opportunity for Kristie Keast, an exceptional female HR executive, to further develop her skills and leadership credentials. Audrey Page & Associates is proud to continue to foster women's careers."

The winner

Kristie Keast is General Manager People, BlueScope Australia and New Zealand. She is responsible for leading the HR function across the company's largest business, which employs ~8,000 people at more than 100 facilities across Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

Kristie expects the scholarship will help hone her leadership skills so she can have an even greater impact on the success of change programs within her company. She also hopes to influence and inspire other women to take on senior executive roles.

"I started my career in stevedoring, a very male-dominated and challenging industry that helped me build resilience, integrity and confidence in backing myself. It's important to me to support other senior women, encouraging them to take risks, put themselves forward and call out other female talent," Kristie said.

The scholarship

The scholarship will enable Kristie to study *Leading Change in Complex Organisations* at MIT Sloane in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 2016. The course is designed to help senior executives harness the leadership skills, political resources, and cultural understandings needed to guide successful organisational change.

The scholarship is part of the CEW Scholars program, which is providing \$500,000 over 18 months to help talented Australian women take their careers to the next level by supporting executive education at internationally acclaimed business schools.

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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.

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.

About Audrey Page & Associates (www.audreypage.com.au)

Audrey Page & Associates is widely acknowledged for setting the benchmark for quality and service in career management, with a rich heritage spanning more than three decades and the ability to provide support locally, nationally and internationally. We support many of Australia's iconic organisations, institutions and agencies across the broadest range of industries. Our clients work at the forefront of innovative HR strategies and this means in partnership with them, we develop and provide solutions that are leading edge and customised to meet the unique requirements of each client.

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