



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Chief Executive Women announces 2020 scholarships winners: Carolyn Baker and Von Slater head to Stanford

21 October 2020: Chief Executive Women (CEW) is pleased to announce **Carolyn Baker**, ConnectEast Group and **Von Slater**, Lifestyle Communities Limited have won CEW scholarships to study leadership at Stanford Graduate School of Business, California.

Carolyn and Von will attend the business school's most popular elective course, *Interpersonal Dynamics* for High-Performance Executives

CEW Scholarships Committee Chair, **Colleen Harris**, says: "These scholarships are aimed at helping women leaders unlock their true leadership potential."

"We are delighted to support talented women, such as Carolyn and Von, take their leadership skills – and their careers – to the next level."

"Australian organisations must create a critical mass of women in senior leadership roles to realise the range of benefits that gender diversity delivers."

"Women graduate from university in larger numbers than men and have the same leadership aspirations. Yet within our leading public companies – the ASX200 – women make up only 25% of executive leadership teams and only 5% of CEOs are women.

"The CEW Scholarships Program helps women executives develop the necessary skills and capabilities to accelerate their path towards senior leadership," says Colleen.

The Winners

Carolyn Baker is General Counsel and Company Secretary of ConnectEast Group, the privately owned infrastructure company that developed, operates and maintains Melbourne's EastLink tollway.

Carolyn is a member of the executive team and leads legal, commercial and company secretarial matters, including government relations and board and investor management.

"The most powerful impact I can have on improving gender diversity in our industry is to work as a CEO or equivalent operational leader and inspire other women to do the same."

"The skills I will learn in this course will help me be the best example of a female leader in infrastructure that I can be," says Carolyn.

Von Slater is Executive Head of Development at Lifestyle Communities Limited, an ASX-listed developer and operator of affordable communities for over-50s.

Reporting to the Managing Director, Von leads a team responsible for all design, planning, financing, development, construction, and delivery of the company's communities.

"I plan to have a long career in senior leadership roles, and the Interpersonal Dynamics course will provide me with critical skills that I can use throughout my working life."

"Having worked a majority of my career in the construction industry, I am passionate about changing the face of male-dominated industries and leading by example to demonstrate what women can achieve," says Von.

The CEW Scholarship

The CEW scholarship will enable Carolyn and Von to attend *Interpersonal Dynamics for High-Performance Executives* at Stanford Graduate School of Business, California.

The course designed to help participants build more productive and functional relationships with others – a skill crucial to becoming a more effective leader in today's complex, global, and highly interdependent organisations.

Known to many as the 'Touchy Feely' class, Interpersonal Dynamics has been voted the most popular elective for 45 years running at Stanford.

The scholarships to Stanford are part of the 2020 CEW Scholars program, which provides talented Australian women with the opportunity to take their careers to the next level by supporting executive education at internationally acclaimed business schools.

Carolyn and Von will be the third and fourth CEW Scholars to attend *Interpersonal Dynamics for High-Performance Executives* at Stanford, following:

- 2019: **Becky Wood**, Managing Director Transportation, Aurecon
- 2018: **Suzy Nicoletti**, Managing Director, Twitter Australia

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For more information, contact Lorelle Yee: 0409 300 251 or media@cew.org.au

About Chief Executive Women

Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing more than 650 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.
www.cew.org.au

About CEW Scholarships

The CEW Scholarships Program enables women leaders by supporting them at critical junctures in their careers, from their first management roles to top executive positions. More than 200 women have been awarded scholarships to business schools in Australia and internationally since CEW commenced its executive program for women leaders in 1992. www.cew.org.au/scholarships

CEW Scholarships program is funded through the CEW Annual Dinner and the generosity of sponsors including: **PLATINUM SPONSOR:** KING & WOOD MALLESONS. **OFFICIAL AIRLINE SPONSOR:** QANTAS. **PREMISES PARTNER:** CBRE. **GOLD SPONSORS:** ANZ, BHP, KPMG, NAB, QBE, TELSTRA. **SILVER SPONSORS:** ALLENS LINKLATERS, AMP, ASHURST, BCG, BROADSPECTRUM, COMMONWEALTH BANK, DELOITTE, ENDEAVOUR DRINKS, EGON ZEHNDER, EY, GILBERT + TOBIN, GPT GROUP, HARVEY NORMAN, HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES, IAG, JP MORGAN, LENDLEASE, MACQUARIE GROUP, MICROSOFT, MIRVAC, RUSSELL REYNOLDS ASSOCIATES, SPENCER STUART, SUNCORP, SYDNEY AIRPORT, WESFARMERS, WESTPAC GROUP.