



## **SPIRE Awards Shatter Glass Ceiling**

CREW Orange County SPIRE Awards nominees are proving that success in commercial real estate comes independent of gender. Of the 90 nominations submitted to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual SPIRE Awards, over half included at least one female nominee. This year, the SPIRE Awards committee aims to boost its female nomination inclusion rate to 80% with the help of the Orange County commercial real estate community.

The SPIRE nomination committee is calling on companies and real estate professionals to heighten the status of women in commercial real estate by including female leaders in nominations for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual SPIRE Awards (<http://crewocspireawards.com>).

“The gender gap in commercial real estate is narrowing, in part due to increased visibility of women’s accomplishments through programs like the SPIRE Awards.” said Linda Padilla-Smyth, 2017-18 SPIRE Awards Chair. “We are thrilled that so many companies are stepping up to recognize the women who are shaping the Orange County skyline and the way transactions are conducted.”

As one of the most recognized and attended commercial real estate awards programs in Orange County, participating in the SPIRE Awards not only elevates the status of female leadership, but helps companies frame themselves as industry leaders and supportive employers.

According to CREW Network’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Whitepaper titled “Closing the Gap: Addressing Gender Bias and Other Barriers for Women in Commercial Real Estate,” more than 32 percent of industry professionals surveyed reported that lack of support for women in the C-Suite and/or at home is the No. 1 reason for the aspiration gap between men and women.

The SPIRE Awards provide an avenue for recognition and inclusion in eight categories that honor superior performance in real estate:

- Building Renovation
- Loan
- Sale
- Tenant Improvement
- Lease
- New Construction
- Philanthropy
- Women In CRE

Nominees in all categories will receive invaluable publicity including photo and name recognition in the Orange County Business Journal, publicity at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual SPIRE Awards Gala and additional event-related press. Review SPIRE Awards nomination criteria, past winners and submit nominations at <http://www.crewocspireawards.com>.

## **About CREW Network**

CREW Network is the industry's premier business networking organization dedicated to advancing the achievements of women in commercial real estate. CREW Network members comprise more than 10,000 professionals globally and represent nearly all disciplines of commercial real estate – every type of expert required to "do the deal." Follow CREW Network on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#), and visit CREW Network at [www.crewnetwork.org](http://www.crewnetwork.org). Download the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual White Paper "Closing the Gap: Addressing Gender Bias and Other Barriers for Women in Commercial Real Estate" [here](#).

## **About CREW Orange County**

CREW Orange County is a non-profit organization of commercial real estate professionals affiliated nationally through membership in CREW Network. For nearly 30 years, CREW Orange County has been providing opportunities for networking, education, leadership development and philanthropic involvement to influence the success of the Orange County commercial real estate industry and the advancement of women. Follow CREW Orange County on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#), and visit CREW Orange County at [www.crew-oc.org](http://www.crew-oc.org).

## **About the SPIRE Awards**

Established in 2011, the CREW Orange County SPIRE (Superior Performance In Real Estate) Awards honor the most influential deals, projects and professionals in Orange County commercial real estate. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual SPIRE Awards will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at the Samueli Theater in Costa Mesa where an anticipated crowd of 350 will honor Orange County's most influential deals, successful projects and top achievers of 2017. Nominate and register for the awards at <http://www.crewocspireawards.com>.

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