



MICHIGAN ROSS

WEISER CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Michigan Community—there's a lot happening this week! Be sure to click [View Entire Message](#) at the bottom of the newsletter to see all the latest updates, upcoming events, and exciting opportunities. Don't miss the opportunities highlighted toward the bottom; we promise they're worth the scroll!



Open to All UM Undergraduate Students
Application Deadline
Monday, Feb. 2nd at
5PM EST

M MICHIGAN ROSS
WEISER CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE
2026 NYC Real Estate Academy
Applications Now Open
May 5-8, 2026 New York City
JOIN THE MULTI-DAY IMMERSIVE REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY



2026 NYC Real Estate Academy

Applications Due **Tonight** Mon, Feb. 2nd!

May 5th-8th, 2026 | New York City

Interested in exploring a career in real estate or learning how to shape your U-M experience toward the industry? Apply to join the **Real Estate Academy**, hosted by **Related Companies** in partnership with the **U-M Weiser Center for Real Estate**.

Supported by the **Blau Initiative for Early Career Advancement in Real Estate and Infrastructure**, this exploratory program is designed to expand access and provide hands-on exposure for undergraduate students across experience levels. Selected students will participate in a multi-day immersive experience in **New York City**, where they'll learn from industry professionals, connect with U-M alumni, and gain insight into internships and career pathways at Related Companies.

Students at **any class level** with **little to no real estate experience** are encouraged to apply. **All travel, lodging, and meals are fully covered** thanks to the generosity of our donors.

The next academy will take place from **May 5-8, 2026**.

Open to undergraduate students only.

Application deadline: Monday, February 2nd at 5PM EST.

M MICHIGAN ROSS
WEISER CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE **M** TAUBMAN COLLEGE

Future of Real Estate Competition 2026:

Strategic Shift - The CRE Turnaround Challenge

COMPETITION LAUNCH
MAR 25 2026
Virtual

Enter the competition
to win a piece of the
\$25,000 prize!

2026 Future of Real Estate Competition

Strategic Shift – The CRE Turnaround Challenge Competition Launch: Wednesday, March 25 | Virtual

In 2026, the “Office Apocalypse” enters its next chapter—The Great Repurposing. Back for its fourth year, the **Future of Real Estate Competition** launches on **Wednesday, March 25, 2026**, challenging students to tackle this moment in the market with bold ideas and fresh perspectives.

Tasked with reimagining an office property as a vibrant residential living space, teams will draw on their knowledge, creativity, and ingenuity to deliver solutions that balance visionary design with real-world feasibility. Designed to bridge architectural creativity with real-world financial feasibility, teams of 3–5 multidisciplinary students will renovate a distressed asset and present their vision to a panel of esteemed industry judges.

With **\$25,000 in prize money** on the line, this year’s competition promises bold ideas, thoughtful debate, and meaningful connections with real estate leaders.

Register your team below, and be sure to watch for the materials dropped at the March 25 Virtual Launch.

Important Dates & Things to Know:

- **Interest Form List will be shared** on Friday, January 16th
- **Competition Launch:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 (Competition materials will be launched virtually via the Weiser Center for Real Estate website.)
- **Applications Close:** Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 12:00 AM EST
- **Final Pitches:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026

- **Time:** 3:00–9:00 PM (*Teams will participate in an initial round of judging, after which select teams will advance to the final pitch round.*)
- **Location:** Blau Colloquium, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan
- **Team Requirements:**
 - Teams of **3–5 University of Michigan students**
 - **Undergraduate and graduate students welcome**
 - **Your team CAN BE a mix of undergraduate students and graduate students**
 - Teams may include a mix of undergraduate and graduate students, or be composed entirely of undergraduate students. However, **teams may not be comprised exclusively of graduate students.**
 - Each team must include at least one member representing **investment, design & development**
- **Prizes: \$25,000 total prize pool** — register to win your share!

Interest Form

Interested in participating but don't yet have a team? No problem, Weiser's here to assist! Complete the Interest Form below, and the Weiser Center for Real Estate will help connect you with fellow students to ensure you find a team and are ready to compete.

Registration Form

Ready to register yourself and your teammates? Complete the Registration Form below to let the Weiser Center know you're in and officially join the competition.

Find more information on the competition, key dates, and team rules requirements on our website.

FORE Competition Webpage

MONROE BROWN CRE MODELING CHALLENGE

Build your modeling skills, boost your confidence, and connect with industry pros!



Monroe Brown CRE Modeling Challenge

Introducing Weiser Center's newest rolling challenge, designed to build your modeling skills, boost your confidence, and connect you with industry pros!

We are excited to introduce the [Monroe Brown CRE Modeling Challenge](#), a unique, hands-on opportunity designed to help you build confidence and competence in commercial real estate financial modeling. Whether you're new to the field or looking to sharpen your skills, this challenge will guide you through practical, real-world learning experiences that prepare you for industry success. You'll begin by completing the **GetREFM Certification**, gaining a strong foundation in essential concepts, terminology, and modeling techniques using industry-standard tools. Next, you will apply these skills in a **real-world case study** that tests your analytical and strategic thinking. You'll dive into the details, perform rigorous financial modeling, and complete the provided model just as professionals do.

Students who successfully complete these steps will advance to a **mock interview with an alumni advisor**, where you'll present your case study findings and receive personalized feedback. This one-on-one experience will help you refine your presentation style, strengthen your analysis, and build confidence for real-world interviews and client interactions.

Participants will also receive exciting rewards:

- Earn a Michigan-branded gift upon completing Step 1
- An invitation to an exclusive dinner with alumni and peers upon completing the entire challenge

This is a **rolling challenge**, meaning you can begin at any time; however, all steps must be **completed no later than August 1, 2026**. To get started, simply register your interest and submit proof of completion after each step to unlock your corresponding reward.

[Begin the Challenge & Register Your Interest HERE](#)

Note: The challenge may only be completed once per student

Already earned your GetREFM Certification since August 1, 2025? You can **skip the registration step** and submit your certification directly below to move on to Step 2!

[Completed the GetREFM Certification already? Submit your Cert HERE and move on to Step 2](#)

We look forward to supporting you on this rewarding journey into the world of commercial real estate!

This Week at **The Bobby and Rochelle Finvarb Speaker Series:**

The Weiser Center for Real Estate, along with the Taubman College Presents:



Ken Caplan

**The Bobby and Rochelle
Finvarb Speaker Series**

Coming to Campus February 5
Ken Caplan
Global Co-Chief Investment Officer
Blackstone

OPEN TO ALL WEEKLY
New Speakers Every Thursday This Winter
1:00PM-2:50PM | Robertson Auditorium
R1100 Ross School of Business

Back this Winter 2026 Semester, URP 499/599 Is a Career in Real Estate Right for Me? is featuring a new speaker from a different sector of the industry each week. This innovative class offers students the opportunity to explore the real estate industry from all angles, from a variety of different working professionals. This class is open to all weekly!

Coming Thursday, January 29th: Ken Caplan of Blackstone

This week, we'd like to introduce Ken Caplan of Blackstone! Kenneth A. Caplan is the Global Co-Chief Investment Officer of Blackstone. As Co-CIO, he works in conjunction with business unit CIOs and Group Heads to provide additional firm-level investment oversight, primarily across Real Estate and Credit & Insurance (BXCi).

Ken previously served as Global Co-Head of Blackstone Real Estate. Blackstone is the largest owner of commercial real estate and an industry leader in opportunistic, core plus and debt investing across North America, Europe, and Asia.

Prior to becoming Global Co-Head of Blackstone Real Estate, Ken served as Global Chief Investment Officer of Blackstone Real Estate and Head of Real Estate Europe. Since joining the firm in 1997, Ken has been involved in over \$100 billion of real estate acquisitions and initiatives in the United States, Europe, and Asia. These include major acquisitions such as Equity Office Properties, Hilton Hotels, Logicon and GE Real Estate.

Before joining Blackstone, he was at Lazard Freres & Co. in the real estate investment banking group. Mr. Caplan received an AB in Economics from Harvard College, where he graduated magna cum laude, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was a John Harvard Scholar.

Day: Thursdays

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm

Instructor: Bill Bubniak

Location: Robertson Auditorium,
Ross School of Business, R1100

Open at All Weekly

Study Real Estate



Important Info for Potential Real Estate Students Sign Up is still OPEN!

You can still take approved real estate courses before declaring the minor, and then count them toward your program requirements later. That means you can start exploring real estate courses now, even if you haven't officially declared yet!

Find out more information regarding the RE minor, available courses, and minor policies

Real Estate Development Minor Declaration Request Form

For any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to um.realestate@umich.edu.

For all advising questions, please reach out directly to Taubman College, where the minor is housed, at taubmancollegeadvising@umich.edu.

Real Estate Classes Offered Winter 2026

Students, there's still time to enroll in these real estate courses! Explore the offerings below and click the button to register. Don't miss the opportunity to build your skills and advance your real estate education this semester.



FIN 339

Managing Maize and Blue REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) Fund

The Wolverine Public Real Estate Investment (REIT) Fund is a student-managed investment fund that oversees assets on behalf of the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Established in 2025 through the generous support of Mark and Allison Parrell—with Mark serving as CEO of Equity Residential (EQR)—and developed in collaboration with the Weiser Center for Real Estate, the fund advances the Ross School's action-based learning mission by providing students with a hands-on, real-time investment experience and unparalleled industry connectivity. The course will feature a Practitioner in Residence from a prominent Michigan-based publicly traded REIT.

Through this platform, undergraduate students gain practical exposure to REIT valuation, capital markets, and portfolio management in a professional, real-world setting. The Fund is open to **all U of M students** who have taken either FIN 300 or FIN 302, and they can enroll in the Fund by registering in FIN 339 in Winter 2026.

If you need a waiver, reach out directly to Pedram Nezafat (nezafat@umich.edu)

Credits: 3
Instructor: Pedram Nezafat
Day: Tues/Thurs
Time: 8:30-10AM
Location: Ross Bus. School

[Find Out More Information & Register](#)

**Please Note: Fin 339 can not be found in Atlas, but it is posted on the Ross Course Catalog, and is offered to any UM undergraduate student.*



URP 499/599

Is a Career in Real Estate Right for Me?

Interested in real estate but not sure what area sounds intriguing, or what background you need to be successful? This class will explore the varied careers that make up being a real estate professional. Whether your interest is in affordable housing, private equity, asset management, debt placement, non-profit real estate, syndications, real estate development and acquisitions or other areas, we will explore all of them in this class. Each week, we will have a different real estate professional come in and talk for one hour about their real estate career. All areas of real estate will be explored: from residential, office, retail, and industrial to hotels and mobile home/manufactured housing communities. You will have the opportunity to discuss with these industry leaders what they like (and dislike) about their work, the skills they recommend you acquire to get into a particular field of real estate and the challenges (and opportunities) they face on a daily basis.

Credits: 2.0
Instructor: Bill Bubniak
Day: Thursday
Time: 1PM – 3PM
Location: Robertson Auditorium

[Find Out More Information & Register](#)



URP 482

Housing Systems

This course provides an introduction to the urban housing system to examine how the housing system works and why it has failed to deliver adequate housing for a growing share of the urban population, with a particular focus on the contemporary challenges today's housing systems face. By examining the structure and dynamics of the urban housing system, the course will also explore the possible actions that can be taken to address those challenges. While the course will primarily focus on examining market-based housing systems, throughout the course we will also consider how the urban housing system has differed among countries with different political and economic systems.

Credits: 3.0
Instructor: Lan Deng
Day: Mon/Wed
Time: 1:30–3PM
Location: 2108 A&AB

[Find Out More Information & Register](#)



FIN 470

Real Estate Financial Modeling

Financial analysis is a critical component of real estate investing, one required by most stakeholders in a real estate investment transaction. Buyers and investors must determine deal check size and profitability. Sellers must determine how to price an asset for sale. Lenders must determine what interest rate to charge and loan size. This course will focus on helping students build real estate financial modeling skills in Excel and Argus using case studies across asset classes. The class will cover model architecture, input selection, output analysis and, ultimately, investment decision-making. Real estate financial modeling is an important skill for anyone planning to pursue a career in the real estate investment industry.

Credits: 1.5

Instructor: Mario Giglio

Day: Wednesday

Time: 6PM – 9PM

Location: B0570 BUS

[Find Out More Information & Register](#)

Internships & Job Opportunities

2026 Real Estate Summer Internship Student Interest Form

Students, still searching for a Summer 2026 internship? It's not too late! While recruitment has wrapped up at some large firms, many companies across the country are still seeking talented students eager to grow their real estate careers. To support you, the Weiser Center Advisory Board has formed a committee dedicated to connecting Michigan students with internship opportunities that align with your career goals. As we engage with employers looking to hire Michigan talent, we're here to help match you with the right opportunity. Help us help you—update your résumé, thoughtfully complete the form below, and we'll work to connect you with an employer in need of an intern. For questions, please contact us at um.realestate@umich.edu.

[Complete the Form Here](#)



LV Collective

Summer 2026 Investments Internship Austin, Texas

Are you ready to jumpstart your career in real estate investments with hands-on experience? LV Collective is offering a Summer Internship for 2026 in our Investments division!

This is an exciting opportunity to immerse yourself in the dynamic world of real estate finance while working alongside a talented team in Austin, Texas.

During this internship, you will have the chance to support our Investments Team in underwriting acquisition and development opportunities. You'll gain exposure to real-world applications in a collaborative, fast-paced environment and contribute to projects that shape the future of multifamily and student housing developments.

[Find Out More Information & Apply](#)



Havenly Summer 2026 Internship Program

New York, NY

Duration: 8–10 weeks

Havenly Ventures is a real estate investment and management firm headquartered in New York City. The firm specializes in acquiring, developing, and operating high-quality student housing communities across key university markets. The Havenly Summer Internship Program offers hands-on experience across multiple facets of real estate, including acquisitions, leasing, market analysis, property management, marketing, and operations. Interns will gain practical exposure to the day-to-day operations of a real estate investment firm while contributing directly to ongoing portfolio initiatives.

This program is designed for students with a strong interest in real estate, finance, or related fields who are eager to deepen their understanding of the business and operational dynamics that drive real estate performance

What You'll Do:

- Support leasing operations across Havenly's portfolio by assisting with marketing strategies, data tracking, performance analysis, and brand-building initiatives that contribute to Havenly's growing portfolio.
- Collaborate with on-site and corporate management teams to gain insight into leasing performance, resident engagement, community partnerships, and daily operational activities.
- Conduct market research and performance analytics to inform strategic decision-making across assets.
- Assist with property management coordination, operational projects, and process improvement initiatives designed to enhance efficiency and portfolio performance. Work alongside experienced professionals to gain exposure to key areas of real estate investment and management,

What We're Looking For:

- Current undergraduate students pursuing a degree in Real Estate, Economics, Finance, Business Administration, Marketing, or a related field.
- Strong analytical, organizational, and communication skills.
- Genuine interest in learning about real estate operations, investment strategy, and marketing.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, PowerPoint, Word). Prior experience with digital tools, data platforms, or social media analytics is a plus.
- Self-motivated, detail-oriented, and eager to learn through hands-on experience.

This will be a paid position.

including underwriting, debt financing, property operations, and development oversight.

Please submit an updated resume to
careers@havenlyventures.com for consideration.



Lakeshore Management Internship Skokie, IL

Lakeshore Management is a private equity real estate firm specializing in multifamily assets, seeking a full-time

intern to assist with **acquisitions and general asset management**.

This position is ideal for someone who has a passion for real estate, is willing to work hard, and truly wants to learn about the business. There is enormous growth potential for someone willing to prove himself/herself. The position will be based out of Skokie, IL, across the street from the Yellow Line.

Responsibilities:

- Financial modeling of new and existing investments
- Maintaining and updating existing investment models
- Performing buy/sell and refinance analyses for existing investments
- Performing due diligence on new investment opportunities
- Reviewing and analyzing property budgets vs actual performance and presenting findings to senior management
- Preparing recommendations for potential capital investments
- Working with our operations team to bid out services for both repair & maintenance and capital improvements
- Interfacing with property managers and third parties, including lawyers, accountants, partners, architects, and consultants

Qualifications:

- Pursuing a college degree
- Above-average Excel ability, including data analysis
- Demonstrated team skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

We support a safe, healthy and drug-free workplace through criminal background, credit and successful 3 year motor vehicle license checks.

The compensation package includes a base salary which will be based on experience level.

If you are interested in becoming a part of Lakeshore Management's growing team, submit a resume and cover letter to
internship@lakeshoremhc.com or fax 866-526-0107.

2026 Real Estate Summer Internship Catalog

Have you accepted a summer internship for 2026? Please help the Weiser Center for Real Estate track and promote you and your opportunity. It's a great way to showcase your success and help your peers. We have an active alumni committee dedicated to fostering relationships that lead to internships and job

opportunities for graduating Wolverines. This data will be extremely helpful in tracking progress areas to build relationships and know where to drive new relationships. We appreciate your help!

[Complete the Form Here](#)

Other Important Events & Info

2026 CREW Scholarship Applications Now Available



A scholarship opportunity for female students pursuing commercial real estate careers

The CREW Network Foundation scholarship program supports female students as they pursue higher education that will lead to a career in commercial real estate. In 2026, our U.S.-based foundation will grant a total of \$300,000 USD-28 \$5,000 undergraduate scholarships and 16 \$10,000 graduate scholarships.

Applications are due April 1, and eligibility is listed below.

Eligibility

- Must be female or identify as female
- Must not be a previous recipient of a CREW Network Foundation scholarship
- Must have a minimum 3.5 GPA (4.0 scale)
- Must be a full-time junior, senior or graduate student (2026-27 academic year)
- Must be enrolled at an accredited college or university in the U.S.
- Intent us to pursue a career in commercial real estate
- Focus of study included in [CREW Network Qualified Fields of Commercial Real Estate \(QFCRE\)](#)

[Find Out More Info & Apply](#)



RE|STRUCTURED News

Sign up for a Free Real Estate Newsletter

RE|STRUCTURED News is a digital, bi-weekly real estate and architecture and design based newsletter and

media company. The free newsletter aims to restructure the way people interact with the real estate industry by providing information that is short-form, aggregated, and easily digestible.

RE|STRUCTURED's WOTS (Word on the Street) **Network** and **RE|STRUCTURED LIVE** events are extensions of the company's mission. The WOTS Network interviews provide viewers with a video series that focuses on bringing a new perspective of real estate and architectural design to the forefront. The company's panel, social, and networking events aim to facilitate a meaningful conversation amongst industry leaders, while educating and enriching their audience.

Click here to subscribe to receive editions of the newsletter, gain access to company updates, access interviews with industry leaders, and invitations to all future events.

SAVE THE DATE

ADD WEISER'S UPCOMING EVENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR

Save the Date!

Click on the buttons below to add the Weiser Center's upcoming events to your calendar.

Alumni/Industry Networking Event in West Palm Beach on March 2, 2025

NYC Alumni/Industry Networking Event on May 7, 2025

Find the Weiser Center for Real Estate on:



Click the link above to follow us and keep up-to-date with all things Weiser Center in house and throughout our network.

UM Student Club Resources

If you are looking to become more involved with the real estate community at Michigan, check out the [Michigan Real Estate Club](#), the [Real Estate Fund](#), [WIRE](#), and [Rho Epsilon Iota](#). Each have various missions that offer educational and professional development opportunities for students pursuing a career or interested in real estate.



Submit Content to the Weiser Center's Weekly Newsletter

Do you have a special announcement regarding an event, lecture, or workshop that is approaching? Complete this [form](#) or click on the button below to request that your content be included in our weekly newsletter.

[Newsletter Submission Request Form](#)

Check out our website for more information on upcoming events and more of what's happening at Weiser Center for Real Estate



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