

Shawmut launches scholarship to support women, minority Wentworth students

bizjournals.com

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Oct 30, 2018

Shawmut Design and Construction has launched a scholarship program with Wentworth Institute of Technology aimed at combatting gender and racial imbalances in the construction industry by funding a co-op program for women and underrepresented minority students pursuing degrees in construction management and civil engineering.

Shawmut, the state's fifth-largest general contractor, has committed \$75,000 to fund a paid, one-semester co-op program for scholarship winners through 2022. The first three Wentworth students to receive the scholarship are Nina Collins, Brianna McMullan and Shannon Sturtz.

"I take pride in our longstanding commitment to equal employment, diversity and inclusion, as well as this new partnership with Wentworth to further enhance this work," said Marianne Monte, chief people officer at Shawmut, in a statement. "This scholarship helps to advance our ongoing commitment to combatting gender inequality and minority underrepresentation in our industry by providing the next generation of leaders with the resources necessary to succeed today."

As the Business Journal reported this summer, Massachusetts faces the worst construction worker shortage in the country. Contractors are increasingly targeting younger workers as part of recruitment efforts to address the shortage. Wentworth alumni comprise about one-fifth of Shawmut's local workforce, including vice president Kevin Sullivan and chief of construction operations Mike Sanchez.

"Wentworth welcomes this important contribution on behalf of the increasing numbers of young women and other underrepresented students who wish to come and study at the Institute," said Wentworth President Zorica Pantić in a statement. "We are extremely thankful for Shawmut's continued support."