

UMD Wins 2018 HUD Innovation Affordable Housing Competition

The final four universities competed on April 18, 2018 in the 2018 HUD Innovation Affordable Housing Competition. The University of Maryland team came in 1st place and took home the \$20,000 prize and bragging rights!



Adan Ramos, Nathan Robbins, Lauren Gilmartin, Sacheen Scott, Daniel Green & HUD Senior Policy Advisor Christopher Bourne

A mixed-income, multi-age affordable housing project that doubles as a community asset was the winner of the the fifth annual HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning (IAH) Competition 2018. The interdisciplinary team of real estate, planning, business and architecture graduate students behind the Dover, N.H.-based project, named Beacon Crossing, initially beat out over 40 teams from some of the finest and most prestigious graduate-level programs in the United States for a coveted finalist slot. They went head-to-head against UT Austin, University of Colorado Denver and Pratt Institute at HUD's Washington, D.C. headquarters this week to capture the first-place win. Team Maryland is: **Sacheen Scott** (M.C.P.), **Nathan Robbins** (MRED, M.B.A.), **Lauren Gilmartin** (M.ARCH, M.C.P.), **Daniel Green** (MRED) and **Adan Ramos** (M.ARCH, MRED). **Maria Day-Marshall**, Director of the Real Estate Development Program and Bonstra | Haresign's **Rob McClennan**, AIA, are the team's advisors.



"There is still a great need for quality affordable housing throughout the country," said real estate graduate student **Daniel Green**. "Beacon Crossing utilizes best practices from across the industry in terms of financing, social services, design and sustainability. Applying these innovative techniques can serve as a model for creating quality housing across the country."

The IAH competition is based on the philosophy that ideas and innovations from

the next generation of professionals are essential to fulfilling the need for affordable, sustainable housing. The competition challenges interdisciplinary, graduate-level teams to address the social, economic and environmental issues that surround a real-world housing problem in the United States, by creating innovative and original solutions through development, design and finance. This year's competition asked teams to design a 154-unit housing complex in Dover, N.H. that caters to senior citizens and adults with disabilities. The site challenges include increasing the density of the site and balancing the number of dwellings with communal supports, such as common areas, office space, security and a high level of accessibility. Beacon Crossing's thoughtful, universal design placed attractive community amenities - which include a YMCA, grand plaza and community center - within the heart of the complex, a boon not just to residents but to the surrounding community, a deliberate move to draw people from the outside in.



"The team did an absolutely phenomenal job," said Day-Marshall. "Not only did they present an innovative, comprehensive project, they delivered an exceptionally professional presentation. The fact that they knew the project inside and out allowed them to really engage the jury, which I think set them apart in the competition."

This is the first time the University of Maryland has won the HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning (IAH) Competition and the second time it has placed in the finals. A team of students took second place and a \$10,000 prize in 2016. This year's winning team won \$20,000.

