

Morgan Properties' Jane Ashwood-Benitez Honored by NAA as Certified Apartment Manager of the Year

Hundreds of industry members attend NAA-sanctioned education classes each year, including CAM, Certified Apartment Manager. It is an arduous task and signifies a commitment and dedication to their career choice for those who complete the course. Each year, NAA honors only one CAM designate, who must be nominated by their company and endorsed by their local apartment association, for distinguished efforts and setting an example for their peers. For the first time, a member of the Apartment Association of Greater Phila received the industry's highest honor which is also a direct reflection of the immensely successful and increasingly popular program they have conducted over the years. Jane Ashwood-Benitez, property manager for Morgan Properties at Kingswood Apartments is the 2007 winner of the NAA's most prestigious award. Recently, Jane reflected on her achievement and the journey she traveled in accomplishing it



CAM of the Year award winner Jane Ashwood (center) with Morgan Properties Regional Manager Carolyn Cannella and AAGP Executive Director Pam Bennett

"When I first learned that I had been nominated by the AAGP for the NAA Paragon Award I was so very honored. I honestly did not believe that I would eventually win and was completely surprised when I did! Receiving this award was the high point of my career and I am so very proud to be a part of such a wonderful industry. I am also so very grateful to everyone at Morgan Properties for all of their support and encouragement. It is so wonderful to work at a company where you are truly appreciated and where everyone is always there to cheer you on!

When my career track changed into Property Management 7 years ago I knew that this was the industry where I wanted to be. However, the first two companies I worked at did not encourage education or development and I did not really become involved with the AAGP until I joined Morgan Properties.

I was very impressed with both the association and the educational opportunities available. I quickly decided that I wanted to take advantage of all the association had to offer and wanted to learn everything I possibly could. I decided to begin my CAM classes last year and although the final two overlapped with a work commitment, the AAGP worked with me to complete them later so that I did not have to wait another year to receive my designation.

The classes were very informative and the instructors very knowledgeable. The entire staff at the AAGP made everyone feel very welcome and comfortable and all involved did such a great job! I truly enjoyed working on the CAM Project and got so involved in it that I kept running out to buy a larger binder to fit all of my information! The entire experience not only opened me up to more information in the industry, it also allowed me to meet other people working in the same field. I would highly recommend anyone in the industry to take the classes offered at the AAGP and get their CAM Designation.

I want to continue my education and was thrilled to be able to attend some classes and seminars during my trip to the NAA Convention in Las Vegas. This is such a wonderful industry and there is so much room to grow. I look forward to returning to the NAA in three years, once I am eligible again, and winning the Designate of the Year Award! See you all there!"