

2025 Women in CRE: Kelsey Dunning, Vantage Builders

September 26, 2025 - Spotlights



Kelsey Dunning Controller / Benefits Administrator

What has been the most rewarding project or deal you've worked on in your career, and why? We completed a significant business integration project that incorporated Procore, Sage Intacct, and ADP into our company's systems. It was complex since these systems touch every aspect of our business. But it created significant improvements internally – better collaboration, communication and organization – that ensure that we are delivering to our clients. It was challenging, but seeing it all come together was really fulfilling.

What drew you to commercial real estate, and what keeps you passionate? I started at Vantage Builders as a college intern, when I was exploring different career paths in accounting and finance. What drew me in was the dynamic nature of the industry, the complexity of the work, and the variety within the role. Over time, I've accepted additional responsibility – I've been promoted to Controller, joined the senior management team and taken on benefits administration. What keeps me passionate is being able to contribute in a meaningful way through financial leadership.

What advice would you give to a woman considering a career in commercial real estate? Anyone beginning their career in CRE should get involved early with professional organizations – networking is essential in this industry and can open doors while providing valuable support. You can also learn from people who have the benefit of experience. Don't hesitate to ask questions or seek help; learning from others is crucial for growth. Most importantly, speak up – your voice, perspective, and expertise matter. Confidence and presence are key to making an impact.

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