

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Banneker graduate Brayan Hernandez wins Akridge's Thaddeus Stevens School Scholarship

### **THE \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP HONORS THE LEGACY OF THADDEUS STEVENS**

(Washington, DC)— Akridge is proud to award Brayan Hernandez the Thaddeus Stevens School Scholarship for 2018. A recent graduate of Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, Hernandez plans to attend The Catholic University of America this fall. The \$10,000 scholarship reflects Akridge's commitment to the community and to the legacy of Thaddeus Stevens, who was a U.S. Congressman and a strong opponent to slavery. Akridge, along with development team partners Corporate Office Properties Trust (NYSE: OFC) ("COPT") and Argos Group, formed the scholarship in conjunction with the development of Stevens School and Stevens Place at 2100 L Street.

Hernandez is the first recipient of the Thaddeus Stevens School Scholarship. Akridge offers the scholarship to students from the District of Columbia who are pursuing an undergraduate degree on a full-time basis. In order to qualify for the scholarship, applicants must provide proof of residency, as well as proof of college acceptance or enrollment. Applicants must have and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at the time of application.

The scholarship review committee, which included ANC 2A Commissioner Florence Harmon and West End Citizens Association President Sara Maddux, expressed delight in working on the first of five annual scholarships provided by Akridge.

"We received a great number of applications, underscoring the wonderful partnership between Akridge and the community to spread the word about the scholarship. The review committee took joy in seeing such high quality in the respondents' applications and learning about these amazing young scholars from across the District, as they prepare to embark on their college careers", said Victoria Murray Baatin, the scholarship's administrator.

Akridge, COPT, and Argos Group worked closely with the District and the local community on the Stevens project to incorporate several design elements and community outreach worthy of Thaddeus Stevens' legacy. The property will include a rotating art gallery of works from African American artists, as well as a statue outside the building and an office lobby exhibit commemorating Thaddeus Stevens. In addition to the scholarship, the developers will provide various community benefits including a program working with local schools to expose students to real estate development and construction.

For more information about 2100 L Street, please visit [2100Lstreet.com](http://2100Lstreet.com).

### **About Akridge**

Akridge is a comprehensive real estate services company that has invested in the Washington Metropolitan area for over four decades. It provides acquisitions, design and construction management, development, finance and asset management, leasing,

and property management services. For over forty years, the company has acquired, developed, or entitled more than 18.0 million square feet of office, industrial flex, residential, retail, and entertainment space. Akridge has another 8.9 million square feet in its active pipeline, currently manages approximately 3.1 million square feet, and has a portfolio with an estimated value of over \$2.1 billion. Notable projects include the 1-million-square-foot Gallery Place, the internationally recognized Homer Building, and the 3-million-square-foot Burnham Place air rights development project at Union Station. For more information please visit [www.akridge.com](http://www.akridge.com).

#### About COPT

COPT is a real estate investment trust (“REIT”) that owns, manages, leases, develops and selectively acquires office and data center properties in locations that support the United States Government and its contractors, most of whom are engaged in national security, defense and information technology (“IT”) related activities servicing what it believes are growing, durable, priority missions (“Defense/IT Locations”). The Company also owns a portfolio of office properties located in select urban/urban-like submarkets in the Greater Washington, DC/Baltimore region with durable Class-A office fundamentals and characteristics (“Regional Office Properties”). As of June 30, 2018, the Company derived 88% of its core portfolio annualized revenue from Defense/IT Locations and 12% from its Regional Office Properties. As of the same date and including six buildings owned through an unconsolidated joint venture, COPT’s core portfolio of 157 office and data center shell properties encompassed 17.5 million square feet and was 93.4% leased; the Company also owned one wholesale data center with a critical load of 19.25 megawatts.

#### About Argos Group

Argos Group is an innovative real estate developer of residential and commercial properties, providing the highest level of quality, and value to its clients, and investors. Argos specializes in urban-infill, and transit oriented developments, in both private and public-private partnerships. Argos’ devoted attention to accuracy and fiduciary responsibility makes us a leader as a hands-on steward of premier public-private development ventures. Argos’ experience includes the renovation and adaptive reuse of historic landmarks such as the Engine House, and Police Station in Capitol Hill, and the Montrose in historic Georgetown. For more information, please visit [argosg.com](http://argosg.com).