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Media Release
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Sustainability Professional, Sarah Day Announced as the Winner of behind closed doors' SA Emerging Leader Scholarship

We are delighted to announce that the winner of **behind closed doors' 2023 SA Emerging Leader Scholarship**, jointly funded by **Finsec Partners** and **BCD** is **Sarah Day**, Senior Sustainability Consultant at Edge Impact and Board Member of Shine Connections. **Lynda McArdle**, Program Manager, Aged Care Research & Industry Innovation Aust has been selected as the runner-up for the Scholarship. The winner will join an inspiring group of female managers seeking professional development, peer coaching and mentoring and being connected to a broader network of businesswomen around Australia.

Announcing the results at an exclusive **Connexions Networking Event** held in Adelaide on 16 March 2023, **behind closed doors** Founder and Managing Director, **Donny Walford**, said the Scholarship is awarded to a successful woman seeking access to insights, knowledge, support and high-level networks in their journey to Executive and Board positions.

Quotes attributable to behind closed doors Managing Director, Donny Walford:

"I am thrilled with the results of the SA Emerging Leader Scholarship results.

We received a high level of interest in the Scholarship and the calibre of applicants was very high. Our judges deliberated for hours to decide on the final Scholarship winner and runner-up.

It is very encouraging for South Australia to have so many talented businesswomen. There is a growing need of female mentors and coaches for businesswomen in organisations to support the challenges faced by them in their professional career. behind closed doors community provides a vibrant platform for businesswomen to discuss their professional challenges and get mentored by expert coaches and facilitators. BCD empowers women to grow professionally and become the best version of themselves."

Quotes attributable to Scholarship winner, Sarah Day, Senior Sustainability Consultant at Edge Impact and Board Member of Shine Connections

"I believe women are in a prime position to tackle the biggest challenges our society is facing, and have appreciated my opportunities to contribute as a part of that solution so far. Yet I often find myself getting stuck in the gaps between confident and anxious, assertive and self-doubting. I am so excited about this opportunity to receive mentorship from strong and inspiring women in South Australia to help me further understand and leverage my strengths, and becoming accepting of the areas that are either opportunities to grow or not within my wheelhouse.

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As an organisation, Edge Impact is at the forefront of sustainability and creating change - shaking up the status quo. I like to hope that with the right guidance, I can be someone that plays a mentor role for new 'Edgers' coming into the space, so they can feel empowered to be bold, female and game changing.

I believe this opportunity will hugely benefit me as an individual to help tackle Australian agriculture's biggest challenges, while building internal resilience and opportunities for future change makers."

The objectives of the SA Emerging Leader Scholarship are to:

- Support businesswomen to improve business growth and financial knowledge
- Provide a confidential businesswomen support network
- Expand and broaden networks and business relationships
- Extend individuals personally and professionally
- Increase the expertise of female businesswomen
- Mentor peers to accept greater business challenges

Background

SA Emerging Leader Scholarship will enable a South Australian Emerging Leader in the For Purpose/Not-For-Profit sector to join our national community of businesswomen. The Scholarship is given to a female working in a non-executive role in the For Purpose/Not-For-Profit sector. The \$1,500 Finsec Scholarship partly funds a behind closed doors membership valued at more than \$6,000.

behind closed doors is a membership organisation delivering coaching, leadership development, business advisory and networking opportunities exclusively for women business owners.

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Notes to editors:

- Donny Walford, Founder and Managing Director of behind closed doors, can be made available for comment/interviews by getting in touch with Sarah @ Profiler PR.
- To find out more about behind closed doors and their programs via www.behindcloseddoors.com
- Full details on the Scholarship available via the behind closed doors website.