The Investments & Wealth Foundation provides scholarships for financial certifications—supporting the advancement of individuals who are underrepresented in our industry.
ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Investments & Wealth Foundation provides scholarships for financial certifications—Certified Investment Management Analyst® (CIMA®), Certified Private Wealth Advisor® (CPWA®), and/or Retirement Management Advisor® (RMA®) certifications—supporting the advancement of individuals who are underrepresented in our industry.

By reducing the financial barrier to certification, we enable career-transforming access for talented individuals who both represent and serve a vast kaleidoscope of communities, genders, ages, and ethnicities.

As a provider of premier education programs, Investments & Wealth Institute (Institute) recognizes that the sharing of ideas, information, and insights creates a currency beyond the classroom. Those ideas and experiences drive change and move our profession forward.

Likewise, our movement to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within our association is the catalyst for a greater change: to create a profession where financial advisors from all backgrounds thrive, ensuring a more diverse and sustainable workforce and a bright future for the profession.

Both the Institute and Foundation are proud to offer educational programming and resources to aid in the professional development of underrepresented individuals throughout the community of financial advisors.

NOTE FROM FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

Earning an Investments & Wealth Institute certification has opened the door to many opportunities for each of us to grow and advance in our respective careers, and we are strong believers in lifelong learning and professional development. However, not everyone working in our profession has the benefit of the resources we have had during our career journeys.

The Foundation was established in 2022 as a 501(c)(3) entity to confirm our long-term commitment toward accelerating the career path of under-funded and underrepresented professionals who seek certification. We are excited to share that, although the financial advice industry still has a long way to go, the Foundation’s efforts are working.

To date, we have awarded more than $1.4M in certification scholarships to more than 700 applicants. And the number of women, independent advisors, and diverse professionals seeking financial support to earn certifications from the Foundation will only grow. Further highlights of the Foundation’s impact can be found on page 4 of this report.

This year, we continue our efforts to build an endowment to strengthen and protect our scholarship resources, even in times of instability, to establish transparency and ensure trust among our donors.

Foundation priorities also include increasing our network of donors to further support sustainable growth in the profession, and we expect this to be a long-term, ongoing commitment. Finally, the Foundation is committed to improving the support of scholars with resources to build their skills and their professional community, so that earning their certification is just the first success we help them celebrate.

This year will be an impactful one for the Foundation, and we are honored to help do our part in effecting change in our industry.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth “Libet” Anderson, CIMA®
Foundation Chair

April Ferrell, CIMA®
Executive Director of the Foundation
Elizabeth “Libet” Anderson, CIMA®  
President, Concourse Financial Group Securities, 
Foundation Board Chair

Eilin Cabutto, CIMA®  
PIMCO Senior Account Associate, 
Board Member

Ira W. Cox,  
MBA, CIMA®, CPWA®  
Senior Vice President, Distribution Americas, Amundi US, 
Board Member

April Ferrell, CIMA®  
Executive Director of the Foundation, Managing Director, Head of Global Sales, Investments & Wealth Institute

Desiree Maldonado, CIMA®, CPWA®, CFP®  
Financial Advisor at Popular Securities, LLC, 
Board Member

Kevin Sánchez, CIMA®, CPWA®, CFP®, MBA  
Senior Vice President, Graysone Consulting at Morgan Stanley, 
Board Member

John Granzow  
Managing Director - Investments, 
The Armillary Group, 
Board Member

Karen Heath-Wade  
Board Member

Eilin Cabutto, CIMA®  
PIMCO Senior Account Associate, 
Board Member

Elizabeth “Libet” Anderson, CIMA®  
President, Concourse Financial Group Securities, 
Foundation Board Chair

Ira W. Cox, MBA, CIMA®, CPWA®  
Senior Vice President, Distribution Americas, Amundi US, 
Board Member

April Ferrell, CIMA®  
Executive Director of the Foundation, Managing Director, Head of Global Sales, Investments & Wealth Institute
IN 2023

145% Increase in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color applicants*

12% Increase in applicants from independent channels

IMPACT SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION

$1.4M+ IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO MORE THAN:

- 256 CIMA® PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES
- 236 CPWA® PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES
- 46 RMA® PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES
- 270 Scholarship recipients certified
- 268 Candidates in-process
- 774 Scholarships awarded

*Proportional increase over existing all membership percentage.
BENEFITS TO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Through the Institute’s programs, scholarship recipients are able to sharpen their skills and add new, specialized expertise to their business. Scholarship recipients attract and retain high-networth clients with complex needs due to the knowledge, skills, and techniques they learn through our certifications. Holding a prestigious designation such as the CIMA®, CPWA®, and/or RMA® certifications creates the opportunity to excel through heightened confidence, competency, and compensation.

“I was thrilled to receive the Investments & Wealth Foundation scholarship to pursue the CIMA® designation. Engaging with the Foundation demonstrated to me how valuable this credential is for my career, and I was driven to finish the Chicago Booth program and the CIMA exam on time—and successfully.”

Michael Awosemusi, CIMA®, ChFC®, CRPS®, AAMS®
Founder & CIO
Empowerment Financial Advisors

“The Foundation scholarship allowed me to access educational opportunities and earn an additional designation as I am building my career in wealth management. The early-career access to high quality, relevant resources allowed me to gain skills and maximize the impact of my practical experience in serving clients.”

Alison Masopust, CIMA®, CPFA™, CPWA®
Financial Advisor
Stifel/Metcalf, Cole & Masopust Wealth Management Group
“For my entire 30-year career, I’ve considered it a blessing to be able to enjoy a life of relentlessly serving others in all facets of strategizing for their wealth. Success in this industry isn’t easy, however, it is wonderfully rewarding on so many levels. For that reason, I want other Latino and other underrepresented advisors to be able to build a strong foundation of knowledge and know-how to fuel their own careers. Sponsoring several scholarships through the Foundation helps me pass the baton of education to another aspiring certificant, one who might otherwise not be able to step into the course of study for a CIMA, CPWA or RMA certification. In honor of my father, Hector Julio Sanchez, I happily pledge my financial support to watch the next generation of advisors grow into the role of leaders within their own families, their communities and to help build more role models for their future generations.”

Kevin Sanchez, CIMA®, CPWA®, CFP®
Senior Vice President, Morgan Stanley

“I donated because financial literacy is the key to building a better future for more people that look like “us,” which can even lead more people who look like us working in this industry—and even building successful careers. It also means more opportunities to connect and help a broader community of investors to aspire and achieve financial freedom. Helping others by providing a little assistance to obtain advanced certifications—helping them to get more knowledge and expertise—is just one way in which I can help make this happen.”

Desiree Maldonado, CPWA®, CIMA®, CFP®
Financial Consultant
Popular Securities, LLC

“Earning a professional designation from the Investments & Wealth Institute, such as CIMA®, CPWA®, or an RMA® designation, is an important way to differentiate yourself from the competition and makes us better at what we do. It is also a major commitment of both time and resources. When I got my CIMA certification in 2002, I was fortunate to have been sponsored by my firm, but not everyone is so lucky. When I learned that the Foundation was going to provide grants to minority, female, and candidates who were former members of the military, I wanted to donate to help make this a possibility for more candidates.”

Kelly L. Castleberry, III, CIMA®
Senior Investment Management Consultant
Graystone Consulting
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The generosity of our Foundation donors is helping to transform the future of financial advice.

Founder’s Circle Donors

- Dobbs Family Foundation
- Kevin Sánchez,
- In Honor of Capt. Hector Julio Sánchez*

Individual Donors

- Jefferson Adcock
- Moe Allain
- Libet Anderson
- David Archer
- Pan Athanasoglou
- Brandon Averill
- Michael Bailey
- Chris Bidwell
- Dorothy Bossung
- Garry Bridgeman
- Noel Brown
- Eilin Cabutto (Barazarte)
- Kelly Caffrey - Thrivent Advisor Network
- Floy Campe
- Dean Cartwright
- Kelly Castleberry
- Yasmin Cavallo
- Phil Clark
- Mike Coburn
- John Collier
- Christina Collins
- Johnny Colon
- LynnAlexis Lee Corey
- Jaime Court
- Ira Cox
- Tony Davidow
- Beau Davis
- Stephen Dygos
- Stephen Emanuels
- Lee England

- Vance Falbaum
- Lisa Feathergill
- Jose A. Fidalgo Cordova
- Jean Fidone-Schroer
- Tim Fisher
- Ernie Fordon
- Matt Fratolillo
- Brian Frederick
- Heather Gardner
- Christine Gaze
- Gregory Goin
- Troy Goldstein - ProShares
- Anuj Gupta
- Doug Hanson
- Karen Heath-Wade
- Teri Hollander Albin
- Stephen Horan
- Larry Hyatt
- Ashley Iddings
- James Jiao
- Maria Katsileros Smith
- Jeffrey Kim
- Robert Kline
- Brian Konish
- Mark Kronemer
- Lauris Lambergs - Renaissance Wealth Advisors, LLC
- Barbara Lane
- Lance Lehman
- Desiree Maldonado
- Randy Miller - ASI Wealth Management
- Ryan Moffett
- Asif Nasim
- Stephen Neville
- Brian Oettinger
- Will Olinger
- Morgan Pearsall
- Bareq Peshtaz
- Candice Peters (Montie)
- Steve Petersen
- Betsy Piper/Bach
- Timothy Ponstingle
- Michele Powell
- Dylan Raddatz
- Dottie Reeder
- Ross Richardson
- Jeff Rodriguez
- Abimael Rosario
- Matt Rowe
- Joe Sammons
- Kevin Sanchez
- Jonathan Satovsky
- Collin Schrier
- Jean Fidone Schroer
- Kirsten Schubring - Satovsky Asset Management, LLC
- Stephen Shanklin
- John Shaughnessy
- Michael Sherbert
- Jim Shields
- Matthew Shiely
- Ben Silberman
- Ruben Smith
- C. William Snyder
- Jason Statuta
- Harris Swenson
- Barbara Talisman
- Andrey Ting
- Matthew Todsen - MKT Wealth Management
- Marina Sonya Tudela
- Manuel Tumaneng
- Jim Vermillion
- Todd Wagenberg
- Sean Walters
- Deidre Waltz
- Marcus Waterbury
- Brian Watson
- Michael Weiss
- Chad White
- Scott Welch
- Lindsay Youngbauer
- Hatem Zarrouk

Corporation Donors

- Baird Foundation
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Thrivent Advisor Network
- KB Private Wealth Management Group
- Charitable Foundation, a Donor Advised Fund of U.S. Charitable Gift Trust

Platinum Partners*

- Invesco
- Janus Henderson Investors
- Capital Group

Gold Partner

Platinum and Gold Partners of Investments & Wealth Institute educational programs allocate 5% of their annual sponsorship fee toward the Foundation.
MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY
Visit the Foundation donation page:
iwicentral.org/donate24
Or access the donation page via our QR Code:

HOW TO DONATE
Your donation is tax-deductible and supports scholarship assistance to pursue CIMA®, CPWA®, and RMA® certifications for:

- Women
- Black, indigenous, and people of color
- Veterans
- Those who identify under the LGBTQ+ umbrella
- Persons with disabilities
- Advisors from small, independent RIA or independent broker-dealer firms who don’t provide tuition reimbursement assistance

We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, color, race, sexual orientation, disability or veteran status.

The costs of the Foundation are underwritten by Investments & Wealth Institute, so 100% of your donation to the Investments & Wealth Foundation supports scholarships.

All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our EIN is 87-4617128.

MULTIPLY YOUR GENEROSITY
Matching gift programs are a type of corporate giving where companies match the gifts their employees make to nonprofit organizations. Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program in order for your donation to provide significantly more support for the Investments & Wealth Foundation.

GET INVOLVED
Interested in volunteering with the Investments & Wealth Foundation?
Contact us at: foundation@i-w.org