



2016 AFWA Chapter Achievement Awards

APPLICATIONS IN THE SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORY

The following content has been pulled directly from each Chapter's Chapter Achievement Application. The first Chapter is the winner of this year's award for this category. All other Chapters are listed in no particular order. We hope the ideas presented here will inspire your own Chapter to reach for new goals and achievements.

WINNER: Billings

Chapter Website:	www.billingsafwa.org
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Overview

The Billings Chapter offers several scholarships every year to students attending Montana schools. The Billings Chapter believes very strongly in helping accounting and finance students achieve their career potential through education. The Chapter holds a golf tournament every year in June to raise the funds for its scholarship program.

Execution

At the beginning of the year, the Chapter solicited members to serve on this committee as was done with other committees. One member volunteered to serve as the committee chair and coordinate the process.

A flyer and applications were prepared detailing the requirements for each scholarship. Scholarship categories included Undergraduate, Women in Transition, High School, and CPA Review for members only. This material was posted on the Chapter's web site. Additionally, information was mailed to applicable educational institutions. Two members visited the Billings colleges to talk to accounting and finance students about AFWA and the scholarship program.

The committee met in March to review the applications and make the selections. Selections were based on academic achievement, involvement in extracurricular activities, written essay, and financial need.

The scholarship amount for the year was determined by the type of scholarship itself and the amount of available funds.

Results

There were 13 applications this year: 5 Undergraduate, 2 Women in Transition, 3 CPA Review, and 3 High School. The Chapter awarded a total of \$8,000 in scholarships to 7 applicants. Awards were made in each category. To date, the Billings Chapter has awarded an impressive \$117,500 in scholarships. This achievement would not be possible without the support of our members and the strong support we receive from the community for our golf tournament.



CHAPTER: Central New York

Chapter Website:	http://cnyafwa.org/
Facebook URL:	https://www.facebook.com/AFWACNY/
LinkedIn URL:	https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4551488

On October 21st, 2015, the Central New York Chapter held our annual student night at the Spaghetti Warehouse located in the heart of Syracuse, New York. We had twenty-six attendees, which included representation from four local colleges; LeMoyne College, State University of New York at Oswego, Syracuse University and Cayuga Community College.

Our scholarship is to support the costs for attending third, fourth or fifth year students who are obtaining an accounting or finance degree. In 2015, we proudly awarded three student scholarships of \$1,000 each, to be used for the spring 2016 semester. This was a 33% increase from the scholarships awarded during our 2014 Student Night. We had a total of eleven student applicants from the four local colleges. We used various social media platforms to bring this event to fruition including Constant Contact, Facebook, LinkedIn, and our Chapter Website.

The attendees received a valuable presentation on interviewing skills and resume building. The feedback from this presentation was great and the students appreciated receiving such valuable information. In addition, Becker Professional Education provided our Chapter with two CPA review material scholarships. This was the first time Becker provided this opportunity to our Chapter that we were beyond pleased to pass on to two students in our community.

Our continued networking and interaction with professors at the local colleges make this event prosperous which in turn allowed us to increase our scholarship awards for 2015. Due to the success of this event, it continues to bring awareness to the Central New York Chapter of the Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance and allows us to continue to support students attending local colleges.

CHAPTER: Chattanooga

Chapter Website:	chattanoogaafwa.org
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Overview:

During the 2015-2016 year, Chattanooga AFWA began to focus on the local Accounting and Finance students through multiple outreach programs. First, Chattanooga AFWA made sure to be onsite and in contact with the local colleges and universities whenever possible – from attending job fairs to being involved in the on-campus interview and resume review programs, giving back to our local students



through our time and knowledge of the business world. We also used this time to let students know about the available scholarships we offer each year.

But Chattanooga AFWA wanted to do more than just that, we wanted to let students have an inside view of what the “real world” of accounting could hold for them here in Chattanooga. The Student Activities Committee began two new programs during this year the Job Shadow and the Connections program. The Job Shadow program allows for those of us with job shadow friendly positions to have a student come to our office for a half day, meet our colleagues, see the work we do, and talk about our own background and experience – in the setting where we spend most of our days! The Connections program was launched for those in more sensitive positions (in the field, working in healthcare, etc) that do not allow for a student to visit the office, but instead offer a lunch or coffee date to talk one-on-one about the individual’s position and experience and allow for a great Q&A session with the student. Through these programs we have all different types of companies highlighted – publicly traded, non-profit, small business, as well as public firms, healthcare, cost accounting and more.

Execution:

The first step was to identify who from our group would be able to participate in the Job Shadow program. Although all members were interested in the idea, we ran into some stumbling blocks when talking about the logistics of the program for those of us that work in public firms or healthcare companies. To overcome this challenge, we created the Connections program as an alternative option. The second step was to publicize the programs – so we added information to our website (screen shots attached) and began to email different universities and colleges in the area to get the word out. The third step was important – the effort would be on the student to organize the Job Shadow or Connections meeting. To avoid too much hand-holding or chasing people down, the head of Student Activities decided that the process would be as follows:

- A. Interested student would choose which company he/she would like to meet/visit and they would email the Committee Head.
- B. Committee Head would notify the AFWA Member who had volunteered that a student was interested via email and would then send an email reply to the student with that Member’s contact information.
- C. The student and the member would coordinate a time that worked for both of them and have their Connection or Job Shadow experience.

In this format, the head of Student Activities would have an email sent out quarterly to her contacts at the local universities and colleges and each time would normally get a handful of responses from interested students.

Result:

During the year, fourteen different students expressed interest in the Job Shadow program as well as the Connections program. About half of those students ended up being involved in the programs and going on Job Shadows and greatly enjoying them. A few of these students even attended our monthly meetings, and one male student stood up at the meeting and spoke about his experience in the two different Job Shadow programs he attended. One student said *“Accounting is such a vast field to be in.*



When you're in school, it can be overwhelming to think about all the different types of jobs that will be available to you. Job shadowing was such a great experience because it gave me a glimpse of reality- what my day might actually look like when I get out of school. I was able to connect the concepts that I study every day to the actual process. DJ was so helpful to answer all of my questions about how she has developed and mastered -her- system. But the main thing that I took away was just the example of organization and thoroughness that she demonstrated. So, thanks again for that opportunity!" We continue to utilize the Job Shadow and Connections program in the years ahead and are targeting our audience this year by getting involved with the Beta Alpha Psi group at our local University, in hopes of having an even better response!

Related web pages

- <http://www.chattanoogaafwa.com/students.html>
- <http://www.chattanoogaafwa.com/scholarships.html>
- <http://www.chattanoogaafwa.com/job-shadow.html>
- <http://www.chattanoogaafwa.com/connections.html>

CHAPTER: Washington D.C.

Chapter Website:	http://www.dcchapterafwa.org/
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Overview:

Annually, The District of Columbia Chapter offers an undergraduate/graduate scholarship opportunity for \$1,500 for an eligible candidate. Scholarship awards are presented to students who have completed their sophomore year of college (or 60 semester hours or the equivalent) by the time of the application deadline and are majoring in accounting or finance. Candidates are required to have and maintain a cumulative college grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent.

Execution:

The District of Columbia Chapter meets once a month from September through June. At these meetings, we conduct a raffle and ask for donations to the scholarship program. All monies collected from the raffles are deposited into the scholarship fund.

For the FY15-16 program year, the Chapter worked with career centers and accounting and finance departments at various universities and colleges in the DC-metro area, which includes schools in Virginia, DC, and Maryland. The scholarship was also promoted at our Chapter Student Night meeting, which occurred on February 23, 2016 at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus.

The deadline for applications was March 30, 2016. The Chapter scholarship committee chair assembled a scholarship review team of four (4) Chapter members during the month of April.

Result:

The District of Columbia Chapter received a total of eight (8) applicants for the FY15-16 program year scholarship. The scholarship chair pre-screened the applicants and narrowed the candidates to four (4) who were reviewed by the scholarship review team. The finalists were from American University, George Mason University, and the University of Baltimore. Candidates were required to complete the application, write an essay, and submit their transcripts. The essay topic included career goals and objectives, what impact the candidate wanted to have on the accounting and financial world, community involvement and leadership examples. The scholarship review team measured the applicants against certain criteria, including leadership, character, communication skills, scholastic average, and financial need.

The scholarship review team members each conducted individual assessments over the candidates and submitted their comments to the group. The scholarship committee chair led discussions about the candidates and the winner was unanimously selected. Our winner for the FY15-16 program year was from American University. She was presented with a \$1,500 scholarship to use for her upcoming school year. Scholarship winners can be found on the District of Columbia Chapter's website ([click here](#)).

CHAPTER: Denver

Chapter Website:	AFWAdenver.org
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The Denver Chapter Scholarship Trustees receive an annual contribution from the AFWA Denver Chapter. Along with current earnings, this contribution, due to the efforts provided by AFWA volunteers at the Rocky Mountain Area Conference (RMAC), allows the Trustees to award substantial scholarships to multiple deserving students.

The Trustees review the award criteria each year prior to sending announcements to Colorado colleges and universities. Hard copy mail, email communications and telephone conversations are all utilized in making certain the department leads, professors and student organizations are aware of AFWA's scholarship criteria and requirements. From professor nominations, the Trustees also present annual Outstanding Woman Accounting or Finance Student Awards at our April business meeting to a student from each institution. We invite the student, her parents and mentor/faculty to be our guests. This provides another opportunity to promote the scholarship program and answer any questions from the students or faculty.

AFWA promotes the scholarship program at its monthly dinner meetings and with special emphasis at the Student Nights held semi-annually on college campuses. Various members also attend Student Fairs



and host Accounting Student Organization meetings which provide a great atmosphere to share all the benefits AFWA has to offer, including scholarships.

With the Denver Chapter's 2015 RMAC contribution and all prior RMAC contributions, the Trustees awarded \$27500 in scholarships to seven amazing students. In addition to the scholarship, the Trustees also awarded each recipient a one-year AFWA student membership. The receiving students were at various levels of their education: community college, undergraduate and graduate.