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Media Contact

Virginia Petrancosta, CAE

CFA Society Chicago, Director of Communications and Development

Tel: (312) 251-1301

Email: vpetrancosta@cfachicago.org

CFA Society Chicago Names Illinois Institute of Technology Champion in the CFA Institute Research Challenge Local Level Competition

Chicago – The [Illinois Institute of Technology Stuart School of Business](#) team was selected as the winner of the CFA Institute Research Challenge, hosted by [CFA Society Chicago](#) on Feb. 6. The Illinois Institute of Technology team had the highest overall score, defeating teams from Benedictine University, DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, Saint Xavier University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Illinois Institute of Technology Stuart School of Business team will advance and compete in the CFA Institute Americas regional competition April 15-16 in Atlanta, Georgia. The winner of the regional competition will then vie for the global title on April 17 in Atlanta, Georgia.

IIT team members, Diana Olarnvoravuth, April Wang, Karen Wang, Yungbang Xu and Jialin Zhao, worked with IIT faculty advisor Michael Rybak, CFA, and industry mentor Steve Schwartz on their winning project.

Seven teams were judged on a written equity research report, and the field was narrowed to five teams based on their scores. These final five teams gave an oral presentation that summarized their research and recommendation of CME Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: CME), the world's leading and most diverse derivatives marketplace.

A CFA charterholder and CFA Chicago member mentored each participating team, and all participants were introduced and held to the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct. The teams' research and conclusions were based on interactions with senior executives at CME Group, Inc., investment thesis and risks analysis, financial modeling, valuation, comparable benchmarking and scenario creation.

The IIT team winners and the first, second and third place teams received various prizes sponsored by CFA Chicago.

This year's local challenge was hosted by CFA Society Chicago, www.CFACHicago.org.

CFA Institute Research Challenge

Additional information on www.researchchallenge.org and www.CFACHicago.org/ResearchChallenge.

CFA Society Chicago

CFA Society Chicago, www.CFACHicago.org, aims to lead the investment profession by promoting the highest standards of ethics, education, and professional excellence; to shape an investment industry that serves the greater good; and to serve as the premier local resource for Chartered Financial Analyst

designees, candidates, other investment professionals and our communities. Founded in 1925, CFA Society Chicago has more than 4,200 members and is the world's oldest investment analysts' society.

CFA Institute

CFA Institute is the global association of investment professionals that sets the standard for professional excellence and credentials. The organization is a champion for ethical behavior in investment markets and a respected source of knowledge in the global financial community. The end goal: to create an environment where investors' interests come first, markets function at their best, and economies grow. CFA Institute has more than 113,000 members in 140 countries and territories, including 102,000 CFA charterholders, and 137 member societies. For more information, visit www.cfainstitute.org. (Bloomberg users can find CFA Institute at 497458Z.)