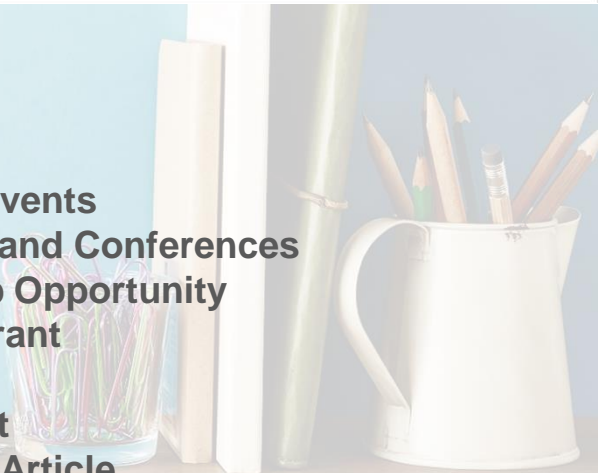




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PRESIDENT'S LETTER Hello IIA Twin Cities Members,

As we step into the next chapter of our journey together, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead. Our community is a powerful network of professionals who bring passion, dedication, and innovation to the world of internal auditing. It's your commitment that keeps our chapter thriving, allowing us to offer impactful programs, foster meaningful connections, and support each other's growth in a rapidly evolving field.

This strong sense of community would not have been possible without the exceptional leadership of Jeremiah Champ, whose contributions as our previous President have set us up for success and I'm grateful for the solid foundation he's helped build.

Looking forward, I encourage each of you to get involved in the chapter's activities. Whether you're considering volunteering, attending events, or simply connecting with peers, there's no shortage of ways to contribute and grow. Together, we can continue to make our chapter a vibrant, supportive space for all.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment.

Kristyn Bell, IIA – TC Chapter President





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Reminder Of Chapter Mission:

At the heart of the IIA Twin Cities Chapter is our mission to champion internal auditing's essential role in enhancing governance, risk management, and control processes. We're here to provide you with valuable resources, professional development, and a strong network of peers, all aimed at empowering you to excel in your careers. Every event, training, and initiative we undertake is designed with this mission in mind, ensuring that our chapter remains a supportive and dynamic environment for growth.



Prior Year Accomplishments

Reflecting on the past year, we have a lot to celebrate! Here are some highlights of our collective achievements:

- Retained our Sapphire Chapter status – the result of more than 15 years of attaining maximum chapter achievement points from the IIA
- Governor Tim Walz proclaimed May 7, 2024 as Internal Audit Awareness Day
- 22 new certifications awarded to our local chapter members
- \$800 CIA Grant (3 recipients!)
- Partnered with IIA HQ to offer discounted CIA Study Courses
- Over 1,400 participants in Chapter events, including:
 - Over 20 Educational Programs
 - 8 Insight Series sessions and 5 CAE/Audit Leader Events
 - 5 Rising Audit Professional Events
- Continued supporting CAE/Director Mentorship Programs
- Student Mentorship & CAE/Director Mentorship Program
- \$5,000 in scholarships awarded to 4 students at 3 Universities
- Partnered with MNCPA on hybrid Management and Business Advisors Conference (MBAC), which was attended by 72 IIA TC members
- Hosted the IIA National American Board to strategize and collaborate for future success

A Few Accomplishments This Year:

- **Successful Event Participation:** We've already seen strong engagement in our events this fiscal year, including:
 - **CAE/Audit Leader Insight Series:** We've hosted two events featuring discussions on emerging topics such as GenAI Risk Management, with active participation from leaders across the field.
 - **Insight Series and Training Programs:** We've hosted six training events designed to equip members with critical skills for the evolving audit landscape, with attendance continuing to grow.
- **Ongoing Scholarship Awards:** As part of our commitment to the next generation of internal auditors, we have continued to offer scholarship support for students pursuing careers in the field.
- **Strengthening Community Partnerships:** Through partnerships with organizations like MNCPA, we're enhancing the chapter's visibility and outreach. This includes participation in high-profile conferences, where we provide valuable audit insights to a broader professional community.
- **Expanding Our Online Presence:** Our LinkedIn page has become a dynamic space for sharing updates, industry news, and event information. This year, we've focused on building a more engaged and connected online community.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The IIA Twin Cities Chapter exists because of dedicated volunteers! Consider getting involved in one of the many opportunities with our Chapter. Through volunteering, you can gain:



- Leadership experience
- Personal Growth
- Expansion of your professional network
- Satisfaction of supporting the profession that has supported you in your career
- Contact the chapter if interested!

NEVER MISS AN EMAIL FROM THE IIA TWIN CITIES CHAPTER!

It's been brought to our attention that many companies default our email to spam. Add the following email addresses to your address book!

IIA.TwinCities@tciaa.org – For questions, help or to volunteer with the Chapter

chapter16@iiachaptercommunications.org – For event invitations, confirmations and reminders

[LinkedIn](#) – Search for IIA Twin Cities and click the “follow” button to stay current on Chapter updates and current events.

RECOGNITIONS!

We would like to recognize our chapter's most recent IIA certification and scholarship recipients.

Congratulations!



Certification Recipients:

Michelle Bilyeu, Certified Internal Auditor
Janell Bleyhl, Certified Internal Auditor
Jessica Cassellius, Certified Internal Auditor
Jenna Christensen, Certified Internal Auditor
Kevin Clements, Certified Internal Auditor
Charissa Greene, Certified Internal Auditor
Mark Kleinwolterink, Certified Internal Auditor
Amy Kruse, Certified Internal Auditor
Adam Leseman, Certified Internal Auditor
Jennifer Luu, Certification in Risk Management Assurance
Maria Neslund, Certified Internal Auditor
Kevin Nissen, Certified Internal Auditor
Robert Ostler, Certified Internal Auditor
Brandon Passon, Certified Internal Auditor
Sara Ptacek, Certified Internal Auditor
Dumiso Thabete, Certified Internal Auditor
Sara Thell, Certified Internal Auditor
Tori Unseth, Certified Internal Auditor
Catalina Valencia, Internal Audit Practitioner
Sean Verrill, Certified Internal Auditor
Brittany Voorhis, Certified Internal Auditor
Annmarie Weiser, Certified Internal Auditor

Scholarship Recipients:

Alexander Lorenz, St. Cloud State University
Reese Holzhueter, St. Cloud State University

Leadership:

We are happy to announce the [FY25 Chapter Board Members and Officers](#)

We are thankful for the time and energy you put into making our Chapter a success!



UPCOMING EVENTS



INSIGHT SERIES MEMBERSHIP

Looking for more training opportunities for your team? Join us for the Insight Series events! The Insight Series membership provides high-quality, cost-effective programs to support the learning and development needs of you and your team.

The Insight Series Annual Subscription entitles participants to the following benefits throughout the chapter year, which runs June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025:

- Attendance at any of the Insight Series sessions offered by the IIA Twin Cities, with continuing professional education (CPE) credits (approximately 8 events).
- Exclusive leadership events for Audit Department Leads and Directors (approximately 4 per year).
- Virtual and In-Person events with opportunities to network with peers from other Twin Cities organizations.

Check out our Upcoming Events on the [IIA Twin Cities Chapter Website!](#)

January 14, 2025: RAP Flying Dutchman Distillery Tour and Networking with MNCPA (In-Person)

January 23, 2025: Hot Topics of Internal Audit (Virtual)

February 4, 2025: CAE/Audit Leader Insight Series: Third Party Risk Management

February 11, 2025: Writing to Achieve Results (Virtual)

February 20, 2025: Thinking Well: How to Better Process Information (Virtual)

February 27, 2025: Conscious Conversations for Auditors (Virtual)



More events to come starting in January!

Contact iia.twincities@tciaa.org for more information or to register your group!



Upcoming IIA National Webinars and Conferences!

Check out the IIA National page dedicated to [Free Member Only Webinars!](#)

Access exclusive Member Only Webinars at your convenience and delve into a variety of today's hot topics!

January 8, 2025: [Unveiling an Organization's Hidden Dangers and Risk Blind Spots](#)

January 14, 2025: [Quality Assessment Challenges and Opportunities 2025 and Beyond](#)

UPCOMING IIA NATIONAL CONFERENCES

February 20th : [2025 Fraud Conference \(Virtual\)](#)

March 10th – March 12th : [2025 GAM Conference, Orlando, FL](#)

April 13th – 15th: [Global Student Conference, Orlando, FL](#)

April 24th: [2025 Analytics, Automation and AI Conference \(Virtual\)](#)

Staying connected is essential, and our LinkedIn page is where you can find the latest on chapter updates, upcoming events, and industry insights. If you haven't already, please follow our [IIA Twin Cities LinkedIn page](#). Engaging with our page helps strengthen our network and keeps you in the loop with all things IIA Twin Cities.

CALLING ALL STUDENTS!!

Announcing the IIA Twin Cities LinkedIn Scholarship for Internal Audit Students

The IIA Twin Cities Chapter is excited to announce the launch of a new LinkedIn-based scholarship program for internal audit students in Minnesota. This scholarship aims to support and encourage the next generation of internal auditors by providing financial assistance and professional recognition. The scholarship, valued at \$1,500, will be awarded to a deserving student who meets the eligibility criteria and demonstrates commitment to the field of internal auditing.

Eligibility Criteria: To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a student member of the IIA Twin Cities Chapter.
- Be enrolled in an accredited college or university in Minnesota.
- Be pursuing a degree in internal auditing, accounting, or a related field.
- Demonstrate academic excellence and a passion for internal auditing.

Application Process: The application process is designed to be straightforward and accessible. Interested students must:

- Ensure they are a student member of the IIA Twin Cities Chapter.
- Follow the IIA Twin Cities Chapter on LinkedIn.
- Submit a 1000-word article explaining their interest in internal auditing and how the scholarship will help them achieve their career goals. The article should include the hashtag [#IIATwinCitiesScholarship](#) and their involvement in activities related to internal auditing.
- Complete the online scholarship application form available on the IIA Twin Cities Chapter website, including at least one letter of recommendation from their professor.

Selection Process: A committee of experienced internal auditors and academic professionals in the IIA TC Board of Governors will review the applications. The selection criteria will include:

- Quality and relevance of the article.
- Academic achievements.
- Involvement in extracurricular activities related to internal auditing.
- Letters of recommendation from professors or professionals in the field.

Benefits of the Scholarship: The IIA Twin Cities LinkedIn Scholarship offers several benefits to the recipient:

- Financial support to help cover tuition and other educational expenses.
- Recognition within the internal audit community.
- Enhanced visibility on LinkedIn, which can lead to networking opportunities and potential job offers.
- A certificate of achievement from the IIA Twin Cities Chapter.

How You Can Get Involved: We encourage all eligible students to apply for the scholarship and take advantage of this unique opportunity. Additionally, we invite members of the IIA Twin Cities Chapter and the broader internal audit community to support this initiative by:

- Sharing the scholarship announcement on LinkedIn and other social media platforms.
- Mentoring and providing guidance to scholarship applicants.
- Participating in the selection committee.

The IIA Twin Cities LinkedIn Scholarship is a testament to our commitment to fostering the growth and development of future internal auditors. We believe that by providing financial support and professional recognition, we can help students achieve their academic and career goals. We look forward to receiving applications and supporting the next generation of internal audit professionals.

For more information about the scholarship and how to apply, please contact us at iia.twincities@tciia.org.



ENTER TO WIN A CIA GRANT!



Are you considering pursuing the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) certification?

The IIA will be holding a raffle to give away a grant worth \$870 to be put towards CIA exam fees and/or study materials.

To enter your name into the raffle, all you need to do is register below. The deadline to register for the raffle is **Friday, January 19, 2025**. Registration will be closed as of that date, and a winner will be selected from the submitted registrations.

You must be an IIA member to qualify for the raffle. You can sign-up for an [IIA membership](#) prior to registering for the raffle to qualify. **[REGISTER NOW!!](#)**

Good Luck to You!

VALUE OF THE CIA

In the dynamic world of internal auditing, staying ahead of the curve is essential. That's why we're excited to share with you the value of the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) certification for auditors and why it's worth your consideration.

- 1. Demonstrated Return on Investment (ROI):** The CIA certification is an investment that offers impressive returns. Certified auditors acquire advanced skills that lead to cost savings through more efficient and effective audits, better risk management, and enhanced decision-making processes.
- 2. Credibility and Stakeholder Trust:** CIA-certified auditors enjoy increased credibility with stakeholders, resulting in more favorable terms when negotiating with clients, vendors, and business partners.
- 3. Reduced Risk Exposure:** The certification equips auditors with advanced skills to identify and mitigate risks effectively, contributing to reduced financial, operational, and reputational risks.
- 4. Competitive Advantage:** Certified auditors set organizations apart in the market, leading to increased market share, new business opportunities, and the ability to attract premium clients.
- 5. Professional Development and Talent Retention:** Supporting your team in obtaining CIA certification shows your commitment to their professional growth, helping attract top talent, reducing turnover, and enhancing team morale.
- 6. Global Reach and Compliance:** In an increasingly global business landscape, CIA certification ensures you and your team's ability to navigate diverse regulatory environments and stay compliant.
- 7. Adaptation to Technological Advances:** The certification includes updated knowledge on technology and data analytics, helping you and your organization stay ahead in these areas, increasing efficiency, and reducing costs.
- 8. Certification Maintenance:** CIA-certified professionals are required to engage in continuous professional development, ensuring we remain at the forefront of the field, up-to-date with best practices, and equipped to meet evolving challenges effectively.

In summary, the investment in CIA certification is a strategic move that offers a clear path to both immediate and long-term financial benefits.

It not only justifies the cost but can also lead to substantial financial gains for your organization.

For questions or information,
please contact us at:

iaa.twincities@tciaa.org





CIA LEARNING PRODUCT

NEW LEARNING PRODUCT COMING SOON!

The IIA is here to support your journey with the resources and tools to pass all three CIA exam parts. We understand the importance of providing reliable and up-to-date materials to ensure success and continue to make changes to provide the best study materials possible for our candidates.

The CIA Learning System, available through IIA's partnership with Holmes Corporation, is still available for purchase. Additionally, we are excited to share that a new learning product for the CIA examination will be available through The IIA's collaboration with Becker Professional Education, beginning on March 27, 2025. This new tool has been designed to better meet the needs of exam candidates, with updated content and improved user experience.

Most importantly, individuals who purchased and have an active subscription to the Holmes product will receive access to the Becker product at no additional cost. The IIA will share information on product access with all individuals who have purchased the current CIA Learning System as they get closer to the March 27th transition date.

The IIA looks forward to partnering with you on your journey to CIA success!

Visit the [IIA Study Resource Website](#) for more information!



 **CIA**
**Exam Preparation
Materials**



HOW TO KEEP AI FROM TAKING YOUR JOB

Benjamin R. David, Attorney at Law

Are you afraid that you might be replaced by a computer? Every day there are stories across industries about the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). Many professionals are looking into the future and wondering aloud if humans will be necessary and what the new normal will look like.

I have great news for accountants and auditors. You will have job security for life if you learn how to detect fraud, collect the right evidence, and come into a courtroom to testify about it. A computer cannot do these jobs for several reasons.

First, people who commit crimes, especially sophisticated white-collar criminals, know the importance of covering their tracks. They will not leave a digital footprint if a paper one will do. In other cases, defendants will weaponize technology to help conceal their crimes—for example, by leaving a cellphone behind to create an alibi that they were away from the scene of a crime during a relevant time period. We need to explore creative ways to defeat these methods.

Second, in a court system that demands accuracy and enshrines equal protection, justice officials are increasingly leery of machines that are trained to detect patterns but not interpret what those patterns mean. Data, especially from the internet, can be biased and lead to unequal treatment of people. In a courtroom in Washington state, an AI enhanced cellphone video was kept out of evidence because it was deemed unreliable and not subject to peer review. Similar reasoning was employed by judges in Ohio and Illinois in rejecting Cybercheck and ShotSpotter technology that allegedly placed defendants at murder scenes.

Third, and most importantly, the Constitution guarantees criminal defendants the right to confront and cross-examine their accusers. Siri cannot take the witness stand. Unless two-thirds of both the U.S. House and Senate and three-fourths of the states agree to rewrite the Sixth Amendment, people, not machines, will be necessary to help juries follow the money.

The bottom line: Your first job is to make sure you keep yours. Become indispensable by learning how to unmask fraud and testify about it in a courtroom.

A North Carolina lawyer, Benjamin David has served as an elected district attorney since 2004. He is a past president of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys and currently holds executive office in the National District Attorneys Association.

Want More Information from Ben?

Check out his on-demand course “Why Internal Auditors Should Think Like a Prosecutor” (5CPE credits) from the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Once an accountant or auditor uncovers a financial crime, the work of convincing a prosecutor to devote time and resources to take a case to trial begins. By learning to think like a prosecutor, auditors and accountants will be more effective at catching white-collar criminals, more likely to receive restitution for their clients, and more confident of a conviction.

Register for the course [here!](#)



IIA QUALITY SERVICES / QAIP

While this service is no longer offered locally by our Twin Cities chapter, we are happy to get you connected to IIA National.

IIA Quality Services can help move your Quality Assurance and Improvement Program (QAIP) to the next level with a range of services and expert practitioners. [Visit IIA National](#) for more information!