

# Seattle Chapter



The Institute of  
**Internal  
Auditors**

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## IIA Seattle Chapter Officers

**Chapter President**  
Caroline Pietrowski (GoDaddy)

**1st VP, Secretary**  
Kristina Wilson (Holland America Group)

**2nd VP, Certifications**  
Nira Kohli

**VP Treasurer**  
Nobi Konno (T Mobile)

**VP Data Intelligence**  
Victor Mu (AWS)

**VP Conferences**  
Nick Meyer (Workiva)

**VP Communications**  
Stephen Hodges (Expeditors)

**VP Membership**  
Heather Klingele (Kaiser Permanente)

**VP Programming**  
Arushi Thakorlal (City of Seattle)

**VP Academic Relations**  
Priya Sall (WWU)





# MEET OUR LEADERS!! THIS MONTH - CAROLINE PIETROWSKI, IIA SEATTLE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

We hope you have also been enjoying hearing from Chapter leaders - our post bag has literally been bursting with comments from members.

This month we persuaded our Chapter President to part with some of her wisdom!

## How I “Accidentally” Found Internal Audit

Like many great career stories, mine started with a very serious academic motivation: I wanted to stay in Ottawa for the summer and hang out with my friends.

At the time, I was studying accounting at the University of Ottawa and was desperately searching for a reason not to return home to Toronto for the summer. That's when I spotted an internship with the Government of Canada in something called internal audit. I'll be honest — I had no idea what internal audit was. But it was in Ottawa, so I applied.

One internship quickly turned into three, and before I knew it, I was traveling across the country for audits. That work took me to Paradise (not actual paradise, but a tiny fishing town in Newfoundland), aboard Canadian Coast Guard ships, and to Quebec City in the middle of winter (which I can confidently say is the worst possible time to go). Somewhere between icy sidewalks and ship decks, I realized I had stumbled into a profession I genuinely loved.

Those experiences were so engaging that I made a bold decision: I skipped the traditional CPA path and went straight for the CIA. Since then, internal audit has taken me around the world and into organizations of every shape and size. No two days are the same. What started as a summer plan to stay with friends turned into a career that keeps me challenged, curious, and passionate about helping organizations become better every single day.

# 2025 - 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*The Institute of Internal Auditors Seattle Chapter is pleased to offer up to five scholarships to students attending an accredited college or university in the state of Washington for the 2025-2026 school year. The application deadline is Friday, December 26, 2025.*

## *Eligibility Requirements:*

- 1. Be an undergraduate entering their junior year or higher in fall 2025, fifth year, master's, or PhD candidate. Community college transfers are also encouraged to apply. Students must attend an accredited college or university in Washington State.*
- 2. Be actively pursuing a career in Internal Audit.*
- 3. Have an active IIA Membership (IIA Membership is free for students).*

## *Scholarship Guidelines:*

- Scholarship award is up to \$2,500 to be applied towards tuition or other expenses at the college or university.*
- Scholarship monies are paid directly to the accredited college or university listed on the application and cannot be paid directly to the student.*
- Scholarships are non-renewable.*
- Responsibility for ensuring that the monies can be used for the semester/quarter/year granted lies solely with the student.*

*Scholarship application packet can found on the IIA Seattle Chapter website at: <https://www.theiia.org/en/chapters/united-states/Washington/Seattle/>*

# IIA Volunteering

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## Volunteers and Local Chapter Opportunities:

We are actively looking for volunteers for the following roles. You can earn up to 12 CPE for your support as a volunteer. Please contact us for more information. Or if you have any other areas of interest, we are always looking for more volunteers.

- Social Media Content Manager
- Our Chapter EMT tool – help us manage membership and communication to all members!
- Programming volunteers to help coordinate monthly luncheons, identify speakers and help manage the events (approximately 5 hours each month between August – May)
- Fraud Conference volunteers to help coordinate and plan the event (approximately 5 hours each month between August – March)
- Content for newsletters (approximately 2 hours a month)
- Support the Treasury function (approximately 1-2 hours a month); this could include performing an annual financial audit
- Academic Relations (supporting with academic outreach and increasing our presence on campuses)

# Upcoming Events!!

IIA Seattle is excited to announce our first IN-PERSON training for the fiscal year!

Title: WSCPA and Seattle IIA Present “New Year, New Risks!”

Date / Time: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm (2.5 CPEs)

Location: WSCPA at Ridgewood Corporate Center, 150 120th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98005

Description: As the new year begins, the risk environment facing CPAs, auditors, and finance professionals continues to evolve at lightning speed. From emerging technologies like AI to shifting regulatory expectations and ever-creative fraudsters, the need to stay ahead has never been greater. Join us for an in-person, high-energy event designed to help professionals sharpen their risk awareness and strengthen their response strategies. Plus, Stay for the Networking Reception! After the main program, connect with fellow attendees, speakers, and industry leaders at a relaxed networking reception, with light refreshments and meaningful conversation.

For more information and to register, please visit

<https://www.wscpa.org/cpe/242731jrl:the-wscpa-and-iaa-present-new-year-new-risk-in-person>.

IIA Promo Code: RISK2026

# Upcoming Conferences

## GAM: Great Audit Minds

March 9—11, 2026 | Las Vegas, NV

GAM delivers an advanced learning experience designed exclusively for senior audit leaders. Through strategy-driven sessions and candid, solution-focused conversations, attendees gain the tools to strengthen audit plans, elevate teams, and lead with impact. Leaders will be equipped to embrace innovation, navigate cybersecurity and fraud challenges, align with global internal audit standards, and thrive as trusted advisors shaping the future of the profession.

Register [Here](#).

## 2026 Global Student Conference

April 19-21, 2026 | Orlando, FL

Be a part of the momentum and consider sponsoring your local students and educators to attend! Learn more about sponsorship opportunities or contributing to the Foundation's GSC Travel Grants and [Talent Pipeline Campaign](#).

Check back soon for registration details. We can't wait to welcome you to Orlando next April!



**IIA Virtual Conference Series**

# **Analytics, Automation & AI**

*Data into Direction*



Mark Your Calendar for AAAI 2026

April 7, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. ET | Virtual | Earn up to 9.6 CPEs

The future of internal audit is here, and it's powered by analytics, automation, and AI.

Join peers and experts on April 7, 2026 for the AAAI 2026 Virtual Conference, a one-day program designed to help audit professionals stay ahead of emerging technologies, strengthen oversight, and modernize assurance practices.

Mark your calendar now and be among the first to explore the strategies and tools shaping the next era of internal audit.

Register here: <https://www.theiia.org/en/events/conference/virtual-conferences/analytics-and-automation-virtual-conference/#register>

# Quality Services

IIA Quality Services helps validate and strengthen your internal audit activity and enhances your effectiveness, efficiency, and successful practice implementation.

As a trusted source in the profession, we have helped hundreds of organizations in various industries and around the world by providing qualified audit professionals, a global benchmarking database, and a repository of successful practices. We assist CAEs in gaining support from the audit committee, enhance understanding of why an external assessment is necessary and valuable, and describe the different approaches.

For questions about our services, please contact IIA Quality Services at [quality@theiia.org](mailto:quality@theiia.org) or [read more here](#).



# Certifications

**Congratulations to the following members who recently earned certifications:**

**CIA: Glennon Manninger, Linda Zhang**

**IAP: Angela Voyles, Nikhila Vakulabaranam**



## **Boost Your Audit Career with the IAP Designation**

Looking to stand out in the audit profession? The Internal Audit Practitioner (IAP) designation is a cost-effective way to build credibility, gain recognition, and advance your career. If you've passed Part 1 of the CIA exam, you're already eligible. Get started today at the link below.

[https://lnkd.in/g7NN\\_3gJ](https://lnkd.in/g7NN_3gJ)

## **Earn Your CRMA- Certification in Risk Management Assurance**

Showcase your expertise in risk assurance with the CRMA designation.

At a Glance:

125 questions | 150-minute exam administered at test centers

No CIA required to apply

2 years to complete after application approval

Learn more: <https://lnkd.in/gA7JGRc8>

The updated CIA exams, aligned with the 2025 syllabi, will be available starting May 28. To ensure you're prepared, visit [theiia.org/CIA2025](https://theiia.org/CIA2025) for detailed information on the changes and to plan your studies. For further questions, please submit a case via the Help tab in your CCMS account. Prepare early to stay ahead in your certification journey!

Effective May 28, 2025, IIA Certifications testing has transitioned back to test center-only delivery. Online proctoring will be permanently discontinued. The last day to register for online proctored exams is May 1. For further questions, please submit a case in CCMS.

The new Global Internal Audit Standards are effective. It's a great time to refresh your knowledge by visiting the IIA's resources at [Global Internal Audit Standards](https://www.theiia.org/global-internal-audit-standards).

IIA Partners With Becker Professional Education. The CIA Exam Review platform is transitioning to Becker's new CIA Exam Review course, which features updated content aligned with the new CIA syllabi and upcoming exams. For additional details, visit <https://lnkd.in/gSxQ-dCB>

- Cybersecurity Topical Requirement Effective February 2026

The IIA's mandatory IPPF requirement provides a consistent, comprehensive approach to assessing the design and implementation of cybersecurity governance, risk management, and controls. A companion user guide is available [Here](https://www.theiia.org/en/standards/2024-standards/topical-requirements/cybersecurity/) to assist with its application. <https://www.theiia.org/en/standards/2024-standards/topical-requirements/cybersecurity/>

- Lead with Strategy

Discover how to create a vision, set objectives, and implement initiatives for audit excellence. The IIA's new practice guide provides practical tools, examples for every audit leader, and a strategic plan template [here](#).