

Meet the 2023 Scholarship Winners!

First Affirmative Financial Network Emeriti present the 2023 ESG for Impact! Scholarship recipients.



Athina Chen is pursuing a B.S. in Applied Mathematics-Economics at Brown University. Her interest in responsible investing began in high school, where she founded an SRI investment club. Athina writes, “I see myself actively engaged in sustainable investing. I hope to end up as a portfolio manager with a sustainable portfolio, an ESG advisor or analyst, or an entrepreneur in a way that creates or advocates for sustainable products, practices, and investments. I hope to learn from investment professionals that drive our society's change. I am excited to see what progressive ideas are brought up—what exactly influences people, organizations, and societies to take steps toward sustainable investing.”



Randy Estrin earned his B.S. degree in business administration and management from Haskell Indian Nations University this year and is actively pursuing a job search. A member of the Haida and Tlingit nations in Alaska, he is and has been active in the Native American Finance Officers Association and served as an ambassador for the American Indian College Fund. Randy writes, “I am eager to contribute to the ESG/SRI investing conversation. I plan on pursuing a career in investing and finance and will eventually be working with clients directly to assist in portfolio and asset management. Attending this event would deepen my understanding of what SRI/ESG investing is and how to effectively practice it.”



Sarah George earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Personal and Family Financial Planning with minors in Environmental Science and Spanish from the University of Arizona and has passed the CFP™ exam. She works in a client-facing role at Perigon Wealth Management. Sarah says “As a volunteer financial educator for young people in my community, helping to break down the social and economic barriers that have been placed in front of them, I no longer see money as a measure of success, but as a vehicle for empowerment and change. I hope to enable clients to reach goals that align with their values. Attending ESG for Impact will be a perfect steppingstone.”



Anya Kureshi is pursuing a double major in Sustainability Studies and Business at the University of Texas Austin, where she is a member of the Sustainable Investment Group. She is interning at a cleantech startup using AI to decarbonize manufacturing. Anya writes, “I hope to become an investment advisor, utilizing my previous experiences to encourage ESG adoption. I’m most interested in investing in companies whose supply chains have positive impacts, as this is typically where the bulk of environmental and other violations occur,” and states that she applied for a scholarship to the Conference to seek out mentors.



Aicha Ly earned her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Modern Languages from Eastern Connecticut State University. She is the Program Manager for Climate Justice and Events at the Intentional Endowment Network, working directly with ESG through its Net Zero Endowments Initiative. She writes, “This Conference would offer me a wealth of opportunities as I break into the investing space. It is an invaluable opportunity to both learn and share what I know. I would be honored to be sponsored so I am better equipped to help progress climate justice through sustainable investing with a deeper understanding of and network around ESG.”



Kyler McGillis is a tribal citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and an ambitious MBA candidate at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. Passionately rooted in his community, Kyler envisions leveraging ESG investing to foster economic growth and sustainability within Native American communities nationwide. Eager to play a pivotal role in this sphere, he is keen to absorb knowledge at the ESG for Impact Conference. Through this platform, Kyler aims to cultivate a deep understanding of sustainable investment strategies, forging networks that could echo into opportunities for his community and ensuring a future where investment blends with respect for the planet and its people.



Felipe Ramirez recently graduated from NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service, with a focus on impact and ESG investing. He earned his B.A. in Geoscience from Hamilton College. He currently works as an Impact Officer at 17 Asset Management and a Grants & CASSR Administrator at NYU. He served as a Deal Team Associate with the NYU Impact Investment Fund. He writes, “My goal is to work in a client facing role such as an investment consultant or a portfolio manager. Through this conference I hope to learn more about sustainable investment options and how to best communicate these opportunities.”



Devashish Taknet is an MPA candidate at NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service, specializing in impact investing. He is a student investor at the NYU Impact Investment Fund (NIIF) and a Director of the Social Innovation and Investment Alliance. With a bachelor’s degree in commerce and certification in Development Management from ISDM, he brings seven years of diverse experience in social impact. In the summer of 2023, he interned with Consul (Trade) at the Consulate General of India, NY, contributing to enhance investments between USA and India. Dev is “passionate about being a tri-sector athlete, engaging the public, private, and non-profit sectors in the field of impact investing to channel sustainable finance in emerging markets.”

About the ESG for Impact! Conference Scholarship Program

The emeritus representatives of First Affirmative Financial Network founded the SRI Scholarship Program in 2015 to help ensure that the culture, commitment, and competence of the impact investing movement be sustained into the next generation. We believe the values-driven, multi-disciplinary community of practice that has formed the foundation of the now robust Sustainable Responsible Impact investment industry (aka ESG) is a unique and vital part of this business sector. As people who brought the concept and practice of investing for fair returns and positive impact to the public one client conversation at a time, we understand the value of personal connection. We bring a diverse group of top students and young professionals to ESG For Impact! so they can experience and be welcomed into this community.

In service of these goals, we actively solicit a diverse group of applicants and then 'blind' the applications before sending them to our readers who score them based on specific criteria and many years of experience. We require the winners to communicate what they are learning to their networks as a condition of the scholarship. We use the time at the conference to integrate winners into the community with personal introductions and mentoring. After the conference, we stay in touch and integrate them into a network of winners across class years.

We treat all donors as equal contributors, regardless of the size of their donation, to maintain the communal and collaborative culture of the project. We operate exclusively with volunteer labor so ALL donations go toward maximizing the number of winners who can attend the conference.

Please consider joining us in this work by making a tax-deductible contribution to the ESG Conference Scholarship Fund through our fiscal partner **The Crane Institute of Sustainability**, home of the **Intentional Endowments Network** at:

https://www.intentionalendowments.org/esg_conference_scholarship.

Questions? Comments! More Information...

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