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Students Network with Major Finance Firms in Chicago and St. Louis

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — During the spring semester, members of two registered student organizations at Illinois Wesleyan University had the opportunity to network with professionals at top-tier finance firms during trips to Chicago and St. Louis.

[Students with the Women in Finance RSO and Investments/Trading Club](#) visited Chicago on March 24 where they explored three nationally and internationally rated finance firms: Bank of Montreal, Northern Trust and the Chicago Board Options Exchange. On April 14, the groups traveled to St. Louis to meet with NISA Investment Advisors and Edward Jones.

The trips, funded in part by supportive alumni, were coordinated by Assistant Professor of Finance Mikhail Munenzon who serves as the faculty advisor for both RSOs.

“Students were very engaged and happy to experience

what high-level finance professional careers, environments and expectations might look and feel like, instead of just talking about it,” said Munenzon.

During the visits, students attended presentations and spoke with vice presidents of the firms, floor traders and heads of departments. Finance major William Duff '25 said “it was phenomenal” to interact with senior staff members from several of the banks while on the Chicago trip.

“Hearing about their career path and being able to ask them questions on what intrigued them to pursue a career in finance was exactly what we were looking for. In addition to that, we got to see the inside of their state-of-the-art downtown offices, which blew my mind away,” said Duff, a member of the Investments/Trading Club.

These trips help create a connection that will lead to recruiting relationships between the high-level employers and [IWU students pursuing finance careers](#), said Munenzon.

He added that IWU finance graduates stand out to employers due to their “exposure to fields and perspectives outside of finance” from a liberal arts education, as well as their access to [The Greg Yess '82 Bloomberg Finance Lab](#).

“Bloomberg-based training provides unique, experiential, state-of-the-art finance learning. Bloomberg Terminals are used by



Illinois Wesleyan students with the Women in Finance RSO and Investments/Trading Club visited the Chicago Board Options Exchange.



IWU students spoke with vice presidents of finance firms, floor traders and heads of departments.

top investment and financial institutions to analyze, research, trade and invest in markets around the world. Very few universities have a Bloomberg Lab because of the expense involved, though they are invaluable for real-life industry knowledge,” said Munenzon.

Klaudia Wyszynski '23, co-president of the Women in Finance RSO, said it was a fulfilling

experience to speak with leaders in the reputable finance companies — and she hopes to use those connections to expand her professional network.

She is also eager to see campus groups collaborate more often on shared interests and passions.

“I hope both RSOs continue to work together to strengthen their relationship, as I know they both offer extraordinary experiences to their members,” said Wyszynski, finance major.

By Maria Harmon '23