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accounting firms who led sessions and conducted interviews for a variety of paid accounting internships.

Jan. 15, 2020



In just three days, 26 college accounting students from diverse backgrounds gained a significant advantage in launching their careers. They are the newest class of scholars to complete the Illinois CPA Society's highly competitive [Mary T. Washington Wylie Internship Preparation Program](#). During their winter break, program participants received specialized training, mentoring, and coaching aimed at helping them secure internships and become future accounting and finance professionals. Additionally, all participants received a \$500 scholarship to help with educational expenses.

The program connected students with representatives from major companies and

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Michael Beaurford	Governors State University	Chicago
Jared Dandridge	Governors State University	Park Forest
Diana Diego	Aurora University	Aurora
Ami Eklou	Western Illinois University	Moline
Azalea Garcia	Lewis University	Joliet
Miguel Gutierrez	Morton College	Berwyn
DeAndra Harley	University of Illinois at Chicago	Chicago
Takeda Hill	Governors State University	Park Forest
Taniayah Johnson	Knox College	Chicago
Christopher Johnson	University of St. Francis	Hillside
Sonia Lee	Harold Washington College	Chicago
David Mason	Augustana College	Rock Island
Tyler Moseberry	Western Illinois University	Naperville
Alejandra Nava	Kishwaukee College	Rochelle
Tiara Nelson	Harold Washington College	Chicago
Eldrin Oatis	Chicago State University	Chicago
Cameron Petersen	Illinois State University	Normal
Meryem Rehich	Northeastern Illinois University	Chicago
Eduardo Rodriguez	Benedictine University	Chicago
Raisa Salik	University of Illinois at Chicago	Skokie
Eman Samra	Governors State University	Burbank
Genesis Sarmiento	Augustana College	Chicago
Hardeep Sekhon	Harper College	Palatine
Reginald Willis	Monmouth College	Chicago
Samantha Zanches-Zamudio	Lewis University	Lockport

The Internship Preparation Program is funded by donations to the [CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois](#)' Mary T. Washington Wylie Opportunity Fund.

Mary T. Washington Wylie, a Chicagoan who graduated from Northwestern University, began her own accounting practice in a basement on the city's South Side in 1939. She became the first African-American female CPA in the U.S. in 1943 and was a trailblazer for minorities entering the accounting profession. This program bearing her name advances diversity within the profession by building skills and presenting new opportunities for minority accounting students to be successful.

The CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1998 by Illinois CPA Society members. The Fund was created to ensure ongoing funding for scholarship and outreach programs. The programs are geared toward

encouraging individuals to choose accounting as a career choice and achieve the CPA

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