

# Seattle Chapter



The Institute of  
**Internal Auditors**

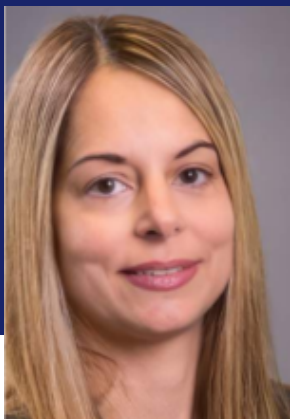
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## IIA Seattle Chapter Officers

- President**  
Cynthia Behnen Gillison (RSM)
- 1st VP - Secretary**  
Caroline Pietrowski (PwC)
- 2nd VP - Programming**  
Veronica Bains (Harborstone Credit Union)
- VP Certifications**  
Nira Kohli
- VP Academic Relations**  
Austin Bailey (Russell Investments )
- VP Treasurer**  
Nobi Konno (T-Mobile)
- VP Membership**  
Kristina Wilson (Remitly)
- VP Data Intelligence**  
Viktor Mu (AWS)
- VP Communications**  
Nitin Nigam (Amazon)
- VP Conferences**  
Nick Meyer (Workiva)





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear IIA Seattle Chapter Members,

I hope everyone is doing well. I can't believe we have entered the last month of the calendar year. As I reflect on 2024, it's been filled with many successes and events to celebrate, balanced with time to reflect, and regroup. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year, may you be able to find time to relax and spend memorable times with family and friends. Thank you to everyone who joined our November luncheon on the new IIA standards, a special thanks to Carrie Pokrefke, who moderated the event and to our speaker Kristen Kelly and Ben Franjesevic, we appreciate your insights and practical implementation tips for tackling the new requirements.

As we close out December, we have some exciting CPE opportunities for our members we are excited to host our virtual Ethical Decision Making virtual luncheon on December 12th, with speakers Cynthia Cooper and Grant Ostler, please register [Here](#). Our 2024 – 2025 scholarship application deadline is closing on December 27, 2024, this year we have increased the number of scholarships to five, please look for details in this newsletter. These scholarships are designed to continue our efforts to help students persevere in the field of Internal Audit. We've had a lot of success in previous years and look forward to awarding the five scholarships in 2025. Please refer to the updates in this newsletter and our LinkedIn site for further information.

We have several volunteer positions we are looking to fill, if you are passionate about academic relations, programming, member engagement, communications or want to volunteer your financial skills to support our treasurer we'd love to hear from you at [chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org](mailto:chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org).

Have a wonderful month!!!

Your Seattle Chapter IIA President  
Cynthia Behnen Gillison

# Meet your FY24/25 Chapter Officers!

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President – Cynthia Behnen-Gillison



1st VP Secretary – Caroline Pietrowski



2nd VP Programing – Veronica "Ronnie" Bains



VP Certification – Nira Kohli



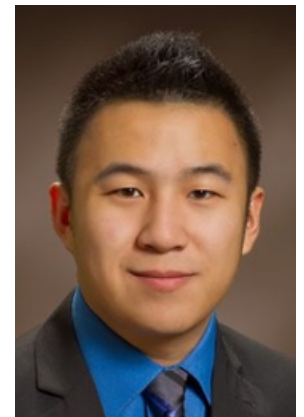
VP Academic Relations – Austin Bailey



VP Treasurer – Nobi Konno



VP Membership – Kristina Wilson



VP Data Intelligence Officer – Viktor Mu



VP Communications - Nitin Nigam



VP Conferences – Nick Meyer

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## Board of Governors

Vijayant Sitani - PACCAR  
Steve Mar - Seattle University  
Tom Moon - Protiviti

Michelle Quisenberry - KPMG  
Hilda Quinones - Microsoft  
Richard Cordova - UW

Darren Stephenson - Symetra  
Patrick Zanin - Avalara  
Matt Reinke

# Chapter News & Events

## Ethical Decision Making & Fraud Detection and Prevention Program



<u>Event Date</u>	December 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
<u>Event Time</u>	9am – 12 noon PT
<u>CPE credits</u>	3 (Ethics 2 CPE; Fraud 1 CPE)

Registration Link: [Here](#)

### 1st Session – Ethical Decision Making (100 minutes)

Cynthia Cooper will share her personal experiences at WorldCom as well as important lessons learned from some of the most significant 21st century corporate failures. Ms. Cooper will also provide practical strategies and tips to build a healthy speak-up culture and achieve long-term sustainable success. She will discuss:

- Unraveling the WorldCom fraud and lessons learned
- Common threads and root causes of recent public and private sector fraud scandals
- How we can work smarter to prevent frauds and detect them more quickly
- Fraud and the psychology of human behavior
- The keys to building a healthy speak-up culture
- What every auditor should know about whistleblowing
- 10 steps to navigate ethical dilemmas and make the right choices

### 2nd Session – Implementing an Effective Fraud Prevention & Detection Program (50 minutes)

Title: Fraud is some other organization's problem, not mine, right?

Many auditors think that fraud is some other organization's problem. They maintain internal dialogs like "we've got a great culture, so fraud's not something we need to worry about, or with all the demands on our internal audit team we don't need to focus resources on fraud, do we?"

Join the discussion about key components of a fraud prevention program, such as ethical culture, internal controls, and risk assessments and how internal audit can promote the development of a fraud aware culture across their organization. Learn now internal auditors can integrate fraud detection methods into their existing methodology and how tools like data analytics can help detect fraud in the audits you are already performing.

Our speakers will share case studies and practical tips on integrating fraud prevention into business processes, how internal auditors can integrate fraud detection methods into their existing methodologies, and how technology can enhance detection. The importance of training and awareness programs to foster a vigilant culture will be highlighted.

After this session, you'll be able to:

- Engage with leaders in your organization to increase fraud awareness across your organization
- Complete a fraud risk assessment for your organization
- Incorporate anti-fraud measures into your existing audit methodology

# Chapter News & Events

FY 2024-25 SAVE THE DATES!

Date/Location	Pillar	Topic	Presenter(s)
Thursday, December 12, 2024 (Virtual)	Luncheon – partnering with other chapters	Ethical Decision Making	Cynthia Cooper
January 16, 2025 (Virtual)	Luncheon	Communicating with the Executive Tier	Todd Weinman, President and Founder of The Weinman Group
February 2025 (TBD)	CAE Roundtable	TBD	TBD
February 2025 (Virtual)	Luncheon – partnering with Nisqually Chapter or Audit Board	TBD	TBD
March 11, 2025 (In-Person)	Luncheon – partnering with ISACA	TBD	TBD
April 2025 (TBD)	DEI Luncheon	TBD	TBD
Thursday, April 24, 2025 (Virtual)	CAE Roundtable	TBD	Trent Russell
May 1, 2025 (In-Person)	Fraud Conference	16 <sup>th</sup> Annual Fraud Conference	TBD
May 15, 2025 (In-Person)	CAE Roundtable	AI Governance	Protiviti
May 29, 2025 (In-Person)	Member Appreciation Luncheon or Happy Hour	TBD	TBD

Interested in getting involved with Programming? Contact Veronica Bains (VP Programming) at [Chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org](mailto:Chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org)

## Call for Volunteers !

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!

Interested candidates should reach out to the chapter with their nomination or with any questions. The Chapter can be reached at [chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org](mailto:chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org).

Additionally, we are regularly looking for volunteers to assist with programming, academic relations, communications and secretarial duties. If you are interested in supporting your chapter (volunteers can earn up to 12 CPEs throughout the year), please also reach out to the chapter email address.

Thanks for your interest!





# CIA Challenge Exam

The more focused path to Certification

The CIA Challenge Exam is your chance to join the more than 185,000 CIAs who have achieved this highly respected global certification.

As a CISA™ holder or an active CPA or CA holder, you can take advantage of this limited opportunity to earn the Certified Internal Auditor® (CIA®) designation through an expedited process called the CIA Challenge Exam. This expedited process allows you to obtain the CIA designation after successfully passing the one-part examination.

The CIA Challenge Exam only includes content not covered on your CISA™, CPA or CA exam, saving you time and money.

## **CISA?**

[Click Here To Know More](#)

## **CPA or CA?**

[Click Here to Know More](#)

# IIA Seattle Events - Students

Are you interfacing with students? We encourage you to have them sign up for a FREE student membership! They will get access to:

- Internal Auditor Magazine
- Member only discounts
- Scholarship opportunity

Students can use the code: IIA Student. They likely do not want to go by themselves. However, a group of students from a class or as a guest with a professor can be a great learning/networking opportunity.

Reach out to [chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org](mailto:chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org) with any questions!

*Austin Bailey, Seattle  
VP Academic Relations*



The Institute of  
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**1** Create an IIA Account.  
<https://register.theiia.org/>

**2** Log into the site below and submit a student application.  
<https://myiia.theiia.org/Student/Index>

# IIA Seattle Events - Students

## Scholarship program 2024-25

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 Washington for the 2024-2025 school year.

The application deadline is Friday December 27, 2024.

### Eligibility Requirements:

1. Be an undergraduate entering their junior year or higher in fall 2024, fifth year, masters, or PhD candidate. Community college transfers are also encouraged to apply. Students must attend a college or university that is accredited 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:

#### Amount and Duration of Scholarships:

- Scholarship award is up to \$2,500 to be applied towards tuition or other expenses from the college or university.
- Scholarship monies are paid directly to the accredited college or university listed on 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.



# IIA Seattle Events - Students

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Reach out to [chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org](mailto:chapter34@iiachaptercommunications.org) with any questions!



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# Certification

## CONGRATS

Members Achieving CIA Certifications

**Robyn Wyatt**

**Natalie Carroll**

**Kathryn Zenovic**

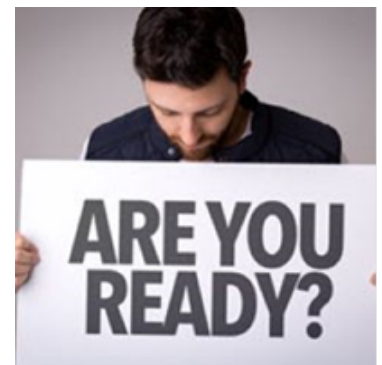
### CIA Syllabi Changes

Changes are coming to the CIA exams in 2025. The FINAL version of updated CIA syllabi will be posted to [www.theiia.org/CIA2025](http://www.theiia.org/CIA2025) on 9/30 along with a list of candidate scenarios, FAQs, and additional details.

### Annual Certification Renewal

Certification renewal will begin in October. CIA certifications in Revoked status can now be restored to Active with just one exam. Individuals who wish to participate will only need to complete a recertification application and CIA Part 1. This new policy is posted to [theiia.org/CPEREquirements](http://theiia.org/CPEREquirements).

Invest in yourself and stay certified. The IIAs extensive course offerings provide certification holders with more options than ever to conveniently meet CPE requirements through online, hybrid, and in-person training. Learn more [here](#) about CPE opportunities to meet the December 31 deadline.



# Registration is open!

## 2025 Fraud Virtual Conference

The Fraud Virtual Conference is part of a series of one day conferences designed to help internal auditors stay ahead of critical issues and be more responsive in their work.

Feb 20, 2025 | Virtual, Only

## 2025 GAM Conference

Join the most esteemed gathering of internal audit innovators, leaders, and trailblazers at 2025 GAM: Great Audit Minds. Immerse yourself in a dynamic learning environment where you can collaborate and tackle today's pressing business and audit challenges while pioneering the frontiers of tomorrow. By participating, you will gain invaluable insights, forge meaningful connections, and acquire the tools and knowledge necessary to bring true value to your organization. Embrace the future of internal audit and revolutionize your impact today.

Mar 10 - 12, 2025 | Kissimmee, Florida

## 2025 Analytics, Automation and AI Virtual Conference

This one-day virtual conference will focus on how organizations and government agencies are using data literacy, data analytics, automation, and AI. Attendees will gain the latest insight on how to approach internal audit activities related to the assessments of analytics, automation, and AI.

Apr 10, 2025 | Virtual, Only

## 2025 Global Student Conference

Connect with fellow students and educators, learn key competencies for becoming an effective internal auditor, and gain strategies to help exceed both current educators' and future employers' expectations.

Apr 13 - 15, 2025 | Orlando, Florida





# Happy Holidays

Happy New Year

IIA Seattle Management Team &  
Board wishes all  
**Happy Holidays**  
and a very  
**Happy New Year 2025**



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# 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.

## Certification Online Testing Available Now

To support the continued professional development of certification candidates around the world and in response to mass Pearson VUE test center closures due to COVID-19, The IIA has adopted online testing to enable candidates to take the Certified Internal Auditor® (CIA®), Certification in Risk Management Assurance® (CRMA®), and CIA Challenge exams from home. This flexible testing option will be available for a limited time..

[IIA Certification Information](#)