

Initiatives *At-A-Glance*



About the WSIA Education Foundation

The WSIA Education Foundation is dedicated to encouraging the educational development of all those interested in the wholesale, specialty and surplus lines business, and to creating an understanding, and overcoming the misperceptions of the excess and surplus lines market.

The Foundation supports the WSIA education programs; champions the Associate in Surplus Lines Insurance (ASLI) designation program, supports the A.M. Best Company's annual review of the surplus lines segment; administers student-focused educational programs, symposiums and scholarships; and attracts new talent to the industry through university outreach in collaboration with the WSIA Career Development Committee.



SCHOLARSHIPS

- Established in 1998, the WSIA Education Foundation scholarship program supports students pursuing an insurance or business-related program of study.
- The purpose of the scholarship program is to further the study of insurance and encourage, support, and reward those exceptional students who have an interest in an insurance career.
- Twenty scholarships were awarded to 21 students, for a total of \$100,000, to students from 13 different universities.

SYMPOSIUMS

- In 2019, three college symposiums were held for Risk Management and Insurance majors. In 2020 there will be four symposiums.
- All symposiums include a Career Fair, networking opportunities with industry members, and educational sessions with both young and experienced professionals.
- Registration is only \$25 for students and includes free or reduced hotel stay and meals.
- By year-end 2019, a total of 446 students from 47 different universities attended the three symposiums.

2019 SYMPOSIUMS

2019 Surplus Lines Symposium - 193 students from **19** universities

2019 Extreme Risk Takers Symposium - 166 students from **19** universities

2019 Wholesale and Specialty Insurance Symposium - 87 students from **9** universities

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AM BEST

- The Foundation is most widely-known among WSIA members for its commitment to the AM Best Company's annual *Special Report, U.S. Surplus Lines – Segment Review*. The Foundation provides a grant to make the report possible.
- The AM Best report studies on the state of the surplus lines industry and current trends. The report includes surplus lines sector's market trends, financial condition and ratings distribution, regulatory and legislative developments, distribution issues and impairment trends, and survey results of surplus lines insurers measuring the proportion of premium derived from various distribution channels.
- The 2019 report found growth of 11.2% in surplus lines direct premium written in 2018, with surplus lines premium of \$49.9 billion.

Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS)

- Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS) is an international risk management, insurance and actuarial science collegiate fraternity, and serves more than 5,000 student members and faculty from 76 chapters across North America by providing professional development and educational opportunities.
- The WSIA Education Foundation is a GIS Sustaining Partner which includes many opportunities to engage with college students.
- In 2019, the Foundation participated in the Leadership Symposium, regional and international GIS conferences.

Associate in Surplus Lines Insurance (ASLI)

- In addition to WSIA's Certified Managing General Agency (CMGA) education designations, the foundation supports the Associate in Surplus Lines Insurance (ASLI).
- The ASLI designation program was developed in 1996 by the Derek Hughes/NAPSLO Educational Foundation and The Institutes.
- Students must pass exams for four courses on surplus lines insurance-related subject to complete the ASLI.
- More than 2,500 insurance professionals have earned the ASLI designation.
- In 2019, 78 insurance professionals earned the ASLI designation.

Upcoming Foundation Initiatives

GIS Events

SEPTEMBER 24 – 26, 2020
GIS International Conference
Dallas, TX

Scholarships

MARCH 1 2020
Application deadline

Extreme Risk Takers Symposiums

FEBRUARY 28, 2020
Los Angeles, CA

MARCH 27 – 28, 2020
Chicago, IL

APRIL 3, 2020
Santa Barbara, CA

OCTOBER 16 – 17, 2020
Phoenix, AZ

NOVEMBER 12 – 13, 2020
Atlanta, GA

