



Your resource for training, news, & member announcements!

## IIA Information & Insights

Listen to news updates, interviews, and opinions from experts across all aspects of internal audit. Episodes feature content exclusive for IIA members.

[Watch & Listen](#)

## Get Involved with the IIA

Give back to our profession by sharing your best practices, experiences, and knowledge. Volunteering with the IIA is all about ongoing connections on subject matter expertise, advice, and counsel on different aspects of organizational operations.

[Start Here](#)

## Advance Your IA Career with Becker

The IIA has partnered with Becker Professional Education, a renowned provider of educational resources and exam preparation in the fields of accounting and finance, to deliver official exam prep courses.

[Get Details](#)

## Key Contents

**Membership & Certifications**  
Page 2

**FWC Chapter Events**  
Pages 3 – 5

**IIA HQ National Conferences**  
Page 6

**Spotlights**  
Pages 7 – 10

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**IIA FWC on LinkedIn!**



# >>> Membership & Certifications

## Congratulations to Our New IIA FWC Certifications!

We are proud to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of our members:

**Alejandra Cris Rodriguez**  
*Internal Audit Practitioner (IAP)*

**Eric Reighard**  
*Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)*

**Ashlee Fischer**  
*Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)*

**Mark Traester**  
*Certification Risk Management Assurance (CRMA)*

## IIA Membership: Guidance, Growth, & Global Connections

IIA membership gives more than credentials. You get exclusive access to trusted guidance, global thought leadership, and cross-industry networking. Explore benefits from advanced professional development designed to keep your skills current and your career moving forward.

Explore the full range of membership benefits!



Explore Here



## Welcome New IIA FWC Chapter Members: October & November

**Alejandra Bonachea - Anthony Picone -  
Chad Jones - Heather Robinson -  
Jonathan Shyr - Katie McNamara -  
Michael Walker - Perry O'Dell -  
Robert Brown - Shannon Lukaszuk -  
Teresa Chambliss - Tonya Baker - James  
Campbell - Katina Franklin - Robert  
Garner - Tara Gholston -  
Edward Glines - Toni Jackson -  
Matthew Matney - James McAllister -  
Elie Abou Tayeh - Tera McLanahan -  
Ashvin Namboodiri - Karine St. Jean -  
Andrew Stevens - Christina Walker -  
Scott Walsh - Sophia Raymond -  
Tanisha Allana - Akilah Aquil -  
Ciera Burgess - Simran Garg -  
Dan Gilpin - Chloe Hu - Stanley Hu -  
Nicole Leverock - Bill Murphy -  
Mohammed Saleh - Ryaan Sudally -  
Sonja Stefanović - Gregory Sutton -  
Jason Fidurski - Teo Najdovski -  
Selma Leon Gonzalez -  
Parth Patel - Jaime Amaya -  
Abbey Carignan - Crystal Langaigne -  
Nuo Lucaj - Anthony Robinson -  
Jorge Rodriguez Rosado -  
Jayla Livingston-Miller -  
Mercedes Washington**

★ Contact the FWC if you'd like  
to be included in a future  
Member Spotlight ★



## >>> UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Virtual

In-person

### 1/28/26 – Not-for-Profit Industry Spotlight

Event Host: **Cherry Bekaert**

Location: **DemiSar Workspace. Training Room** (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

Time: **7:30AM – 12:00PM EST**

Cost: **\$85/person (member) | \$95/person (non-member)**



### 2/5/26 – February 2026 CAE Roundtable

Sponsor: **Frazier Deeter**

Location: **Tampa Club**

Time: **TBD** (up to 2 hours NASBA CPE)

Cost: **\$35/person (member) | \$45/person (non-member)**



### 2/19/26 – February 2026 Seminar

Location: **New College of Florida**

Time: **8AM – Noon EST** (up to 4 hours NASBA CPE)

Cost: **\$85/person (member) | \$95/person (non-member)**



**NOTE: Registration for upcoming events open as the date gets closer**  
**Check out our chapter's LinkedIn for more info on how to register.**



## &gt;&gt;&gt; UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS

Virtual

In-person

1/30/26Cybersecurity Summit

The Seventh Annual Tampa Official Cybersecurity Summit is the must-attend event for CISOs and senior leaders looking to strengthen resilience, reduce risk, and align security with business goals. Join top executives, innovators, and experts for a full day of actionable insights, cutting-edge solutions, and high-impact networking.

Location: **Tampa Hilton Downtown**

Time: **8AM – 5PM EST**

Cost: **FREE to IIA FWC members with code “CSS26-IIAFWC”**

[Register Here](#)

2/26/26 – 2/27/26AHIA Regional Conference & Internal Audit Leader Roundtable

The AHIA Regional Conference provides a forum for healthcare internal auditors to network and interact with their peers, share internal audit best practices, and strengthen the profession of healthcare IA.

Location: **Feather Sound Country Club**  
**2201 Feather Sound Dr, Clearwater, FL 33762**

Time: **7:45AM – 4:00PM EST**

Cost: **\$245 for one day, \$425 for both days**

***Registration will be limited to the first 70 participants.***

[Register Here](#)



## &gt;&gt;&gt; PAST CHAPTER EVENTS

## December Seminar

**Scott Madenburg** wrapped up our final seminar of the calendar year on Dec. 5, 2025, at the Stetson University of Law, Tampa Law Center. Scott guided us through '**Audit In Motion: Ethics, AI, & The Power Of Technology & Innovation**'.

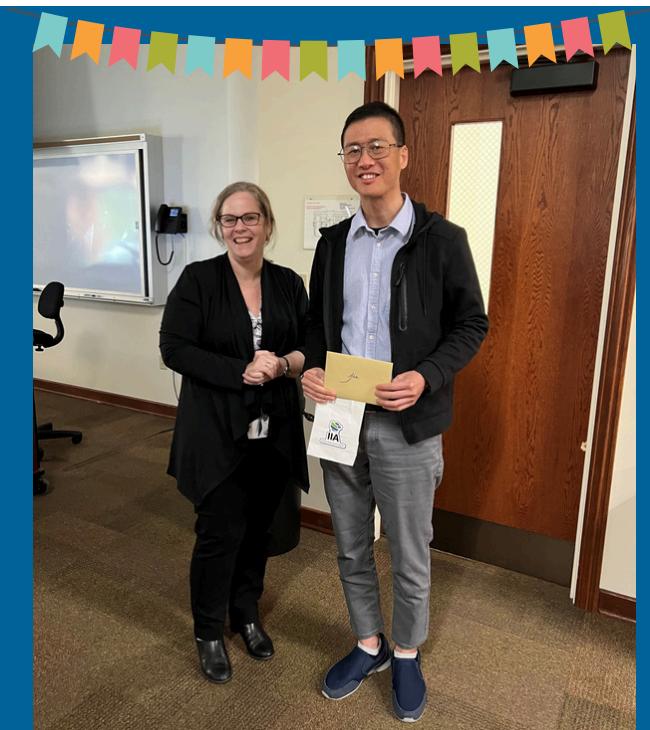
Attendees got a comprehensive exploration of pressing issues facing the internal audit profession. Our 8-hour interactive event gave participants actionable frameworks for ethical decision-making where we learned how to harness the transformative power of AI, as well as develop strategies to identify and manage hidden risks. Members said they felt better prepared thanks to Scott's expertise!



The FWC chapter also celebrated **Joe Htin**, our committee member supporting both Programming and Academic Relations for graduating with his Master's from the University of Tampa!!

**Congratulations Joe  
on your HUGE success!!**

(Image) Joe is pictured with  
Programming Committee  
Member Karen Percent.





## &gt;&gt;&gt; IIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Feb 17, 2026 | Virtual, Only**

Explore practical, tech-enabled fraud detection methods and leadership strategies designed for today's complex and rapidly shifting fraud landscape.

**Mar 09 – 11, 2026 | Las Vegas, Nevada**

The premier conference for senior audit leaders to exchange strategies and elevate their role as trusted advisors in a rapidly evolving risk landscape.

**Apr 07, 2026 | Virtual, Only**

Build the analytics, automation, and AI competencies internal auditors need to deliver deeper assurance and smarter insights.

**Apr 19 – 21, 2026 | Orlando, Florida**

Students, educators, and internal audit professionals convene for a competitive case study challenge, career development resources, and networking.

[Conference Details](#)

# >>> IIA FWC Leader Spotlight

In this **IIA FWC Leader Spotlight** focus, we continue fostering insights by sharing career paths and capturing unique attributes across both IIA and chapter leaders.

This time, we connect with Heather from Velera who found internal audit from a non-traditional path and loves it!



**HEATHER LASCANO**

IIA FWC Board Governor  
Sr. Internal Auditor, Velera

**Q** Can you share details of your work?

**A** I'm a Sr. Internal Auditor, Team Lead at Velera (formerly PSCU), a credit union service organization supporting credit unions for nearly fifty years. We provide a variety of fintech solutions to enable credit unions to compete with large banks. As Team Lead, I also liaise on engagement, professional development, performance, and implementing Gallup® tools for our leaders and team.

**Q** How did you get into Internal Audit?

**A** My professional background in cell and molecular biology led me to drug research and biotech in California. I relocated to Florida after wildfires, and built project and people management certification and experiences in construction, marketing, nonprofits, and entrepreneurial roles. While supporting the CFO at Velera, the SVP, IA asked whether I'd consider audit. When I found out more about the profession, I knew I had to jump in.



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**Q****What one thing would you pass to someone new to audit?****A**

Be sure to seek out mentors and partners. I don't think we get to where we want without others. Internal Audit is also relationship driven. Make sure to get to know individuals - to learn what they enjoy about their roles, what drives them, and how IA can best help.

## See LinkedIn For More!

**Q****Why did you seek out chapter leadership?****A**

I reached out to the chapter president for details and submitted my application. I haven't yet met many in the audit world like me – from the nontraditional path. I figured, hey, why not bring in a new-ish voice to the local chapter, work with others in the area, and see what comes from it?

**Q****How did you deepen your IIA involvement?****A**

I got involved with the IIA registering for the CIA. That's when I also found and signed on with the IIA Emerging Leaders Mentorship program. The involvement led to exposure to a vast wealth of knowledge, insights, and unique experiences in the audit and risk world. My partnerships have helped me in a multitude of ways and they are really terrific human beings.



### HEATHER LASCANO

IIA FWC Board Governor  
Sr. Internal Auditor, Velera



follow today for upcoming  
leader + member spotlights!

# >>> IIA Leader Spotlight

The **IIA Leader Spotlight** is another segment carved from our chapter demographic – this time from the vantage point of an audit leader. The goal is to distribute ideas, key career moments, and advice out to all members.

Let's connect with Karen, the Chief Audit Executive from Tampa General Hospital who wants us all to embrace challenges!



**KAREN PERCENT**

*CAE, Tampa General Hospital*

**Q** Can you share details of your career path?

**A** I've always had a desire to work on diverse projects that make a meaningful impact. Internal audit offered the perfect blend of variety and purpose, allowing me to explore different areas of an organization while adding real value. Over time, I took on increasing responsibilities and had the opportunity to become the CAE at the AICPA. That role was a pivotal moment for me—it was intellectually engaging, and I found the work incredibly rewarding.

**Q** What inspired you to move to Internal Audit?

**A** While working in public accounting, I had friends who transitioned into internal and operational audit roles. Their work intrigued me, and I found myself drawn to the variety and continuous learning that internal audit offers. It touches every part of an organization, which keeps things fresh and challenging.



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**Q**

**What has been the most pivotable moment in your career?**

**A**

Taking on the CAE role at AICPA was transformative. I switched industries, moved across the country, and started fresh in a town where I didn't know anyone. Looking back, it was one of the best experiences of my life. The leadership at AICPA was incredibly supportive, and I learned what it meant to be a strong leader—how to manage conflicting priorities, build community connections, and grow both personally and professionally.

# See LinkedIn For More!

**Q**

**What are your top CAE priorities?**

**A**

I'm focused on embracing AI and data analytics to transform how we audit, encouraging my team's professional growth, and consistently delivering value. It's about being forward-thinking while staying grounded in our core mission.

One of the biggest challenges is keeping pace with technological advancements. If we don't evolve our methods and embrace new tools, we risk becoming obsolete. Staying relevant means being proactive and adaptable.

**Q**

**Share one piece of advice for our members**

**A**

Take on every challenge as an opportunity to learn and grow. Say yes—even when you're unsure.



**KAREN PERCENT**  
CAE, Tampa General Hospital



follow today for even more  
Q&A detail on spotlights!