

Before coming to the 2016 Finance Leaders' Conference, we were not sure what to expect. However, once we entered the Willis Tower, we saw more than 150 Finance students from various universities from around the country who looked very determined to learn more. From that point on, we knew that it was in our best interest to take in as much information as possible, meet as many people as possible, and ask as many questions as possible.

The speaker events provided both new information and information that Creighton has already taught us. More specifically, the Heider College of Business has put a great emphasis on professional development, and seeing how other groups acted at times affirmed to us just how blessed we are to be getting a world-class business education at Creighton.

While the other speaking events were beneficial in showcasing new points of views on various topics, the most beneficial part of the conference was in meeting new people. During our tours of the Federal Reserve and Morningstar, Inc., we were able to meet and talk with various finance professionals and students. We also gained an outlook on opportunities in Finance beyond Omaha, which will be beneficial given that most students will go back home after graduation. The connections we made with these companies will possibly help FMA members get internships and jobs after graduation.

We also met students from some of the best FMA chapters in the nation and discussed activities and strategies for improving the experience for members now and later. After brainstorming and discussion with other chapters, we have many ideas for ways to approach recruitment, professional development, and experiential learning in the future. Also, with all of us being new members to the executive board, we gained confidence in our abilities to run FMA and improve its reputation in both Creighton and in the Omaha community. Everything we gained from this conference will directly benefit FMA members because we will continue to expand the activities we do, adding to the experience that students cannot get from simply taking Creighton classes. We see FMA as an organization that all Finance students would benefit from, and we hope that our future activities will convince incoming and current students that FMA is on the list of organizations that should be joined.