



The University of Nevada-Las Vegas wins the Americas Regional Investment Research Challenge

The Team now advances to London, UK, for the Global Final on April 12, 2013

Student Leaders Represent Future of Financial Industry Ethics and Professionalism

Phoenix, 27 March, 2013 - A team of future investment professionals from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas advanced to the Global IRC Final of the seventh annual [CFA Institute Research Challenge](#), an annual competition of more than 3,000 and 650 universities, by virtue of beating 45 other teams, including USC and the University of Pennsylvania, in the America's Regional Competition. Hosted by CFA Institute, the global association of investment professionals, the competition is designed to promote best practices in equity research among the next generation of analysts, through hands-on mentoring and intensive training in company analysis and presentation skills.

The CFA Institute Research Challenge offers students the unique opportunity to learn from leading industry experts and their peers from the world's top business schools. The competition spans one academic year, and consists of analyzing a public company, mentoring by a professional research analyst, writing a research report, and presenting research results and recommendations to a high-profile panel of experts. Marks are awarded to teams on the basis of their investment case, their poise, and their ability to answer the judges' questions. The teams are sponsored by local CFA Institute member societies. UNLV's CFA society sponsors this year are CFA Phoenix, CFA Nevada, and CFA Tucson.

The UNLV student team presented and defended a report on Kona Grill (KONA) to a panel of investment industry experts.

The global winners from the past three years came from Thammasat University (Thailand) who won in 2012; Politecnico di Milano (Milan, Italy) who won in 2011; and the University of the Philippines – Diliman who won in 2010.

About CFA Institute

CFA Institute is the global association for investment professionals. It administers the CFA and CIPM curriculum and exam programs worldwide; publishes research; conducts professional development programs; and sets voluntary, ethics-based professional and performance-reporting standards for the investment industry. CFA Institute has more than 107,000 members, who include the world's 98,000 CFA charterholders, in 133 countries and territories, as well as 135 affiliated professional societies in 58 countries and territories. More information may be found at www.cfainstitute.org.

Research Challenge Statistics

Total Universities that competed: 685

- 333 in the Americas
- 155 in Asia Pacific
- 174 in EMEA
- 23 in New York

More than 3,000 students participated worldwide:

- ~721 in Asia Pacific
- ~775 in EMEA
- ~1400 in the Americas
- ~108 in New York