



FOUNDATION

Press Release

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Contact: Katrina Cavalli, 212.313.1181, kcavalli@sifma.org

Illinois 5th-grader's Expert Investment Advice Drives Positive Returns in Capital Markets and in Life

Diya Patel's 1st Place Essay Wins SIFMA Foundation's Fall 2020 National InvestWrite® Competition

She Was Surprised with a Celebration on May 6, 2021

New York, NY, May 11, 2021 – Diya Patel, age 11, from Naperville, Illinois is well on her way to joining the ranks of some of the best financial legends in the world. The diligent 5th-grader defied the challenges of distance learning and cinched an exhilarating win in the SIFMA Foundation's Fall 2020 InvestWrite competition, penning an essay on how challenges can create opportunities in the global economy and in life.

Beating out thousands of other students around the country competing in the elementary school division, Patel, who attends Clow Elementary School, researched and composed an impressive long-term financial plan and now she is being recognized nationally during a surprise virtual presentation.

SIFMA Foundation's InvestWrite national essay competition bridges classroom learning in math, social studies, and language arts with the practical research and knowledge required for saving, investing and long-term planning. It also serves as a culminating activity for The Stock Market Game™ a highly effective in-person, remote learning and hybrid educational tool in which students invest and manage a hypothetical \$100,000 online portfolio of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and cash.

“SIFMA Foundation's programs give youth of all backgrounds, especially in underserved communities, a real shot at financial independence and economic mobility,” said Melanie Mortimer, President of the SIFMA Foundation. “We equip and train teachers to offer essential skills and knowledge to their 4th-12th graders to navigate the capital markets and financial decision-making. To date, we've transformed the lives of 20 million students like Diya through learning that is practical and fun.”

The Fall 2020 InvestWrite competition challenged students to write an essay about how they've adapted to change at some point in their lives, how a publicly traded company has adapted to change, and how that company's stock could be combined with other stocks, bonds or mutual funds to create a successful long-term portfolio.

Patel developed a plan that would have an impact today and into the future and wowed the team of judges with her essay.

The Stock Market Game and InvestWrite are offered in Illinois through Northern Illinois University's division of NIU Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development with the generous support of the Illinois Bankers Association. "We honor and congratulate Diya and her teacher, Helene Caliva," said Randy Hultgren, President and CEO of the Illinois Bankers Association (IBA). "The IBA is thrilled to be involved with this wonderful program that helps Illinois students better understand our economy, our markets, the role of investors, and how to make good investments. It not only will pay dividends for the students and their education, but also for the Illinois economy."

Diya Patel and her teacher, Helene Caliva, were honored by the SIFMA Foundation, the Illinois Bankers Association and the Illinois Stock Market Game during a surprise virtual presentation on May 6, 2021.

Winning Essay by Diya Patel

A Long Term View

Some people run away from change. Others learn to accept it and adapt to it. Living in a world where changes are constant in life, keeping up with changes is essential. When my dad moved to New Jersey to be closer to his job, my world changed immensely. I suddenly had to find a new way to stay in touch with my dad across the country, so I turned to using technology. My dad and I would Zoom, FaceTime, and send iMessages. Having said that, it was not quite the same as having him by my side, but it taught me a lesson: Life doesn't follow a script, instead it is full of changes that are out of our control.

Due to the pandemic, lots of publicly traded companies have been adapting to the challenges presented by the virus. They have been finding new ways to conduct their business virtually while remaining connected with their customers. They also found innovative ways to distribute their products and services. One such company that caught my eye was Cardinal Health Inc. In places where COVID-19 has hit hard, Cardinal Health Inc. uses telehealth, which allows patients to have their annual check-ups online. Telehealth also helps serve patients in rural America, who often have to drive hundreds of miles to be seen by a doctor. Investing in telehealth technology for Cardinal makes a worthwhile investment not only during our present national and world situation but also as a long-term solution to better serve patients in rural areas. Additionally, I would invest in Cardinal because of its environmental sustainability initiatives. Some of these initiatives include pollution prevention, better usage of energy, and promoting environmental awareness. Such initiatives are important to me and very important in our world right now. These initiatives align with what I look for in companies to invest in because they showcase how companies adapt to our ever-changing world in ways beyond simply serving their customers. In other words, I look for companies that help their customers and community, care for the environment and have good economic performance (also known as "triple bottom line conscious," companies).

Other such companies I would include in my portfolio would be Amazon and iRobot. I believe Amazon would be a good investment because this company has made a difference in many people's lives. People can buy products from their homes and have them delivered to their homes. This is a comfortable and safe way to shop. Amazon is also doing their part to protect the environment, by working to reach net-zero carbon by the year 2040. Net-zero carbon minimizes carbon dioxide emissions, which in turn helps lower global warming. To achieve this goal, Amazon is on a path to powering its operations with a hundred percent renewable energy by 2025.

iRobot is also as good an investment as Amazon. iRobot is a technology company that sells and designs consumer robots. One of these robots is the Roomba, which my family uses. The Roomba makes cleaning

easier. It cleans the area you want it to, when you want to, with just a click of a button on a smartphone. When it's done, it goes back to its charging base. This company is constantly coming up with game-changing robots that can do our busy work so we can keep up with the changes in our world. It will clean our home and we can take care of more urgent matters. iRobot has also partnered with E.L Harvey, a recycling company. They take all the paper products, plastics, aluminum, and glass that iRobot factories can't use to their recycling facility where they can be turned into other things. This helps reduce landfills, which will lower land pollution. Another reason I chose these two companies is because they are defensive stocks. Not only do defensive stocks do well in bear and bull markets, but these companies usually offer a dividend, which I have learned helps minimize capital losses.

Diversifying my portfolio with shares of Cardinal Health, iRobot, and Amazon are ideal choices. Diversification helps lower risk and leads to a better return on a long-term investment. In closing, it is important to have a long-term view of not only stocks and investments but also of our constantly changing world.

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About the SIFMA Foundation for Investor Education

The SIFMA Foundation is dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of the financial markets for individuals of all backgrounds, with a focus on youth. Drawing on the involvement and expertise of educators and the financial industry, the SIFMA Foundation provides financial education programs and tools that strengthen economic opportunities across communities and increase individuals' access to the benefits of the global marketplace. Notable Foundation programs include The Stock Market Game™, which has enabled more than 20 million students to become financially prepared for life, the InvestWrite® national essay competition, the Capitol Hill Challenge™, and Invest It Forward®. For more information on the work of the SIFMA Foundation, visit www.sifma.org/foundation.

About InvestWrite®

InvestWrite® is a culminating activity for Stock Market Game students extending their classroom learning with a written challenge to address real-world financial issues and situations. Students must analyze, think critically and problem solve about a long-term saving and investing scenario. Nearly 250,000 student essays have been evaluated by their teachers and over 40,000 financial professionals have served as volunteer judges. Essays are judged by financial professionals who volunteer their time each year to ensure young people are exposed to the essentials of personal finance early in life. Judges evaluate students' understanding of long-term investing, diversification, the global capital markets, and factors that drive investments as well as their expression of investment ideas in essay form. Winners locally and nationally rise to the top to earn exciting awards and prizes including laptops, classroom pizza parties, trophies, plaques and banners, and certificates. For more information about InvestWrite®, visit www.investwrite.org.

About SIFMA

SIFMA is the leading trade association for broker-dealers, investment banks and asset managers operating in the U.S. and global capital markets. On behalf of our industry's nearly 1 million employees, we advocate on legislation, regulation and business policy, affecting retail and institutional investors, equity and fixed income markets and related products and services. We serve as an industry coordinating body to promote fair and orderly markets, informed regulatory compliance, and efficient market operations and resiliency. We also provide a forum for industry policy and professional development. SIFMA, with offices in New York and Washington, D.C., is the U.S. regional member of the Global Financial Markets Association (GFMA). For more information, visit www.sifma.org.

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