



REFLECTING CHICAGO'S DIVERSITY

**For more information, contact:**

Daniela C. Lira  
Flowers Communications Group  
P: 312.228.8825  
dchavezlira@explorefcg.com

**MORE THAN 100 INTERNS AND STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN  
FOURTH ANNUAL FSP SUMMER INTERN CAREER CONFERENCE**

Event Creates Pipeline of African American and Latino Talent for Financial Services Industry

CHICAGO (July 6, 2017) – In an effort to increase the representation of African Americans and Latinos within the financial services sector, the Financial Services Pipeline (FSP) Initiative will bring together more than 100 interns at the fourth annual Intern Career Conference. Interns will learn about the diverse careers and roles available in financial services during panel discussions and networking events. The FSP Intern Career Conference will be held on July 13 at 8 a.m. at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 S. LaSalle Street.

The event serves as a platform to highlight FSP's mission to address racial diversity and cultural competency within the Chicago area's financial services sector by developing a pipeline of diverse talent. According to a study conducted by FSP, along with Mercer, the number of African Americans and Latinos in the financial sector is projected to drastically decline within five years if no action is taken to change the approach on hiring and retention. The conference is targeted to interns in the early stages of their career development to help guide them and introduce them to a long-term career in the Financial Services industry.

"Research shows that the low levels of minority representation in the financial services sector in the Chicago area have not changed much in the last 15 years," said Perika Sampson, Regional Diversity Officer at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management's Great Lakes Region. "This conference provides a space for industry leaders to educate and inspire the next generation to explore careers in the sector and ensures significant progress in making our industry more representative of the region we serve."

Interns will start their day with welcome remarks by Willis, followed by panel discussions led by FSP member firms. Topics include: Positioned for Impact: Finding Your Purpose; and Converting an Internship into a Career. Ana Dutra, President of The Executives'

Club of Chicago, is the keynote speaker and will focus on the excitement and passion about working in the Financial Services industry.

Interns are employed by FSP member firms where they are exposed to diverse careers in the Financial Services industry, such as investments, accounting, business development, technology, consulting, and management, among others. Throughout the internship, industry leaders will educate and inspire the next generation of financial services frontrunners, but also provide young talent with a platform to share their ideas and expectations with seasoned professionals.

For more information or to arrange an interview with representatives of the Financial Services Pipeline Initiative, contact Daniela C. Lira at 312.228.8825, or at [dchavezlira@explorefcg.com](mailto:dchavezlira@explorefcg.com).

### **About the FSP**

The FSP Initiative was founded in 2013 by a group of Chicago-based financial institutions that joined forces to address the lack of diversity in the financial services sector within Chicago. The two goals of the FSP Initiative are to: Increase the representation of Latinos and African-Americans, at all levels, within the FS industry within Chicago; and improve the overall cultural competency within the region. The group plans to achieve these goals with three phases: phase 1 (2013 to 2014) involved formation; phase 2 (2015), included research and action planning; and phase 3 (late 2015 - beyond) will involve implementation. FSP Initiative members include Ariel Investments, Bank of America, BMO Harris Bank, CME Group, Discover, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Holland Capital Management, Illinois State Treasurer's Office, Loop Capital, Madison Dearborn Partners, Mesirow Financial, Morgan Stanley, Northern Trust, The Chicago Community Trust, The PrivateBank, U.S. Bank, Urban Partnership Bank, William Blair and Wintrust Financial Corporation.

###