

YOUNG INVESTOR SYMPOSIUM

NEWSLETTER



Overview

On Feb 2, 2019, the College of Business at Prairie View A&M University hosted its inaugural Young Investor Symposium. This symposium was created to educate young students about investments and recognize students participating in the High School Stock Challenge. Dr. Yi Zhang, an investment specialized finance professor at the College of Business created the stock trading challenges, wherein students use PVAMU's virtual trading platform – StockTrak to pitch stocks and compete with one another and the market .



The College of Business has hosted the annual stock trading challenge since 2017, but this is the first time to grow the competition to high schools. More than 200 high school students from the Greater Houston area participated in this inaugural high school stock challenge.



The outlay of the symposium started with the opening introduction by the lead organizer, Dr. Yi Zhang. Then, Dr. Munir Quddus, dean of the College of Business, captivated the assembly of students and set the tone for the day. He emphasized that this symposium could potentially impact the lives of growing professionals, even at the high school level. After his opening speech, Dr. Quddus passed the torch to Professor Danny Harvey, director of financial planning program, to moderate the panel discussion.



Dr. Moosa Khan, head of the Department of Accounting, Finance and MIS, welcomed the participants and visitors during the lunch. After lunch, students attended breakout sessions on trading room technology, cryptocurrency and blockchain, and PVAMU student organizations. The event was then capped off with the awards ceremony to recognize the winning teams.



Panel Discussion

Powered by Charles Schwab, CFA Texas Society and Merrill Lynch

The highlight of the Young Investor Symposium was the panel discussion led by professional leaders. Mr. Marcus Malonson, VP at Merrill Lynch, Ms. Sharon Criswell, board member of CFA Societies Texas, and Ms. Lauray Kennedy, financial consultant at Charles Schwab, shared their education and career paths with students. Students learn from their experiences to understand the true realities of working in the investment industry, do a deep dive into different realms of investments, and grasp what it takes to be successful in their future careers.



Furthermore, the panelists made it clear that the investment industry is looking for more diverse candidates. More organizations have recognized the value of investing in a diversity of thought, background, and experience. With this industry shift, students have a tremendous opportunity to become trailblazers and carve their legacies in the investment industry.



Breakout Sessions

In the afternoon, students engaged in a plethora of breakout sessions.

Dr. Hesam Shahriari presented a primer on blockchain and cryptocurrency to demystify the technology and explain its utility in the context of enterprises. With the allure of bitcoin, it is no wonder why a large group of students listened to this provocative presentation and understand the important to stay abreast of industry trend and financial innovations.



Ms. Jenifar Kallul, an MBA student, conducted a tutorial of the trading room to illustrate the resources of trading room. She showed students the power of Bloomberg Terminals and explored the features of the PVAMU virtual trading platform – StockTrak. This hands-on learning opportunities opened the eyes of young students.



The president of the PV Finance Association, Ms. Kris Calvin, senior finance student led a discussion on financial literacy. She engaged students to learn about the role of the PV Finance Association and its mandate of improving the financial wellbeing of PVAMU student body through credit building programs, seminars and corporate visits. She also shared our regular visits to regional high schools on financial literacy program and college's summer programs for high school students.



Mr. Romaine Knight, senior finance student who spearheads the PV Investment Club, shared his experience of setting up and organizing the investment club to cultivate talents on investment and trading. He also shared about the College's newly built Panther Investment Fund – a student managed fund which allows students to manage real money.



Awards Ceremony

With excitement, students participating in the high school stock challenge awaited the awards ceremony. This inaugural high school stock challenge was an eight-week trading competition from September 24, 2018 to November 16, 2018. Each high school team had \$500,000 virtual money to invest in stocks and ETFs through our virtual trading platform (<https://pvamutrading.stocktrak.com>). This competition is 100% online and open to high school teams in the Greater Houston area. The top three teams with the highest portfolio returns at the end of the challenge received prizes and trophies. Each participating student received a certificate of participation. More than 200 students from 22 high schools participated in this year's challenge.



Before presenting the awards, Dr. Zhang spoke on the initiative to expand the challenge to high school students to allow students to learn about investing at an earlier age. The third-place winners were the ladies from the Young Women's College Prep Academy. They received a cash prize of \$500 sponsored by Ms. Caryn Davis from Bechtel Oil, Gas & Chemicals, Inc. The second-place prize went to the team from George Ranch High School who received a cash prize of \$800 sponsored by PVAMU College of Business faculty.

Using a bit of intuition and guided strategy, students from Nimitz High School were able to take home the first place. Even during a declining stock market, the team earned 9.8%; about 15% outperformed the S&P 500 over the 8-week period. The team won a \$1,000 cash prize sponsored by Charles Schwab and plan to donate the prize to the future of their student investment club. Having a chance to give the closing speech, the student representatives spun a tale of growth and learning. During the challenge, students analyzed their favorite company and trade stocks in the market, and this is the experience they will cherish forever. Students also mentioned the life changing experience they learned from their mistakes in buying Netflix, and subsequently revised their investment strategy.



Conclusion

Without a doubt, the Young Investor Symposium was a big success which validates an unprecedented legacy in PVAMU's history. Special thanks are due to the sponsors, panelists, faculty advisors and students; the symposium would not be possible without your support. We look forward to your continued support in helping this program grow and ceaselessly uphold PVAMU's mandate of producing productive panthers.

We'll see you again next year.

Congratulations to all the winning high schools!



Thanks to Sponsors



MARCUS MALONSON
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