



Council Foundation Invests in New Talent

The Foundation awards 84 academic scholarships to insurance brokerage interns.

The Council Foundation is on a mission to tackle one of the most pressing challenges facing the insurance brokerage industry: the talent gap. Through strategic outreach, immersive internship experiences, and targeted scholarship support, the Foundation is reshaping how young professionals perceive the industry, helping it shine as a vibrant career destination.

At the heart of this transformation is a commitment to inclusivity and impact. The Foundation actively seeks to engage under-represented populations, ensuring that the next generation of insurance leaders reflects the diversity and dynamism of the world we serve. By spotlighting the industry's vast opportunities in fields ranging from risk management and analytics to client advocacy and innovation, we aim to attract and retain top talent, cultivating long-term careers within Council member firms.

Since 2017, The Foundation has invested over \$4.8 million in academic scholarships, supporting more than 900 promising students who interned at Council member firms. Each year, brokerages across the country nominate standout interns who demonstrate exceptional potential, leadership, and passion for the field.

You'll meet this year's cohort on the following pages. They are a testament to our vision: a diverse, driven group of students from universities nationwide, each bringing a fresh perspective and boundless energy to the world of insurance brokerage. Together, they represent the future, and The Council Foundation is proud to help them shape it.



900

PROMISING
STUDENTS
SUPPORTED
SINCE 2017

\$4.8M

INVESTED IN
ACADEMIC
SCHOLARSHIPS
SINCE 2017



Congratulations

To the 2025 Council Foundation Scholars

Nadia Alonso	University of Central Arkansas
Abby Anokye-Agyei	University of Wisconsin–Madison
Ashley Auderer	University of Iowa
Meredith Bahl	University of Iowa
Ethan Baltimore	University of Denver
Travis Bauer	Michigan State University
Allison Beckwith	Butler University
Ashley Boscovich	Florida State University
Emma Braswell	University of Georgia
Melayna Briskey	Texas A&M
Pierce Brown	University of Georgia
Mavik Brown	Utah Valley University
Elsie Call	Southern Utah University

Barbara Cardoso	University of Colorado Denver
Isabella Carpinelli	Baylor University
Dillon Carter	Stetson University
Francesca Carter	Wake Forest University
Gladys Castro	Texas Woman’s University
Thomas Cevasco	Cornell University
Lyliana Chavez	California State University, Sacramento
Ashley Cunningham	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Kidist Dash	Temple University
Bailey Davis	Western Kentucky University
Thomas Dean	University of Maine
Reid Marie Deaton	Indiana State University
Carly Dickson	University of Kansas
David Ditata	University of New Hampshire
Luke Elian	Florida State University
Isabelle Fuller	University of Northern Iowa
Stephen Garcia	St. Mary’s University
Sameya Ghani	St. John’s University
Chloe Haynes	Southern University and A&M College
Mariah Hershberger	University of South Carolina Upstate
Riley Heydenburg	Marquette University
Samaurya Hicks	Florida State University
Michael Iseminger	Missouri State University

“Not only did I learn about the insurance industry, but I was able to make strong and meaningful connections that will help me grow my career in whatever path I take.”

PAIGE WISELL, PENN STATE

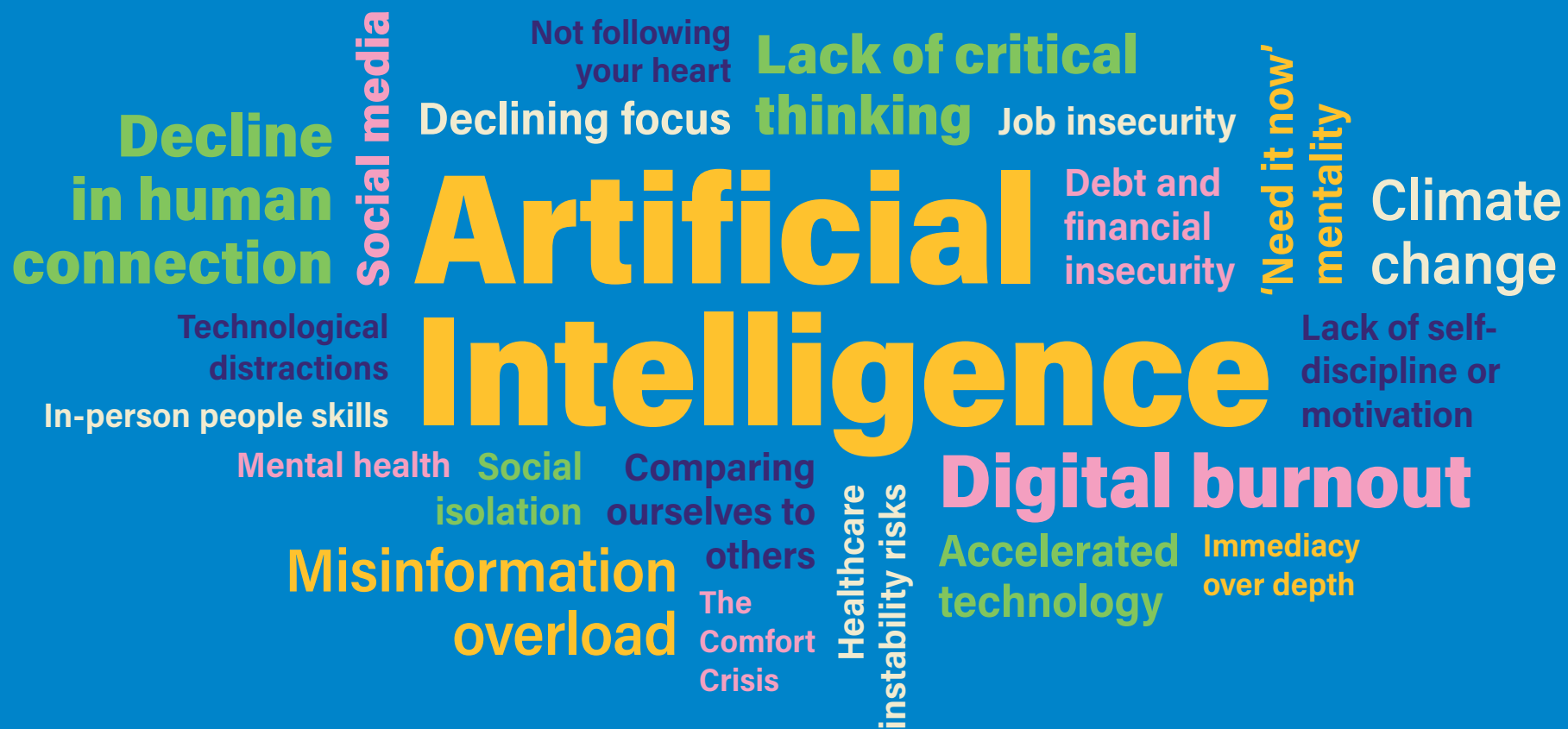
Julia Jaisingh	University of Florida
Haley Johnson	University of the Pacific
Zella Johnson	University of Nevada, Reno
Brian Jung	University of Illinois Chicago
Lucas Kampman	Baylor University
Christoph Karleskind	Northeastern University
Isabella Kedryna	University of Michigan
Brody Kerscher	University of Wisconsin–Madison
Viputh Kounakor	University of Massachusetts Boston
Salvador Leon Golib	Western Kentucky University
Joseph Li	Penn State
Tina Lin	Appalachian State University
Ben Lirette	Texas A&M
Olivia Lodge	University of Pittsburgh
Emily Long	University of Missouri–Kansas City
Audrey Main	University of Georgia
Mia Mitchell	University of Central Florida
Mariana Molinari Ribeiro de Barros	University of Michigan–Dearborn
Ryan Moon	University of Arkansas
Peyton Morton	Carroll College
Sanders O’Kelley	Florida State University
Evan Parente	University of Georgia
Mia Pesavento	University of Evansville
Jordyn Porter	University of North Texas
Chelsea Ramirez-Porras	Temple University
Adan Reed	Florida State University
Keely Roberts	California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Max Rolnick	Elms College
Bailey Russell	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

“This scholarship has given me the space to fully engage in my education and make the most of the opportunities that come my way.”

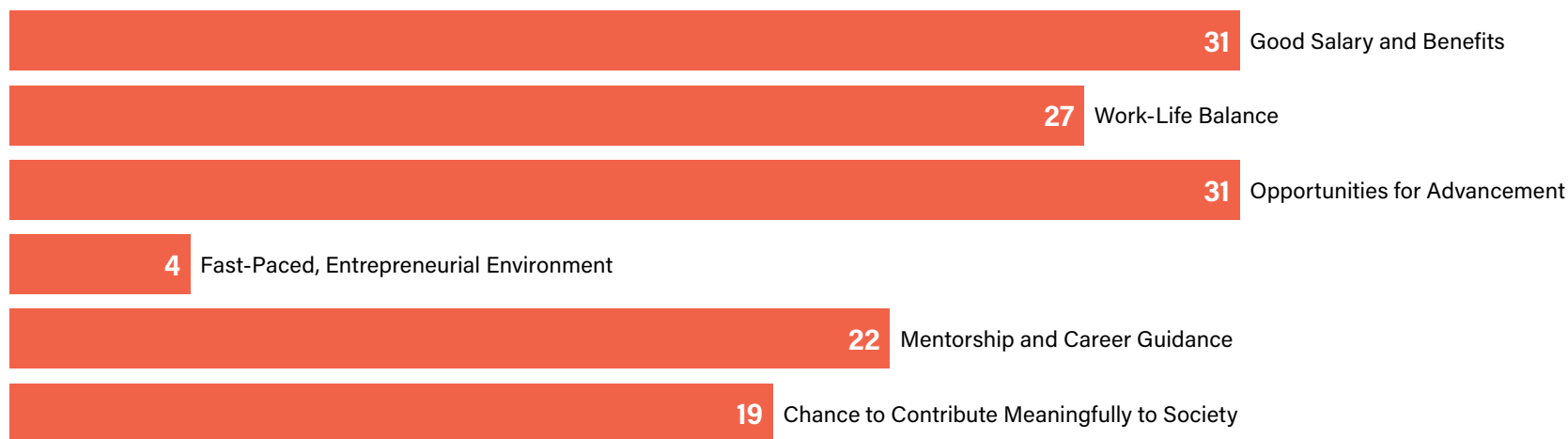
CHELSEA RAMIREZ-PORRAS, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Jamison Saxton	University of Mississippi
Chris Schwuchow	Illinois State University
Ava Shea	Stetson University
Gurjas Singh	Temple University
Timothy Smith	Indiana State University
Amya Swafford	University of Georgia
David Taylor	University of Mississippi
Maryn Thompson	University of South Carolina
Torrin Todd	University of Akron
Addison Tresca	Florida State University
Ariana Triantafyllou	Santa Clara University
Adam Utter	Florida State University
Theo Vetere	University of Miami
Brian Voetberg	Butler University
Zoran Vujaklija	Kent State University
Chandler Walton	University of Mississippi
Dakaria Williams	The University of Alabama
Jason Wilson	Kennesaw State University
Paige Wissell	Penn State

* What is the greatest risk facing your generation?



* What do you most want from an employer?



Respondents selected their top three answers.

* 2025 Scholarship Program at a Glance

84

STUDENTS

63

SENIORS

27

MAJORS

21

JUNIORS

26

MINORS

Major Variety

RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE

29

FINANCE/ECONOMICS

18

BUSINESS

24

OTHER

13

Figures are based on responses to
a Council Foundation survey.



“My internship was a fast-paced, competitive environment. I learned that there are multiple ways in which you can compete in those environments, and not one is explicitly correct.”

BAILEY RUSSELL, EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

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Named Scholarships

Assurex Global Robert P. Ashlock Scholarship

Bob Ashlock served as Assurex Global president and CEO from 1977–1992. Bob’s personal desire was to support professional development and education in agency management and entrepreneurial endeavors. Shortly after the creation of this fund, in January 1992, Bob passed away following a three-year battle with cancer. The Council honors his memory with a named scholarship.

Assurex Global Ashlock Game Changer Scholarship

In 2013, Assurex Global announced a second fund named the “Ashlock Game Changer” scholarship. This scholarship continues to recognize Bob Ashlock and the strong commitment he had for education and attracting young talent to the industry.

Dave Oberkircher Future Leaders Scholarship

In 2017, Dave Eslick, chairman and CEO of the Marsh McLennan Agency, worked with The Council to establish a fund to honor Dave Oberkircher, co-founder of employee benefits brokerage Trion, which was acquired by MMA. Well-known and admired in the industry, Oberkircher passed away from brain cancer in 2016. The goal of the Fund is to expand awareness of, engagement in, and financial support for The Council Foundation’s philanthropic work to attract dynamic talent into a career in the commercial insurance brokerage industry.



THE COUNCIL FOUNDATION

Named Scholarships *continued*

Franklin Wheeler Scholarship

Marsh McLennan Agency Florida, partnering with The Miami Foundation, established a fund to honor Franklin Wheeler, an esteemed surety producer for Seitlin Insurance, an MMA company. Each year, this award is given to the top MMA summer intern from Florida.

IMA Financial Group Scholarship

The IMA annual scholarship was established for the firm’s long-standing commitment to higher education. The fund provides an opportunity for colleagues to recognize and honor IMA leaders upon their retirement. The goal of this fund is to bolster The Council Foundation’s philanthropic efforts to attract exceptional talent to careers in the commercial insurance brokerage industry. The fund will extend the IMA Foundation’s reach in recruiting students participating in the IMA Financial Group intern program to become full-time hires via the scholarship program, as well as provide a “lab” for learning how The Council Foundation can best recruit and develop talent.

Tom Motamed Scholarship

A leading insurance executive with a 45-year career including serving as chairman and CEO of CNA, Tom Motamed was a strong supporter of and advocate for education in the insurance brokerage industry. He established a sponsorship relationship between CNA and The Council that became the foundation upon which the Council Academy was built. With Tom’s passing in 2023, The Council honors his memory with a named scholarship.

USI Scholarship (formerly Wells Fargo Insurance Scholarship)

This scholarship is made possible by the generous donation from Wells Fargo Insurance Services and continued support from USI Insurance Services. Each year, this scholarship is awarded to a top-performing University of Georgia Risk Management and Insurance student.

* 2025 Scholarship Program at a Glance

Internship Focus Areas

PROPERTY AND CASUALTY	24	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS/ WEALTH MANAGEMENT	16
RISK MANAGEMENT	13	ACCOUNT/PROJECT MANAGEMENT	5
CONSULTING/ CLIENT SERVICES	8	BROKERAGE/SALES/ BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	11
HUMAN RESOURCES	4	OTHER	7

Figures are based on responses to a Council Foundation survey.
Some scholars selected more than one focus area.

“This scholarship allowed me to shift my focus from financial stress to academic success. It gave me the time and flexibility to fully immerse myself in the insurance industry, gain hands-on experience, and build meaningful connections.”

MEREDITH BAHL, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA