



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I Have an IDEA

July 20, 2021

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"It's a new dawn; It's a new day; It's a new life!" – *Nina Simone*

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Greetings my fellow FWA members, friends, and colleagues across the financial world! My name is Nina Batson and it's truly a privilege to be the Financial Women's Association's 58th President. It is also an extreme honor to be the FWA's first African-American President!

For those that missed the FWA's Annual Meeting of Members on June 21st, I've chosen to devote my July presidential letter as a recap of some of the points discussed that glorious evening and a look towards the FWA's future.



Hermina "Nina" Batson  
FWA President 2021-2023

### Where we've been:

As Simone Vinocour, the immediate past FWA president mentioned in her speech before she passed the gavel to me, there were a lot of strategic initiatives that were undertaken over the last 3 years. Thank you, Karen Elinski, FWA president 2018~2019, and all of the previous FWA presidents for your tireless efforts to make this organization what it is today! As we all know, it takes a village and the FWA couldn't have accomplished all that it has without the support of its Board, Leadership Council, President Circle corporate sponsors, and YOU!

Over the last year, the "NinaSimone" show (as we liked to call ourselves) ensured that the FWA had weekly programming whenever possible. There were more than 60 virtual events that occurred, the vast majority of which were recorded. Feel free to listen to the FWA's very first podcast which kicked off the organization's virtual presence on International Women's Day in 2020. Missed one or more virtual events? Interested in rewatching those that you've already attended? Then visit the FWA's website, [FWA Store](#). These events will serve as both an inspiration and as educational support during these unprecedented times that we're all still experiencing. Enjoy!

### Where we are, the power of the FWA, and it's programming:

With a rich history since 1956, over 800 members and numerous corporate, government, and academic allies, the FWA is ideally positioned to address the challenges facing women today as well as to help realize a world in which there is

equitable representation and recognition across all levels of the financial community.

With six months of the year behind us, we should all try to slow down during the months of July and August - even if just for a few days. As we listen to the birds chirp each dawn, realize it's a new day affording us the ability to refresh, regroup, re-engage, reconnect with friends and family, and reset. Treat each day as a new beginning!

The FWA does the same thing. During each FWA fiscal year which covers July 1st through June 30th, the FWA's leadership team is planning and strategizing more great events and amazing educational opportunities based on the current and global financial services environment while incorporating the responses we've received from you (both verbally and via surveys) after our interactive events. For example, to kick off this summer, the FWA's NJ committee hosted alfresco dining experiences over two different nights. It was just what was needed - to venture out to several restaurants located in Northern New Jersey and enjoy various cuisines. This committee also has a book club so if you're looking to network and meet new people, are an avid reader already, or desire to start a new hobby - read a book with the FWA!

Though we're keeping our programming light for now, please note the following upcoming FWA events:

[August 2nd](#): *Health & Good Nutrition: What Am I Eating?*

August 10th: *Transform Your Mindset (registration coming soon)*

[August 12th](#): *Get in the Game: Join the FWA Long Island Committee's 10th Annual Golf Outing*

With our eyes on our future leaders, the FWA's Wall Street Exchange program commenced on June 30th with 73 participants representing 19 firms and 48 schools. For those that are unaware of this amazing program, the [FWA's Wall Street Exchange](#) is a career development program designed to augment the summer internship experience of select qualified rising college seniors. The program consists of a series of weekly events (8 weeks) hosted by top financial services firms and focuses on professional and personal development. Know of someone that missed this year's opportunity, don't worry we'll be in touch in approximately 9 months with next summer's!

In addition, the FWA's Pacesetters program will be commencing on July 28th. The [FWA's Pacesetter Program](#) is a continuing partnership with FWA President's Circle sponsorship corporations that recognizes outstanding women who exemplify the character, achievement, passion, and leadership that is critical to the organizational success and to the support and development of the next generation of women leaders within those firms. If you're an FWA President Circle company and missed signing up promising and promotable women with a minimum of 7-10 years of professional experience within your firm, have no fear this program will be back next

year!

And to our FWA Members, be on the lookout for messaging coming soon inviting you to become a mentor across one of the FWA's various educational initiatives (e.g., at the High School of Economics and Finance, Seton Hall University's Stillman School of Business, Baruch College, Financial Backpack/Literacy, Back2Business, etc.) as well as the opportunity to join the FWA's Member2Member program, a peer-to-peer member benefit. Giving back is so rewarding and as mentors you will get trained – the FWA way!

### Where we're going:

The FWA is a community of lifelong learners and as such will continue to engage and connect - members and non-members alike - providing a supportive community that recognizes all contributions while fostering collaboration and accountability. I know that as women supported by our male allies, we will continue to break barriers and shatter glass ceilings to bring about a more equitable workplace and environment. Thus, I have an **IDEA** which will be my underlying theme during my two-years of presidency. My IDEA (**I**nclusion, **D**iversity, **E**quity and **A**ccess) will be woven into this year's programming and experiences. Why, because with inclusion, comes diversity – diversity of thought and diversity of experiences (just to name a few).

As unwavering champions empowering our members and organizations to achieve inclusive, equitable representation at all levels for women in finance, the FWA will continue to promote the professional development and advancement of all women through education, mentorship, scholarships, networking, and alliances across the financial community. I'm asking each of you, my fellow talented professionals, to help the FWA so that it can continue its goal of advancing leadership growth and accelerating the success of all women in the financial community. It starts with access! Not a member, join! If you are a member, join a committee, the lifeblood of the organization! Connected to professional, distinguished speakers that you would like to see showcased via the FWA? Send your impactful and creative ideas to the [FWA office](#). We look forward to hearing from you. Most important, feel free to donate to this illustrious organization, become a [President Circle corporate sponsor](#), and/or sponsor the membership of the next generation or a fellow colleague. No amount is too small - [Donate Now!](#)

In closing, as the world re-opens, the next step in the FWA's evolution is to navigate with you through the hybrid experience which I like to call the "new normal 2.5". As we continue to step out into society, I promise "sprinkles" of in-person events, fun networking opportunities, content driven collaborations, and so much more. I also promise that we will celebrate in person sometime in 2022 and that we will resume an international business conference – all whenever it's deemed safe for us to do so. For now, the FWA will remain vigilant and continue to provide virtual programming. Let me reiterate that I'm so very proud to be serving as FWA President during its 65th anniversary as an organization, its 30th anniversary of providing amazing educational

initiatives programming, and during the 20th anniversary of the FWA's Baruch College partnership. I wholeheartedly believe in this organization and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at future FWA events.

Onward and Upward!



**Hermina "Nina" Batson**  
FWA President 2021-2023

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**FWA** connects a vibrant community of dynamic financial professionals and proactive institutions focused on development and empowerment to **advance leadership growth and accelerate the success of all women in finance.**

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