



FOUNDATION

Press Release

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North Carolina 5th Grader Finds Alpha in Portfolio & in Life, Wins SIFMA Foundation's InvestWrite[®] Competition

*Cameron Turner Wins SIFMA Foundation's
Spring 2021 National InvestWrite[®] Competition*

New York, NY, August 26, 2021 – We could all learn something from 11-year-old Cameron Turner. The extraordinary 5th-grader from Cape Carteret, North Carolina has charted her life goals and developed an investment strategy to fund them. Moreover, Turner developed her plan in the months that a pandemic created unprecedented challenges for her family and school life. For her brilliance and hard work, Turner cinched an exhilarating win in the SIFMA Foundation's Spring 2021 InvestWrite competition.

Competing in the elementary school division, Turner, who attends White Oak Elementary, researched and composed an impressive short-term and long-term financial plan and now she is being recognized as the winner in the state of North Carolina.

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 provide youth of all backgrounds and especially in underserved communities the knowledge and tools for financial independence,” said Melanie Mortimer, President of the SIFMA Foundation. “We equip teachers to bring investor education into classrooms and prepare young people early in life to navigate the capital markets and financial decision-making. To date, we've transformed the lives of 20 million students like Cameron through learning that is practical and fun.”

The Spring 2021 InvestWrite competition challenged students to write an essay about what is important for their future. They did research to determine how they would invest in the short run and

in the long term to benefit themselves and others and how stocks, bonds or mutual funds can be combined to create a successful diversified portfolio.

Turner 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 North Carolina through the North Carolina Council on Economic Education and the programs are sponsored by Coastal Credit Union. “We honor and congratulate our InvestWrite winning student and teacher,” said Sandy Wheat, Executive Director of the North Carolina Council on Economic Education, “Helping North Carolina students better understand our economy, our markets, the role of investors, and how to make good investments will pay dividends for the students, their education, and the North Carolina economy.”

Cameron Turner and her teacher, Marie Foxworth, were honored by the SIFMA Foundation and the North Carolina Council on Economic Education during the summer break.

Winning Essay by Cameron Turner

When I began learning about the stock market, I had a few questions. Some of those questions were, “What is a stock?” “What is a diversified portfolio?” “What are short-term and long-term goals?” Through investing \$100,000 in The Stock Market Game, I learned so much about all these things. A stock is a type of security that will represent the ownership of part of a corporation or company. This will entitle the owner of the stock to a proportion, or amount, of the corporation's profits and assets. This will be equal to how much stock they own. Units of stock are called shares.

A diversified portfolio is a type of organizer that contains different amounts of stocks that someone has in different companies, making it diversified. A diversified portfolio never has only one stock, because then it wouldn't be diversified. For example, my team's SMG portfolio was a circle divided into parts. Most of those parts were what companies we had stock in, and how much money each of those cost. One of the parts was how much cash we had left. The amount of cash was \$44,363.40. The companies we had stock in were Walmart, Amazon, Apple, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc., and Dick's Sporting Goods. The amount of money for Walmart was \$1,327.50. The amount of money for Amazon was \$31,074.10. For Apple it was \$7,388.00. For Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. it was \$11,379.40, and for Dick's Sporting Goods it was \$4,467.60. Making a diversified portfolio really helped me to understand what it was.

A short-term goal is when you save up money to buy something soon, like a new bike that you plan to get pretty soon. A long-term goal is something that you think you are going to do or have/get in the future, like buying a house, getting married or starting a family. For example, a short-term goal that I have is saving up money to buy a new bike helmet so that my parents won't have to spend their money on one. An example of a long-term goal that I have is to buy a house later in life. Another long-term goal of mine is to have enough money for college. This would not count as a short-term goal for me because even though it would be me saving up money, I'm still only in the 5th grade, so college is quite a few years into the future. I can buy stocks to help me reach these goals because it will get me money. Then, I can use a diversified portfolio to keep the stocks (and extra cash) organized. If I didn't have it organized, then it would probably be chaos.

And so, in conclusion, this is just a fraction of the things that I learned through investing \$100,000 in The Stock Market Game. I'm so thrilled that I got the opportunity to play The Stock Market Game, because it taught me so much.

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 the North Carolina Council on Economic Education

The North Carolina Council on Economic Education, a nonprofit organization, provides North Carolina K-12 students with the economic knowledge and financial skills needed to thrive in the dynamic economy. By providing quality training and up-to-date resources, the North Carolina Council on Economic Education partners with teachers and school divisions to help students develop decision-making skills needed to be informed consumers, productive employees or innovative entrepreneurs, thoughtful investors, and reasoned voters. For more information, visit www.nccee.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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