



# FOUNDATION

Press Release

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## Arizona students Wins SIFMA Foundation's InvestWrite® Competition

*Twelfth-Grader Ashlynn Luzier and 7<sup>th</sup> Grader McKinley Johnston Take Top Honors in SIFMA Foundation's Spring 2022 National InvestWrite® Competition*

**Phoenix, Arizona July 18, 2022** – We could all learn something from twelfth-grader Ashlynn Luzier and seventh-grader McKinley Johnston. At only 18 and 12 years old, the Arizona students developed investment strategies primed for long-term financial success.

Competing in the high school division, Luzier, who attends Valley Vista High School, researched and composed an impressive long-term financial plan and now she is being recognized as first place in the state of Arizona in the SIFMA Foundation's Spring 2022 InvestWrite competition.

Beating out thousands of other students around the country competing in the middle school division, Johnston, who attends Mountain Trail Middle School, wowed the panel of expert judges with her insightful investment plan that included detailed research and diversification. Johnston won top honors as the Arizona Middle School division winner and a 7<sup>th</sup> place National finish.

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™ curriculum-based financial education program that challenges students to manage a hypothetical \$100,000 online portfolio of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and cash over a period of 14-weeks, a semester or a school year.

“The SIFMA Foundation ensures young people of all backgrounds are better prepared for their financial lives,” said Melanie Mortimer, President of the SIFMA Foundation. “We congratulate Ashlynn on this remarkable achievement and commend her teacher and school for their commitment to financial education.”

The Stock Market Game and InvestWrite are offered in Arizona through the Arizona Council on Economic Education. “We honor and congratulate our InvestWrite winning student and teacher,” said Elena Zee, President & CEO of the Arizona Council on Economic Education, “Helping Arizona 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 Arizona economy.”