

# FEI SEATTLE

# FINANCIAL NEWS

The official chapter newsletter of FEI Seattle

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear FEI Seattle Chapter Members,

I am honored and excited to address you as the incoming President of the Financial Executives International Seattle Chapter. As we embark on this new chapter together, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and dedication to our community of financial professionals.

Our chapter has always been a beacon of excellence, fostering a collaborative environment where leaders in finance can connect, share insights, and drive forward-thinking initiatives. As we launch our inaugural edition of the FEI Seattle Financial News, I am thrilled to share our vision for the future and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

First, I want to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of our past leadership, including our outgoing president, Alex Brenner. The commitment of all of our leadership has laid a strong foundation upon which we will continue to build. My goal as President is to uphold these standards and propel our chapter to new heights of engagement, innovation, and professional growth.

In the coming months, we will roll out our 2024-25 events schedule designed to enhance your experience as members. These include:

- 1. Dynamic Events:** We will host a variety of events: keynotes and panels discussing latest trends and best practices in finance.
- 2. Networking Opportunities:** Building strong professional networks is more important than ever. Our events will provide ample opportunities to connect with peers, share experiences, and forge valuable relationships.
- 3. Educational Resources:** Access to cutting-edge knowledge is key to staying ahead in our field. As a member of FEI, you have access to research, reports, and expert analyses to keep you informed and empowered.

As we navigate the ever-evolving financial landscape, your input and involvement will be invaluable. I encourage you to actively participate in our events, share your insights, and help shape the future of our chapter.

I am excited for the opportunities we have to make this organization even better. Together, we will continue to uphold the values of FEI and strive for excellence in all our endeavors. I look forward to a year of growth, learning, and success for all our members.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Here's to a prosperous and inspiring year ahead!

Warm regards,

Summer Redmon, CPA (she/hers)

President 2024-25

FEI Seattle Chapter



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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## Why did you join FEI?

I joined FEI initially when I was transitioning roles and seeking local networking connections. My prior role was based near Pittsburg and all my best connections were on the east coast and I was seeking work in the Seattle area.

## How has being a member of FEI benefitted you?

Through FEI, I meet a number of great people who were willing to connect, meet outside of FEI meetings, and very generous with their advice and contacts. I was very appreciative.

## What would you say to someone considering joining?

You never know how or when your professional network will benefit you, but you will be glad you have it when you need it. FEI is a great way to connect with like-minded professionals, who just good people. Great people, great knowledge, great organization...join.

## FEI Seattle Events

- Aug 27, 2024 Mariner's Game (Members + Family)
- Sep 6, 2024 New Member Happy Hour (members who have joined since June 2023)
- Sep 26, 2024 Bridging the Talent Gap
- Oct 24, 2024 TBD
- Nov 21, 2024 Annual Accounting/Tax Update
- Jan 16, 2025 Holiday Social Event
- Jan 30, 2025 TBD
- Feb 27, 2025 Storytelling: How to Transform Your Financial Data into Strategic Insights
- Mar 27, 2025 TBD
- Apr 24, 2025 TBD
- May 29, 2025 Summer Social Event

Sign up for our events [here!](#)

# Mickey, Golfing and Fed Tours, Oh My!

From May through July, FEI Seattle has been buzzing with activity! Our journey began at the FEI National Conference at Disney World in Orlando, where we delved into cutting-edge tools and services, data-driven leadership, and the transformative power of AI in finance. We also explored the evolving role of finance professionals into storytellers, learning how to best convey stories through data.

In June, we had a fantastic time at Top Golf, perfecting our swings with the help of a golf pro while enjoying tacos and beverages. It was a great opportunity to connect with fellow members in a relaxed setting.

July brought an exciting tour of the Federal Reserve Bank in Renton, which one member likened to a scene from "Ocean's Eleven!" We observed the meticulous operations involving stacks of cash organized by forklifts in an enormous vault, showcasing a highly efficient system. And even left with a gift!

Looking ahead, we have several exciting events planned, including a Mariners game, a new member social, and a panel event at Ruth's Chris in Seattle to discuss solutions for the current challenges of finding qualified accounting candidates. We hope to see you there!



**SPREAD  
THE  
WORD**  
*Today*

Word of mouth is essential for our growth, and we need your help to expand our community. Tell your friends and colleagues about the FEI Seattle and the incredible value it offers. A larger network means more resources, insights, and opportunities for all our members. Let's grow together and continue to elevate our profession!



# THE EVOLUTION OF FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP:

## Embracing a New Era of Strategy and Innovation



By: Derek Schlicker  
8/3/24

It's safe to say that the role of the financial leader has evolved dramatically over the past few years. Today's financial leaders are not just number crunchers; they are strategic partners, essential to steering their organizations towards success.

This transformation requires a shift from traditional management to a new style of leadership that is adaptive, inclusive, and visionary.

The journey from on-premise, multi-million-dollar financial tools like Essbase and Hyperion to modern, cloud based tools such as DataRails and Snowflake illustrates the dynamic nature of the finance team in a business. The legacy systems, while powerful, often required significant resources in time and capital, and infrastructure.

Fast forward to today, and technology is once again redefining the work. Automation in finance processes allows finance leaders to focus on planning and analysis rather than data entry and number-crunching.

And now AI is poised to further disrupt the field of financial analysis, bringing transformative changes and new capabilities. AI's ability to process vast amounts of data quickly and accurately enables more sophisticated forecasting, anomaly detection, and predictive analytics.

This shift has elevated finance to strategic partners who actively contribute to business decision-making alongside their executive peers.

### A New Leadership Style for a New Era

To thrive in this new environment, finance leaders must adopt a modern leadership style that goes beyond traditional management. Here's how:

- **Motivation and Communication:** Modern leaders inspire their teams by communicating a clear vision and purpose. They motivate through recognition, empowerment, and fostering a positive work environment.
- **Delegation and Empathy:** Effective delegation involves trusting team members with responsibilities and supporting them through challenges. Empathy is crucial for understanding team dynamics and individual needs.
- **Vision and Innovation:** Leaders must be forward-thinking, constantly seeking opportunities for improvement and innovation. They should champion new technologies and processes that can enhance team performance and business outcomes.
- **Coaching and Mentorship:** Leadership involves nurturing talent. Leaders should act as coaches, helping team members develop their skills and grow professionally.

### Building and Leading High-Performing Teams

Successful finance leaders recognize the importance of building a diverse and high-performing team. Diversity in skills, perspectives, and backgrounds strengthens the team's ability to tackle complex challenges and innovate.

- **Diverse Skills and Perspectives:** Embrace the different interpersonal skills, natural abilities, and cultural backgrounds of team members. This diversity can drive creativity and problem-solving.
- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Leaders should identify and harness the strengths of each team member while addressing any weaknesses. This approach helps in creating a balanced and effective team.
- **Performance and Recognition:** Publicly recognize and celebrate team and individual achievements. This not only motivates the team but also sets a standard for performance.

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## Ensuring a Legacy of Leadership

The ultimate measure of a leader’s success is the legacy they leave behind. This involves grooming future leaders and ensuring the team’s continued growth and success.

- **Inspire and Develop:** Bring team members into strategic discussions and decisions. This exposure helps them understand the broader business context and prepares them for leadership roles.
- **Mentorship and Guidance:** Provide continuous mentorship and guidance. Help team members set career goals and provide the resources and support they need to achieve them.
- **Cultivating Future Leaders:** Encourage a culture of continuous learning and development. This ensures that the team is always evolving and ready to meet future challenges.

The role of the finance leader has transformed from a back-office function to a pivotal strategic partner. Embracing modern leadership qualities—motivation, communication, empathy, vision, and mentorship—gives finance leaders the toolbox to build high-performing teams and ensure a legacy of success. As you reflect on your leadership journey, consider how these principles resonate with your experience and how you can continue to inspire and develop the next generation of financial leaders.

How has your leadership style changed over the course of your career? Does the shift from management to leadership resonate with your experience, and how do you ensure a legacy of motivated leaders to come after you?

# CHAPTER SPONSORS

A huge **THANK YOU** to our Chapter Sponsors! Your generous support is essential to our community’s success and helps us to provide valuable programs and events for our members. We deeply appreciate your partnership!



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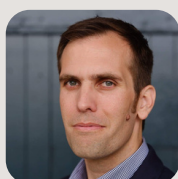
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