



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2024

Website [www.acg.org/wmich](http://www.acg.org/wmich)

**STUDENTS FROM CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY TAKE TOP PRIZE IN WEST MICHIGAN'S ACG CUP COMPETITION;  
STUDENTS FROM GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY CLINCH RUNNER-UP POSITION**

*29 teams, 124 students, and 42 judges take part in multi-round business case competition event.*

Grand Rapids, MI March 7, 2024 – After two rounds in the annual ACG Cup Competition, Team CLC Capital from Central Michigan University's College of Business Administration took the top prize of \$6,000, and Team EBITDA Adjusters from Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business the runner-up spot. Each team will have the chance to enjoy a facilitated lunch or business meeting with business professionals from the region.

The 2024 competition saw the largest turnout in number of teams and student competitors in ACG Western Michigan's history. The chapter welcomed teams from 11 colleges and universities from across Michigan, as well as returning competitors from Fordham University in New York and newcomers from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and California State University at Fullerton.

Teams used high-level financial and valuation analyses to arrive at their conclusions and deliver professional presentations by stepping into the role as consultants and presenting recommendations in a way that would impress a board of directors.

Volunteer judges from commercial and investment banking, corporate law, private equity, accounting, and valuation firms agree that the competition is more than just a finance competition – it's a step toward a career. Judge Nathan Olberding of Adamy Valuation stated competing in the ACG Cup provides "an incredible opportunity for future talent in the industry to have experiential learning, connect with business professionals, and challenge themselves academically."

ACG Western Michigan President Kelly Plawinski, also with Adamy Valuation, volunteered her time to help competitors navigate the competition and had this to say: "ACG Cup is an amazing offering for students, allowing them to experience real-life business situations in a rich learning environment. West Michigan business leaders are more than willing to give their time to this event, showing their support for our future leaders."

ACG Cup competitors often graduate with more job options than their peers, thanks to the collaborative nature of the competition's structure and positive connections developed with area professionals. ACG Cup volunteer and former competitor, Charlotte Kerr of Mercantile Bank, said she wishes every student in the financial field had the opportunity to compete. "Outside of an internship, the competition is one of the best ways for students to apply learned skills in a real-world setting and receive useful advice and feedback from experienced professionals. Real career opportunities for students come out of the competition every year."

This year's competition again offered competitors a chance to meet business representatives from across Michigan at a Career Conversation networking event held the night before the competition. Over two-thirds of participating companies surveyed reported they connected with multiple qualified candidates.

Northwood University competitor Luke Kalavitz said ACG Cup is "well organized and provided a massive opportunity for students to gain exposure to what the real world of finance is like." Ferris State University competitor Lexyona Julin stated the "challenge gives you the opportunity to feel out what your professional life could look like. It looks great on a resume." Hillsdale College competitor Ian Schlager agreed, saying, "ACG Cup is a great way to challenge your knowledge

and prepare yourself for the business world.” Central Michigan University competitor Turner Felton said the ACG Cup was “the best experience for cementing classroom work to real-world applications.”

Professors from around the region welcome the chance to bring teams to the competition. Northwood University’s Brian Rang feels the ACG Cup is a “wonderful experience that provides our students with tremendous networking opportunities and the ability to present and receive feedback from industry professionals.”

Members of Team CLC Capital and Team EBITDA Adjusters, along with Final Round Judges:

Lucy Forlastro, CLC Capital	Central Michigan University
Carolina Hernandez Ruiz, CLC Capital	Central Michigan University
Jackson Raymond, CLC Capital	Central Michigan University
Corinne Sleeter, CLC Capital	Central Michigan University
Kevin Caballero, EBITDA Adjusters	Grand Valley State University
Mitchell Hopkins, EBITDA Adjusters	Grand Valley State University
Andis Klavins, EBITDA Adjusters	Grand Valley State University
Kurtis Montsma, EBITDA Adjusters	Grand Valley State University
Jacob Newton, EBITDA Adjusters	Grand Valley State University
Loïc Dimithe – judge	Miller Johnson
Brian Hamilton – judge	Allied OMS
Heather Hoezee – judge	Crowe LLP
David Nemes – judge	The Business Company



*CLC Capital, L-R: C Sleeter, J Raymond, C Hernandez Ruiz & L Forlastro*



*EBITDA Adjusters, L-R: K Montsma, K Cabellero, A Klavins, J Newton & M Hopkins*

Members of the five other teams advancing to the Final Round will also receive an invitation to a facilitated lunch or business meeting with Grand Rapids business professionals. Teams represented in the Final Round were from Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Hillsdale College, and Northwood University.

###

ACG Western Michigan’s ACG Cup competition has long been hailed as the premier ACG Cup competition across ACG North America’s 54 chapters. ACG Western Michigan is a chapter of the global Association for Corporate Growth and was founded in 1999 by West Michigan business leaders who recognized the need for a local organization to serve as a resource to executives actively involved in deal making and internal and external growth of their companies.

If you would like more information about ACG Cup or ACG Western Michigan, please contact Heather Edwards at (616) 732-7149 or via email at [hedwards@acg.org](mailto:hedwards@acg.org).