



Upcoming Events

February 5
IR Trends to Watch in 2021

[Register](#)

Event Recaps and Webcasts

Unable to attend a recent event? [Event recaps and webcasts](#) can be found by clicking the links below.

December 2020

[Reg S-K and Principles-Based Disclosures: What Do You Need to Know?](#)

November 2020

[Developing Your ESG Program and Disclosure](#)

September 2020

[IR Workshop Session Summaries](#)

March 2020

[A Primer on Virtual Annual Meetings for Unusual Times](#)

January 2020

[It's Your Hour – Do You Use It Wisely?](#)

December 2019

[Investor Relations in Special Situations](#)

From the President



Welcome, 2021. I say that emphatically, as 2020 was a trying year. Many of us took on new challenges and additional workloads while working from home. I am a bar/restaurant owner on top of my day-to-day job, so my thoughts especially go out to people in these and other industries who are struggling to make ends meet, as well as those with friends and family affected by COVID-19. I pray 2021 will bring brighter days to us all. However, this past year also had some silver linings. I am grateful for the opportunity to spend more time with my family and build new business relationships with many IR teams. Thank you for the opportunity.

On the market front, the Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq indices all closed the year [at or near record highs](#), even though the U.S. is still struggling with the COVID pandemic and the unemployment rate hovers around 7%. It will be interesting to see how these trends play out next year. Will vaccines be distributed effectively and rapidly? Will consumer, business and investor confidence continue to rise? Will new stimulus payments keep more of us afloat until we return to normalcy? At this point, the market seems to think so.

IR teams effectively adapted to 2020's changing environment as we learned new technologies and how to handle virtual earnings calls, conferences, investor and annual meetings. As a result, many companies connected with more investors in record time and immediately reduced travel costs. Early indicators are that when the majority of workers return to the office in 2021, we will see a hybrid approach of face-to-face and virtual meetings. In addition, many IROs have (or will) take on additional responsibilities as ESG efforts ramp up at their companies. I urge you to welcome these additional tasks. Don't always do the status quo with your IR program, think outside the box and try something new this year.

NIRI-Chicago continued to offer its practitioners great content and fun events in 2020. I hope everyone has enjoyed our chapter's [virtual events](#). You can expect more of the same this year, starting with our program on Friday, Feb. 5, [IR Trends to Watch in 2021](#). You'll hear a thought-provoking discussion between Corbin Advisors' Rebecca Corbin, Morningstar's David Sekera and the University of Chicago's Hal Weitzman about trends and uncertainties facing investor relations officers in 2021 and beyond. [Register](#). Also, be on the lookout for a virtual NIRI In Your Neighborhood networking event in February.

Finally, I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2021. Best of luck with your upcoming earnings season and closing out the 2020 books.

Victor Jendras
NIRI Chicago President

In Case You Missed It

Our December program covered [Reg S-K and Principles-Based Disclosures: What Do You Need to Know?](#) Listen to the webinar, read the key takeaways and check out the presentation [here](#).

In the News

- Why you should [discuss ESG](#) on your earnings call.
- Implications of [market fragmentation](#).
- From 2000-2020, the median Wall Street [forecast missed](#) its target by an average 12.9 percentage points – more than double the actual average annual performance of the stock market.
- [Record IPOs](#) in 2020 (thanks in part to [SPACs](#)), and great expectations for 2021.
- More high-frequency traders aren't always good for market liquidity.
- [Activism](#) reached a [five-year low](#) in the first nine months of 2020; [roaring back](#) in '21?

Virtual Learning

NIRI Chicago and its fellow NIRI chapters continue to come together to support members with timely and relevant virtual programs during the Covid-19 pandemic. Here are a few of the complimentary webinars that are available to NIRI Chicago members:

[Leveraging the IR Role to Maximize Your Career: A Virtual Panel Discussion](#)

NIRI New York
Tuesday, January 12

[Transitioning from Investor Relations to CFO](#)

NIRI Virtual
Wednesday, January 13

[The Return of the Proxy Fight](#)

NIRI Twin Cities
Thursday, January 14

[Disruption in Washington: What Can IR Professionals Expect from Regulators and Lawmakers in 2021?](#)

NIRI Los Angeles
Tuesday, January 19

NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest member: **Stacie Selinger**, managing director, head of investor relations, GCM Grosvenor Inc.

Congratulations to NIRI Chicago members with milestone NIRI anniversaries in November through January **20 years: Liz Kluge; 15 years: Heather Kos**, Univar Solutions; **5 years: Michael Ferreter**.

[Share](#) your news (job changes, awards, interesting articles) -- and thanks for reading the MEMBER CONNECTION.

Maryellen Thielen
Vice President, Communications
NIRI Chicago

Our Sponsors



Platinum Sponsor



Broadridge[®]

Silver Sponsor



businesswire
A BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY COMPANY

Silver Sponsor



IHS Markit[®]

Silver Sponsor



ModernIR

Market Structure Analytics[™]



Annual In-Kind Sponsors

