

A Message of Thanks from the 2014 Bob Foster Scholarship Recipient

Thank you for the privilege of representing MNAFP as the recipient of the 2014 Bob Foster Scholarship. This award includes a trophy and a trip to the annual AFP conference, this year in D.C. I enjoyed meeting peers from many states. I was often reminded of the strength of our regional association, the dedication of our volunteers and leaders, and our good fortune in having such a strong annual regional conference.

Many break-out sessions addressed current issues with a sense of urgency. With the Nation's Capital as the venue, AFP lined up many top influential governmental and academic voices to share their thoughts. Among the highlights for me were columnist and visionary Thomas Friedman and Chris Voss, a former FBI hostage negotiator.

Conferences help us learn from each other to meet the challenges ahead, especially when we share information, build relationships, and expand networks. Ironically enough, I reconnected with Minnesota friends I hadn't seen for some time - thanks to chance meetings while we all navigated the cavernous convention center, teeming with 6,000 attendees!

I would like to not only like to thank the MNAFP for the scholarship support but also our many banking partners for their generous sponsorship and warm hospitality. Like our regional conference, the national conference's success is very dependent on their significant financial commitments.

Thank you for the scholarship. It's a great way to recognize volunteer contributions while reinforcing the importance of continuing education and networking. Bob Foster would be proud.

Tom Colling, CTP, Assistant Treasurer - FICO