

A Decade of Connecting Research, Policy, and Solutions

### **GFLEC's Decennial Journey and Impact**



MESSAGE FROM ACADEMIC DIRECTOR ANNAMARIA LUSARDI

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Ten years ago, the Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center (GFLEC) launched with a clear vision: a future in which everyone is equipped to manage their personal finances and, as a result, achieve their dreams. In its tireless work toward that goal, GFLEC has boldly positioned itself as the world's leading incubator for financial literacy research, policy, and solutions.

As we celebrate GFLEC's decennial anniversary, we are proud of what the center has accomplished. When GFLEC launched, many individuals and organizations were skeptical about the value of financial literacy. It was an uphill battle, but ten years later, things have changed. GFLEC has helped establish financial literacy as an academic field, and our research has put the financial illiteracy crisis on the agenda of policy makers, private sector leaders, and educators. Our efforts have illustrated that financial literacy is a key driver of financial security and well-being. Our work is not done, but we have surmounted some major obstacles.

With our global objectives in mind, we have been a leading voice among those who are calling for financial education for all-for children, young people, adults, and seniors-and we have advocated for high-impact,

tailor-made approaches designed to close literacy gaps. In order to ensure that inequalities are addressed and financial education is effective, we have also identified and studied demographic groups that are at a disadvantage in terms of financial literacy and financial well-being: women, young adults, underserved racial and ethnic groups, and those with lower education and lower income.

This is just the beginning. As I look to the future, I want to build on our efforts and continue to push for GFLEC's research and evaluations to result in widespread, concrete change in schools, workplaces, and communities.

Please read on as we share reflections on our ten-year journey and testimonials from some of those who have been collaborators, partners and funders.

During our anniversary season, we will continue to connect with you to celebrate GFLEC's journey, share new research, and describe our vision for the future. Thank you for your support and for helping us connect research, policy, and solutions for a decade!

Together, we will continue to drive change and improve financial literacy and financial well-being worldwide.

Onward and upward!

Anna

Annamaria Lusardi Founder & Academic Director, GFLEC

Although we have spent ten years connecting research, policy, and solutions, we have barely begun. We will continue to build global networks of researchers to raise the field of financial literacy to the next level. We will continue to translate research into action, including through public policy. And we will continue to advance discoveries that will enable us to overcome inequality in financial literacy. We know our work can transform lives and turn dreams into reality. We know because we have already seen it happen.



GFLEC is honored to contribute in far-reaching ways to the understanding of why financial literacy matters and is grateful for the partnership of preeminent collaborators. At the same time, we are humbled by the acclaim, accolades, and awards we have received for our work. Every honor magnifies GFLEC's visibility and broadens its influence.

# AWARDS RECEIVED DURING OUR 10 YEAR JOURNEY



Celebration of GFLEC as a Barron's Financial Empowerment Honoree





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## **Testimonials**

The journey GFLEC has been on these last ten years has been filled with many truly incredible partners, collaborators, funders, and friends. We could not have raised awareness about the vital importance of financial literacy or see the impact and influence we are having without these individuals and organizations. We have received several touching testimonials from our GFLEC community. Today, we are sharing the first of many to come as our anniversary celebration continues.



Watch the video



Watch the video

Anuj Mehrotra Dean of The George Washington University School of Business

Gerri Walsh President of FINRA Investor Education Foundation and Senior Vice President of Investor Education, FINRA

"Congratulations to my friends at GFLEC—and especially my friend and colleague Dr. Annamaria Lusardi—on your tenth year of doing such important work to advance financial literacy. Over the past decade, your leadership in the field and your innovative research has played an invaluable role as a thought leader, helping us stay abreast on critical research that informs our program development and ultimately our ability to positively impact communities. I'm so proud to have had the opportunity to partner with you over the years—and I look forward to many more ahead! Congratulations from me and all my colleagues at Charles Schwab."



**Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz** President & Board Chair at Charles Schwab Foundation GW Alumna

#### VISIT OUR ANNIVERSARY WEBPAGE



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PLEASE MAKE AN ANNIVERSARY GIFT

GFLEC would like to recognize and thank its members.

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

TIAA Institute

#### AMBASSADOR SUPPORTER

Edelman Financial Engines

#### **ADVOCATE SUPPORTERS**











Institute of consumer money management

The results, interpretations, conclusions, and opinions expressed in this article are those of GFLEC and do not necessarily reflect the views of any GFLEC members.

For more information about becoming a corporate member, please contact Kristen Burnell at <u>kburnell@gwu.edu</u> or +1 (202) 731-9926.

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