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### The Beyster Institute Graduates the First Cohort of ESOP Professionals

The Beyster Institute, a Center of Excellence with the Rady School of Management at the University of California San Diego, completed the first program for Training ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) Professionals. The program was offered in partnership with the UC San Diego Extension as a 15-week graduate extension course.

This new program is the first in the United States that prepares individuals to serve successfully as professionals in the Employee Stock Ownership (ESOP) field. The course covered the full spectrum of ESOP practice. It offered professionals from a wide range of specializations from law, tax, accounting, banking, and beyond, a comprehensive platform to understand the fundamentals of ESOPs. Course graduates are more well prepared to serve ESOP owned businesses with this multifaceted view and to continue further study in this discipline. As part of the UCSD Extension program, it is accessible across the country. It is a goal for the Beyster Institute to foster ESOP education in business schools across the country and to support the Curriculum Library for Employee Ownership with Rutgers University.

The course offered talks from some of the foremost experts in the ESOP field in a broad array of specializations while also offering perspective on the evolution of practice and policy with the Department of Labor since Congress approved ESOPs in 1974 as part of ERISA, The Employee Retirement Income Security Act. The course culminated with students completing a hypothetical ESOP transaction as the capstone project demonstrating their broad knowledge.

Kim Blaugher, "We would like to congratulate our 2021 cohort of fourteen professionals who successfully completed the course. This group dedicated themselves to a disciplined learning process and practical application of cross-specialization theories and techniques. It is clear that they have moved beyond any particular specialization and can see the broad needs of the business, the beneficial ESOP participants, and the selling owners. Each of these amazing individuals is a key to the future of our successful ESOP community."

The Beyster Institute congratulates William Etter, Adrienne Gehan, Emily Morris, Beth Mulcahy, Jack Peterson, Monica Ryan, Corey Schechter, Scott Schlange, Stacey Smith, Ben Spadt, Payton Stockton, Chris Stollar, Laurie Velleman, Mauro Canelo, and Weiyang (Tina) Xu.

We look forward to our next course in January 2022 and see this as a vital piece of the Beyster Institute's work to develop an ecosystem of leaders and professionals dedicated to the success of ESOPs and, more broadly, the concept of employee ownership. For more information: [visit the UCSD Extension](#).

The Beyster Institute aims to advance broad-based employee ownership theory and practice as an academic authority so that ESOPs have the public will to be recognized as an economic tool for a more resilient economy.

#### About the Rady School of Management at UC San Diego

*The Rady School of Management at UC San Diego is a business school that develops ethical and entrepreneurial leaders who make a positive impact in the world through innovation, collaboration and knowledge. The Rady School offers a [Full-Time MBA](#) program, a [FlexMBA](#) program for working professionals, a [Ph.D. program](#), a [Master of Finance](#) program, a [Master of Science in Business Analytics](#) program, a [Master of Professional Accountancy](#) program, [Executive Education](#) and [undergraduate](#) courses. To find out more about the Rady School visit, [www.rady.ucsd.edu](http://www.rady.ucsd.edu).*

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