

IAAP Foundation: Yesterday & Today

IAAP Foundation has a long history of success. The IAAP Foundation was formed in 2012, with the merging of IAAP's two former charitable 501 (c)(3) non-profit organizations that have played a critical role in the support of the administrative profession over the years. These two organizations were the Retirement Trust Foundation and the Research and Educational Foundation.

The Retirement Trust Foundation

During World War II, the U.S. government issued frantic calls for secretaries, clerks, and others who could assist in the war effort. Most of the women who stayed in the workforce were single or primary bread-winners for their family and many could not support themselves in retirement.

In 1947, Della Herring, member of the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter of Secretaries International contributed the first dollar toward establishing a retirement home for secretaries, and the Retirement Trust Foundation (RTF) was born. Just five years after the launch of the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP), administrative professionals were finding ways to lift one another.

Members around the world raised funds to support the initiative. In 1972, with the help of a Federal Housing Authority loan, 21-years of dedication and generosity culminated with the opening of Vista Grande, an 11-acre retirement complex in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. As needs changed, the foundation expanded the program to provide housing assistant subsidies for qualified applicants age 55 or older living at other properties. In 2020, Vista Grande was sold, providing vital resources to expand the foundation's impact on administrative professionals around the world.

The Research & Education Foundation

The Research & Education Foundation (R&E) was established in 1966 when IAAP leaders and members decided they needed an organization dedicated to tracking changes within the administrative profession and helping admins stay relevant in their careers through professional development.

Throughout its history, R&E provided more than \$500,000 to perform content validity study/task analysis on the IAAP certification program, review certification exams for college credit recommendations, assist with coordination of continuing education units (CEU), co-brand research, and launch a scholarship program for IAAP conference attendees.

Today

IAAP Foundation is classified as a 509(a)(3) Type I supporting organization, a special sub-type of nonprofit organization. In this role, we wholly partner with IAAP in our joint mission, vision, and strategic plan. Our unique position is to provide resources (financial, intellectual, innovation, and governance) in support of our shared mission and vision; most specifically to provide financial resources for research and education aspects of our shared mission and vision.