

HFMWeek

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Lifting up women in alts

Blue River Partners aims to be a career resource



(L-R) Beth Wiener, Marcum; Asli Ay, Lioness Capital; Lisa Vioni, Hedge Connection; and Ashley Fizzarotti, Blue River Partners

Outsourced compliance, operations and IT provider Blue River Partners has launched an initiative aiming to elevate women in the alternative investment industry.

Blue Impact aims to be a resource for women at all stages of their careers, with an emphasis on education and mentoring, capital introduction and networking, identifying employment opportunities, and assisting with infrastructure set-up.

The Texas-headquartered firm held launch events in Dallas and New York last month. It will seek to engage female students by working with the career development groups in colleges and universities as well as women already in the industry, through networking events,

lectures and other partnerships.

"We wanted to form meaningful partnerships and create measurable actions to help advance women in the alternatives space," Ashley Fizzarotti, director of hedge fund operations at Blue River Partners, told *Inside Hedge* at its launch event at the Kimberly Hotel on East 50 Street, New York.

Michael Mince, co-founder, president and general counsel at Blue River, added that in an environment where managers can run lean, nimble businesses by outsourcing several functions, and with the development of cloud-based systems, the environment is ripe to help women who require flexibility to enter or advance in the industry.