

# INCREASING DIVIDEND EQUITY ACCOUNT (IDEA)

DECEMBER 31, 2020

### **OBJECTIVE**

Invests in companies that have paid or increased dividends over the last 10 years. Primary investment objective is capital appreciation with dividend income as a secondary objective.

# **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

Confluence's investment philosophy builds upon the required criteria established to create the initial IDEA investable universe. Stocks selected for the strategy are diversified across a variety of sectors, avoiding excess concentrations in particular industries. Companies typically have well-positioned business models, ones that can grow during economic expansions and persevere through recessions and industry downturns.

Valuations play an important role, as we believe avoiding excessive valuations is a key metric in managing risk. We also focus on companies where debt levels are manageable. The result is a diversified portfolio of high-quality companies operating stable businesses from which they can offer the prospect of rising dividends to shareholders.

#### **OVERVIEW**

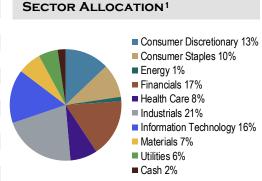
- Invests in businesses with long track records of distributing earnings to shareholders through dividends — companies have paid or increased dividends over the last 10 years
- ♦ Market capitalizations greater than \$1 billion
- ◆ Approximately 2% position sizes
- New account fully invested at inception
- Low turnover
- Anticipated dividend growth rate of the aggregate portfolio is important since inflation can erode investment returns and lower purchasing power; however, because the targeted portfolio dividend growth rate is higher than inflation, real income to investors can grow over time

CHARACTERISTICS <sup>1</sup>	IDEA	S&P 500	R3000 VALUE
Dividend Yield	1.9%	1.6%	2.3%
Number of Positions	49	505	2,341
Annual Turnover (5-vr Rolling)	7%		

1This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards. Investing in securities involves the risk of loss of the amount invested that investors should be prepared to bear. There can be no assurance that any investment objective will be achieved or that any investment will be profitable or avoid incurring losses. The listing of "10 Largest Holdings" is not a complete list of all stocks in the portfolio or which Confluence may be currently recommending. Application of the investment strategy as of a later date will likely result in changes to the listing. Sector weightings/holdings of individual client portfolios in the strategy may differ, sometimes significantly, from these listings. Contact Confluence for a complete list of holdings. Portfolio yield: composite level weighted average yield, calculated based on annualized current dividends; source: FaclSet. Benchmark sources: S&D bow Jones Indices/FTSE Russell. Annual turnover 5-yr rolling calculated from sample accounts for periods ending 12/31/2020.

MARKET CAP <sup>1</sup>	IDEA	S&P 500	R3000 Value
Weighted Avg. Market Cap (\$B)	127.9	489.3	125.3
Largest Market Cap (\$B)	1,681.6	2,256.0	1,185.1
Median Market Cap (\$B)	69.5	25.6	2.0
Smallest Market Cap (\$B)	3.4	3.2	-
Large Cap (>\$10B)	86%		
Mid Cap (\$10B-\$2B)	12%		
Small Cap (<\$2B)	0%		

10 LARGEST HOLDINGS <sup>1</sup>	
NIKE, Inc. (Class B)	2.7%
Analog Devices, Inc.	2.6%
Graco Inc.	2.6%
Mastercard Inc.	2.6%
Linde plc	2.5%
Accenture plc	2.5%
Nordson Corporation	2.4%
Stryker Corporation	2.4%
Brown & Brown, Inc.	2.3%
T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.	2.3%



# **INVESTMENT PROCESS**

# **IDEA SECURITY SCREEN CRITERIA**

The initial security screen for the IDEA portfolio includes the following criteria:

## **Consistent, Growing Dividends:**

- Consecutive dividends paid over the last 10 years
- No dividend reductions in the last 10 years
- ◆ Dividend raised in 7 of the last 10 years
- ♦ Dividend yield greater than 1%

## **IDEA Criteria Indicate:**

- ♦ Stable and growing cash flow
- High-quality companies
- ♦ Moderate to low levels of debt

# **IDEA PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION**

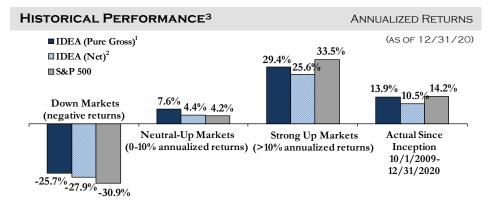
- Approximately 180 companies meet the initial IDEA criteria:
- Diversified across industries and market capitalizations
- Narrowed universe is 50% large cap, 40% midcap, 10% small cap
- Value-based approach utilizes Confluence's internal 11-member research team to evaluate the business and valuation
- Based on internal research, the portfolio management team can make special exceptions for companies that have growing dividends but do not pass all of the initial security screen criteria
- Portfolio management team constructs a welldiversified portfolio consisting of 49 names that have the potential for continued dividend growth and trade at attractive valuations

# How is IDEA DIFFERENT?

- IDEA can buy small cap and mid-cap stocks
- Fundamental research in addition to the IDEA criteria
- Not just about dividends and yield, but about growing dividends
- A separately managed account you know what you own
- ♦ A proven approach no new twists
- New accounts are fully invested at inception

#### ABOUT CONFLUENCE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC

Confluence Investment Management is an independent Registered Investment Advisor located in St. Louis, Missouri, that provides professional portfolio management and advisory services to institutional and individual clients. Confluence's investment philosophy is based upon independent, fundamental research that integrates evaluation of market cycles, macroeconomics and geopolitical analysis with the firm's value-driven, company-specific approach. The portfolio management philosophy begins by assessing risk and follows through by positioning clients to achieve their income and growth objectives.



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS <sup>4</sup>										
Portfolio at Quarter End	vs. S&P 500									
Active Share (as of 12/31/20)	86.32%									
Since Inception**	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	S&P 500								
Downside Capture Ratio	83.27	100.00								
Alpha	1.66	0.00								
Beta	0.84	1.00								
Annualized Standard Deviation	13.06%	15.02%								
R-Squared	0.94	1.00								
Sharpe Ratio	1.02	0.91								
**Inception is 10/1/2009										

ANNUAL				D	ividend (	Change from	Prior Yea	ar*	Annual Dividend Increases Over Past 10 Years*					
			Avg.	# of companies with		Avg.	Indexed	# of companies with			Avg. 10 yr			
DIVIDEND	Year	Holdings	Yield <sup>+</sup>	Increase Flat Decrease G		Growth	Growth <sup>++</sup>	10 years	9 years	< 9 years	Growth			
STATISTICS	2009	49	2.8%	45	4	0	8.1%	\$3,242	38	6	5	13.3%		
SIATISTICS	2010	49	2.8%	45	4	0	8.0%	\$3,501	38	3	8	12.6%		
For IDEA	2011	49	2.8%	46	3	0	9.6%	\$3,837	38	4	7	12.5%		
Portfolio	2012	48	3.1%	46	2	0	9.1%	\$4,186	39	5	4	12.8%		
AT12/31	2013	49	2.3%	48	1	0	10.0%	\$4,604	41	3	5	13.1%		
A112/31	2014	49	2.4%	48	1	0	10.3%	\$5,078	39	3	7	12.7%		
(Yield data source: FactSet)	2015	49	2.8%	47	2	0	9.7%	\$5,572	40	3	6	11.9%		
,	2016	50	2.3%	46	4	0	7.2%	\$5,974	39	1	10	11.4%		
* 'Dividend Change' and 'Annual Dividend Increases' sections	2017	48	2.1%	45	3	0	7.5%	\$6,422	37	1	10	10.5%		
exclude impact of special	2018	49	2.4%	47	2	0	9.6%	\$7,036	39	3	7	9.9%		
dividends and spin-offs.	2019	49	2.0%	49	0	0	11.6%	\$7,855	41	2	6	10.8%		

#### PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE RETURNS (For Periods Ending December 31, 2020)

	Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	S&P 500	R3000 Value	Calendar Year	Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	S&P 500	R3000 Value	Difference (Gross- S&P500)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	S&P 500 3yr Std Dev	R3000V 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
Since	13.9%	10.5%	14.2%	11.0%	2009**	7.5%	6.7%	6.0%	4.2%	1.4%	40	\$7,190	\$533,832	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Inception**	10.570	10.070	17.270	11.070	2010	16.8%	13.3%	15.1%	16.3%	1.7%	138	\$33,407	\$751,909	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4%
10-Year*	13.2%	9.8%	13.9%	10.4%	2011	8.9%	5.7%	2.1%	(0.1%)	6.8%	325	\$68,562	\$937,487	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5%
5-Year*	14.2%	10.8%	15.2%	9.7%	2012	9.2%	6.0%	16.0%	17.6%	(6.8%)	414	\$91,822	\$1,272,265	12.7%	15.1%	15.8%	0.2%
3-Year*	11.4%	8.1%	14.2%	5.9%	2013	31.4%	27.5%	32.4%	32.7%	(1.0%)	536	\$153,123	\$1,955,915	10.3%	11.9%	12.9%	0.4%
					2014	12.0%	8.7%	13.7%	12.7%	(1.7%)	942	\$257,782	\$2,589,024	8.1%	9.0%	9.4%	0.2%
1-Year	10.7%	7.4%	18.4%	2.9%	2015	1.6%	(1.4%)	1.4%	(4.1%)	0.3%	1,265	\$311,651	\$3,175,419	9.5%	10.5%	10.7%	0.3%
YTD	10.7%	7.4%	18.4%	2.9%	2016	17.0%	13.5%	12.0%	18.4%	5.1%	1,714	\$470,340	\$4,413,659	9.2%	10.6%	11.0%	0.3%
QTD	11.5%	10.7%	12.1%	17.2%	2017	19.8%	16.2%	21.8%	13.2%	(2.0%)	2,254	\$698,440	\$5,944,479	8.5%	9.9%	10.3%	0.4%
*Average ann	ualized return	ıs			2018	(3.8%)	(6.6%)	(4.4%)	(8.6%)	0.6%	2,539	\$699,689	\$5,486,737	9.8%	10.8%	11.1%	0.3%
**Inception is					2019	29.9%	26.0%	31.5%	26.2%	(1.6%)	3,193	\$1,079,861	\$7,044,708	10.9%	11.9%	12.0%	0.4%
Portfolio Bei	nchmarks				2020	10.7%	7.4%	18.4%	2.9%	(7.7%)	3,269	\$1,159,219	\$6,889,798	16.5%	18.5%	20.0%	0.8%

S&P 500 Index - Capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries. Russell 3000® Value Index—Capitalization-weighted index designed to measure performance of those Russell 3000® Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values

Confluence Investment Management LLC claims compliance with the GIDs investment Performance Standards (GIPS\*) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Confluence Investment Management LLC has been independently verified for the periods August 1, 2008, through December 31, 2019. The verification report is available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report.

GIPS\* is a registered trademark of CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. The Increasing Dividend Equity Account (IDEA) Composite was created on October 1, 2009. Confluence Investment Management LLC is an independent registered investment adviser. Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented gross and net of all fees and include the reinvestment of all increase.

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1 Pure gross returns are shown as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards.

2 Net-of-fee performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual bundled fee of 3.00% applied quarterly. This fee includes brokerage commissions, portfolio management, consulting services and custodial services. The Confluence fee schedule for this composite is as follows: 0.60% on the first \$500,000; 0.05% on the next \$500,000; and 0.00% and 0.00% on the group of assets under management. The collection of fees produces a compounding effect on the total rate of return net of fees. Bundled fee accounts make up 100% of the composite fee based on a percentage of assets under management. The collection of fees produces a compounding effect on the total rate of return net of fees. Bundled fee accounts make up 100% of the composite of all periods. Actual investments advisory fees incurred by clients may vary. Wrap fee schedules are provided by independent wrap sponsors and are available upon request from the respective wrap sponsor.

A complete list of composite descriptions is available upon request. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. The annual composite dispersion is an equal-weighted standard deviation, using gross-of-fee returns, calculated for the accounts in the composite for the entire year. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite gross returns over the preceding 36-month period. The IDEA Composite contains fully discretionary IDEA wrap accounts. The IDEA portfolio is selected from a universe of stocks, from all market capitalizations, meeting minimum criteria of paying & increasing dividends over the last 10 years. "Results shown for the year 2009 represent partial period performance from October 1, 2009, khrough December 31, 2009. N/A-Composite Dispersion: Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of po in the composite for the entire year. N/A-3yr Std Dev: Composite does not have 3 years of monthly performance history.

\*\*Historical Performance Chart—Annualized return is greater than 10%. The S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged market capitalization-weighted index of 500 common stocks chosen for market size, liquidity & industry group representation to represent U.S. equity performance. Down Markets: 02 '10, 03 '11, 02 '12, 04 '12, 03 '15, 01 '18, 04 '18, 01 '20', Neutral-Up Markets: 02 '11, 01 '14, 03 '14, 01 '15-02 '15, 01 '16, 03 '19; Strong Up Markets: 02 '10, 03 '11, 02 '12, 04 '12, 03 '13, 01 '19, 02 '19, 04 '19, 02 '04 '20 '45 tatistical Analysis—Active Share: Measures % of portfolio holdings that differ from benchmark index; calculated by taking the sourced from exchange-traded fund: Shares S&P 500 Core [IVV]. Downside Capture Ratio: Measures performance in down markets relative to index (down market: any quarter where the market return is less than zero); lower Downside Capture Ratio indicates manager profected capital better during a market decline. Alpha: Measures performance in down markets in appropriate benchmark index. Standard Deviation: Measures perice variability (risk) over a period of time; higher Standard Deviation indicates more variability in returns. R-Squared: Indicates whether comparison index is an appropriate benchmark based on correlation; generally, R-Squared above 0.70 is desirable. Sharpe Ratio: Quantifies risk-adjusted performance by measuring excess return per unit of risk, higher Sharpe Ratio suggests better risk-adjusted performance. (Data source: Zephyr's PSN SMA Database)

### **Confluence Value Equities Investment Committee**

Mark Keller, CFA Chris Stein Tore Stole Joe Hanzlik Kaisa Stucke, CFA Brett Mawhiney, CFA Daniel Winter, CFA Tom Dugan, CFA Dustin Hausladen Blair Brumley, CFA John Wobbe

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR SALES TEAM:

Wayne Knowles National Sales Director (314) 526-0914 wknowles@confluenceim.com

Ron Pond, CFA | West Sr. Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0759 rpond@confluenceim.com

Steve Mikez | North-Central Sr. Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0776 smikez@confluenceim.com

Michael Kelnosky | North-Central Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0622 mkelnosky@confluenceim.com

Jason Gantt | East Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0364 igantt@confluenceim.com

Jim Taylor | Mid-South Regional Sales Director (314) 526-0469 itavlor@confluenceim.com

<sup>+</sup> Average dividend yield of portfolio holdings at 12/31, calculated based on annualized current dividends plus any special dividends paid during the year.
++ 'Indexed Growth' column is an estimate of cumulative dividend growth on a \$100,000 account beginning on 12/31/2008. It does not represent actual results.