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400,000 member mark, a milestone the organization says underscores the continuing value and vitality of the organization and the accounting profession as well.

Isaac M. O'Bannon • Aug. 19, 2014

The American Institute of CPAs announced on Wednesday that it recently hit the 400,000 member mark, a milestone the organization says underscores the continuing value and vitality of the organization and the accounting profession as well.

The 400,000th member of the AICPA is Jennifer Highsmith, a 27-year-old senior audit associate from Florida. She will be recognized at an event in October.

The [AICPA](#) is the world's largest member organization representing the profession and has seen solid growth in recent years, despite a volatile economic climate. Membership has increased almost 13 percent in the past decade and 25 percent since 1994.

“We’ve come a long way since the early days of the 20th century, when the AICPA had just a little more than a thousand members,” said [Barry C. Melancon](#), CPA, CGMA, the AICPA’s president and CEO. “I’m particularly proud of the growth we’ve seen in the past seven years, a challenging period for many professional organizations because of the economic downturn. Hitting the 400,000-member mark is a testament to the multifaceted services offered by the AICPA and its commitment to the public interest, and it’s also a reflection of the high regard in which the CPA credential is held in today’s complex world.”

The AICPA provides continuing education, a rigorous framework of ethical standards, technical guidance on accounting and audit matters, advocacy on issues

important to the profession and the public interest, and a host of other key

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Highsmith works in the Jacksonville, Fla., office of Johnson Lambert, a top regional public accounting firm. She decided to pursue accounting because of her aptitude with numbers and because her mother – who did some accounting work before going into teaching – convinced her it would be a rewarding career. Highsmith will receive a certificate noting her status as the 400,000th member and has been invited to the AICPA's Fall Council meeting in Boston for recognition.

AICPA • Firm Management

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