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graduating class. These 37 future leaders of the accounting profession participated in an intensive four day program in Durham, N.C., which concluded earlier this month.

Isaac M. O'Bannon • Oct. 20, 2014



The [American Institute of CPAs](#) has announced the 2014 [Leadership Academy](#) graduating class. These 37 future leaders of the accounting profession participated in an intensive four day program in Durham, N.C., which concluded earlier this month.

This year's class discussed the pressing issues facing the profession and charted the direction CPAs need to take to remain a dynamic and active participant in the global marketplace. Attendees participated in leadership development sessions with some of the profession's most influential leaders, including AICPA Chairman Bill Balhoff, CPA, CGMA, Barry Melancon, CPA, CGMA, the Institute's president and CEO, and

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leadership within the profession. Having just graduated its sixth class, almost 200 CPAs have now participated in the Leadership Academy.

“My experience at Leadership Academy impressed upon me that there is no one ‘correct path’ to becoming a successful leader,” said Jessica Cormier, CPA, supervisor, HORNE LLP and a 2014 Leadership Academy Graduate. “Rather, I learned how to identify the unique qualities I possess and how to channel those strengths to enhance my team, my firm, and my profession.”

The AICPA selected the 2014 Leadership Academy from more than 100 candidates recommended by their employers, state CPA societies or both. This year's class included representatives from numerous states, as well as the Cayman Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Participants were selected from public accounting firms of all sizes, business and industry, education and government. The class contained a diverse range of ethnicities and was split 19/18 between females and males. The average age of the attendees was 30.

Candidates submitted resumes which included work history, licensure information, professional volunteer activities, community service and awards and honors. Candidates also supplied a statement explaining why participating in the Leadership Academy would be important to them personally.

“Leadership Academy gave me the opportunity to interact with people who have the passion, drive and talent to be tomorrow's leaders,” said Will Titera, Sr. manager, international accounting at Apollo Global and a 2014 Leadership Academy Graduate. “The Leadership Academy was a professionally and personally rewarding experience that provided me the tools to be a more effective leader and a better person.”

Details for the 2015 Leadership Academy will be [available online](#) in early 2015.

2014 Leadership Academy Class

- David Almonte, LGC&D, Providence, RI

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- Monica Canady, Cherry Bonner LLP, Charlotte, NC
- John Gleason, Grant Thornton LLP, Boston, MA
- Hillary Harding, Excelsior College, Albany, NY
- Alexis Hassell, PricewaterhouseCoopers, New York, NY
- Kristin Howard, Palazzo & Company LLC, Biloxi, MS
- Michelle Kaneshiro, MW Group, Ltd., Honolulu, HI
- Douglas Kauffman, Douglas C Kauffman, CPA, Lancaster, PA
- Kevin Koven, L.M. Henderson & Company, LLP, Indianapolis, IN
- Brian Loose, Diel & Ferguson, LLC, O'Fallon, IL
- Patrick Lytle, SM Energy Company, Denver, CO
- Robert Maya, Kaufman Rossin, Co., Miami, FL
- Katherine McNair, O'Connor Davies, LLP, Wethersfield, CT
- Eboni Moss, Berkowitz Pollack Brant, Miami, FL
- Jenny Ng, Gray, Blodgett & Company, Norman, OK
- Stephanie Pickering, McGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLP, Cheyenne, WY
- Allen Pierce, Frost, PLLC, Fayetteville, AR
- Aaron Saito, Intel Corporation, Hillsboro, OR
- Katherine Sedgwick, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Dallas, TX
- David Shibli, KPMG, George Town, Grand Cayman
- William Titera, Apollo Global Inc., Phoenix, AZ
- Christopher Tkach, RubinBrown, St. Louis, MO
- Melanie Tuttle, Tuttle & McCullough, PA, Lenexa, KS
- Alison VanOtterloo, Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company, Algona, IA
- Kelly Ward, Robinson & Associates, PC, Fairbanks, AK
- Ryan Warren, BerryDunn, Manchester, NH
- Andrew Welfle, Payne Nickles & Company, Norwalk, OH
- Christopher Wittich, Boyum & Barendscheer, PLLP, Minneapolis, MN
- Jamie Wohlert, Navigant Consulting, Arlington, VA

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