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**Taija Sparkman** • Sep. 10, 2012



In efforts to increase diversity in the accounting profession, the [AICPA](#) has created the National Commission on Diversity. The 15-member Commission, comprised of representatives and leaders from minority professional advocacy groups, CPA firms and state CPA societies, will focus on retaining and advancing underrepresented minorities in the profession.

“The profession has made some encouraging progress recruiting from all races and ethnicities, but we still have work to do – particularly when it comes to retaining and promoting minorities,” said Ken Bouyer, chairman of the Commission and Americas

director of inclusiveness recruiting at Ernst and Young. “We’ve formed the

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minorities that serve in professional staff positions within the accounting profession. In contrast, the U.S. Census found that minority-businesses increased 45.5 percent from 2002 to 2007 and their receipts increased 55 percent, accounting for 21.3 percent of the nation’s businesses and generating \$1 trillion in receipts. The Commission plans to use data such as this and more to research the barriers minorities face in terms of recruitment, retention and promotion and monitor population trends.

“It is imperative that the profession’s makeup evolve to reflect the diversity found in American businesses and society as a whole” said Barry Melancon, CPA, CGMA, AICPA President and CEO.

The Commission will hold its first meeting this week at the AICPA’s Durham office and meet quarterly moving forward.

“The AICPA has done a tremendous amount of work to make the profession more inclusive and we will continue to build upon those efforts,” said Kim Drumgo, vice-chair of the Commission and director of diversity and inclusion at the AICPA. “The Commission brings together a wide range of stakeholders to address the issue of diversity. This is a critical step towards ensuring the profession’s continued growth and ability to meet the needs of those we serve.”

The remaining board of the Commission members include:

**Jeff Chin, CPA** – Ascend

**Peggy Dzierzawski, CPA** – Michigan Association of CPAs

**Lena Ellis, CPA** – City of Fort Worth

**Manuel Espinoza, CPA** – ALPFA

**Eduardo Jordan, CPA, CGMA** – Nolet Spirits USA

**George Krull, CPA** – AICPA Foundation

**Richard Levychin, CPA, CGMA** – KBL, CPAs

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