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leadership development sessions with some of the profession's most influential leaders, including AICPA Chair (2014-2015) Tommye Barie, CPA, and Barry Melancon, CPA.

Oct. 17, 2015



The [American Institute of CPAs](#) has announced its 2015 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 last week.

This year's class discussed important issues facing the profession and participated in leadership development sessions with some of the profession's most influential leaders, including AICPA Chair (2014-2015) Tommye Barie, CPA, and Barry Melancon, CPA, CGMA, the Institute's president and CEO.

"Leadership Academy is a commitment from the AICPA to develop the next generation of CPAs to lead the profession and ensure that it continues to thrive. This

year's class is an extremely talented and diverse group that will continue to make

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“Leadership Academy really helped strip away a lot of the external and environmental influences that often shape our decision making and built us back up with a new framework to realize improved outcomes,” said Lindsay Stevenson, CPA, 1st Financial Bank USA, Dakota Dunes, SD, and a 2015 Leadership Academy graduate. “Leadership Academy provided me with tools and resources for better decisions making, as well as connecting to young leaders in the profession who now share the Leadership Academy experience.”

The AICPA selected the 2015 Leadership Academy from candidates recommended by their employers, state CPA societies or both. This year's class included representatives from numerous states, as well as the Guam. 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 males and females. The average age of the attendees was 31.

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.

“One of the things that drew me to apply to Leadership Academy was the opportunity to network and learn from some of the best and brightest people in the profession,” said Tim Jipping, CPA, CGMA, Plante & Moran, PLLC, Chicago, IL and a 2015 Leadership Academy graduate. “Over the course of four days, I saw people really connecting, developing trust with each other and coming together as a group.”

The full 2015 Leadership Academy class is listed below in alphabetical order:

- Diego J. Baca, EY, LLP, Denver, CO
- Renee Bardenwerper, Winter, Kloman, Moter & Repp, S.C., Oconomowoc, WI
- Andrew J. Beyeler, Lenhart, Mason & Associates, LLC, Casper, WY

- Caleb R. Bullock, Somerset CPAs, P.C., Indianapolis, IN

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- Louis Origo, Samaha Hachem Lubatkin, The Aqueduct, PA
- Jason Hardy, Grossman Yanak & Ford LLP, Pittsburgh, PA
- Kimberly Hardy, Matthews, Cutrer & Lindsay, Ridgeland, MS
- Elizabeth Hazi, Brooksdale Senior Living, Milwaukee, WI
- Kari L. Hipsak, Anchin, Block & Anchin, LLP, New York, NY
- Angela Ho, Northfield Bank, Woodbridge, NJ
- Mitzi Hollenbeck, Sharkansky LLP, Brockton, MA
- Thomas Huling, Thomas, Head & Greisen, PC, Anchorage, AK
- Tim Jipping, Plante & Moran, PLLC, Chicago, IL
- Corey R. King, KPMG, LLP, Nashville, TN
- Kristin Mack, Mack Accounting Services, PLLC, Redmond, WA
- Joan Monaghan, Eagle County Government, Eagle, CO
- Gary Mornhinweg, Cheyenne Petroleum Company, Oklahoma City, OK
- Katharine O'Sullivan, BerryDunn CPAs and Consultants, Manchester, NH
- Aaron Olson, T.P. Anderson & Company, P.C., Humboldt, IA
- Remi Omisore, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, Timonium, MD
- Jeff Paesl, Lutz and Company, PC, Omaha, NE
- Joanna Purtell, United Technologies Corporation, Farmington, CT
- Jessica Satterfield, Incite Rehab, LLC, Conway, AR
- Nuria S. Seijas, Allegiance Bank, Houston, TX
- Jonathan Simon, Regions Bank, Birmingham, AL
- Lindsay Stevenson, 1st Financial Bank USA, Dakota Dunes, SD
- Aaron Thacker, Tanner LLC, Salt Lake City, UT
- Brian Vnak, Wealth Enhancement Group, Minneapolis, MN
- Maria Young, Radix Accounting, Portland, OR

Details for the 2016 Leadership Academy will be available online in early 2016.

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