

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

leadership skills of promising young professionals while they network with a peer group of talented and motivated CPAs. The 2017 participants comprised the ninth Leadership ...

Oct. 23, 2017

The [American Institute of CPAs](#) announced the 2017 AICPA [Leadership Academy](#) graduating class. These 38 future leaders of the accounting profession participated in a rigorous four-day program in Durham, North Carolina in early October.

In addition to discussing key issues surrounding the accounting profession, this year's class participated in leadership and personal development sessions with influential leaders such as AICPA Chair (2016-2017) and Association of International Certified Professional Accountants Chair (2017-2018) [Kimberly Ellison-Taylor](#), CPA, CGMA, President and CEO of the AICPA and CEO of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants [Barry Melancon](#), CPA, CGMA, and AICPA Executive Vice President, Firm Services, [Mark Koziel](#), CPA, CGMA.

"One of my main focuses during my time as chair has been ensuring that we're taking the necessary steps as a profession to support our future leaders," said Kimberly Ellison-Taylor, CPA, CGMA. Regarding her experiences at this year's AICPA Leadership Academy, she added, "Interacting with the talented individuals that make up this year's Leadership Academy class makes me incredibly optimistic about the future of the accounting profession. These young leaders are poised to lead us into the future."

The AICPA Leadership Academy was designed to strengthen and expand the leadership skills of promising young professionals while they network with a peer group of talented and motivated CPAs. The 2017 participants comprised the ninth

Leadership Academy class, and more than 300 CPAs have now graduated from the

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

lead through the changing times of tomorrow.”

The 2017 AICPA Leadership Academy attendees were recommended by their employers, state CPA societies or both.

This year's class included representatives from 34 states and the District of Columbia. Participants were selected from public accounting firms of all sizes, business and industry, consulting, education and government. The class contained a diverse range of ethnicities and was split evenly between males and females. The average age of the attendees was 32.

Candidates submitted resumes which included work history, licensure information, professional volunteer activities, community service and awards and honors. Candidates also submitted a statement explaining how participating in the Leadership Academy would impact them personally and professionally. In addition, they wrote an essay answering the question, “What leadership competencies and characteristics will be essential to successfully lead and advance the CPA profession in 2025?”

Details for the 2018 Leadership Academy are [available online](#). The application period is now open, with a deadline of May 31, 2018.

The full 2017 Leadership Academy class is listed below in alphabetical order:

- Mark Astrinos, Libra Wealth, San Francisco, CA
- Kiyosha Baird, Microsoft, Redmond, WA
- Ross Baldwin, Arkansas Legislative Audit, Little Rock, AR
- Amanda Bartlett, Dead River Company, South Portland, ME
- Andy Baum, Harper Hofer and Associates LLC, Denver, CO
- Sarah Bilant, Drake Rose & Associates LLC, Winnemucca, NV

- Josh Borowski, Chief Industries, Inc, Grand Island, NE

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

- Tracy Jiang, Cummings, Thomas & Gorman LLP, Columbia, SC
- Heather Kephart, Koniag, Inc., Anchorage, AK
- Sherry Kneip, Spirit Realty Capital, Dallas, TX
- Josh Lance, Joshua Lance CPA, LLC, Westmont, IL
- Anne Layne, McHard Accounting Consulting LLC, Albuquerque, NM
- Luke Lockett, Anders Minkler Huber & Helm, LLP, St. Louis, MO
- Eduardo Morales, BDO, New York, NY
- Porschia Nkansa, California State University, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- Renee Prince, Renee Prince, CPA, PC, Granbury, TX
- Ross Replogle, Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd., Providence, RI
- Rafael Rodriguez, E.F. Alvarez & Company, Miami, FL
- Melanie Rollo, Ellsworth & Stout, LLC, Las Vegas, NV
- Erika Ruiz, KPMG LLP, Boston, MA
- Luke Selvig, Boyum & Barenscheer PLLP, Minneapolis, MN
- Justin Sensenig, Weinhold Nickel & Co, LLP, Ephrata, PA
- Becca Shane, Hamilton Place Strategies, Washington, DC
- Jessica Smith, Reynolds & Rowella LLP, New Canaan, CT
- Sean Stein Smith, Lehman College (CUNY), Bergenfield, NJ
- Wendy Thompson, Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores, Oklahoma City, OK
- Sarah Timmons, Atlas Van Lines, Evansville, IN
- Elizabeth Watkins, FBMM, Inc., Nashville, TN
- Meagan Wellbrock, Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd., Hays, KS
- Jessie Wright, Schroedel, Scullin & Bestic, LLC, Canfield, OH

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us