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Joy Thomas, FCPA, FCMA, MBA

Most Powerful Women in Accounting

President & CEO

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What advice would you give to female college students about the opportunities for women in the accounting profession?

After your degree go for that designation. The opportunities in the profession are

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looks like. What do employees, both women and men need to manage the many demands on their time? Be it family, outside interests or health and wellness. People are most engaged and empathetic to others when their own needs are respected and met in a holistic way.

Why did you choose to work in – and stay in – the accounting field?

A combination of the diverse opportunities and doors the field opens, the professionalism and integrity that grounds you, and the respect and credibility the profession enjoys. And perhaps most important to me at this stage in my career is the ability to work with some of the most brilliant, committed and passionate members of the CPA profession.

What changes do you foresee in the accounting profession of the near future (3-5 years)?

The profession, like business, is faced with exponential change. Accounting programs need to pivot much more quickly and much more dramatically than any time in our history if we want to remain relevant. Advancements in technologies such as block chain and AI are fundamentally challenging the profession to rethink the roles we play and that presents the profession with new opportunities.

How do you see yourself participating in shaping the future of the accounting profession?

Very much so. At a high level we recently completed the first phase of a broad multi-stakeholder project to reimagine the profession and based on that work we have identified several work streams to further study the roles and competencies for CPAs in the future. More specifically we conduct research and thought leadership on a wide range of topics such as the evolving role of audit, emerging technologies, and the role CPAs play in climate change.

Describe one person who has been an important mentor to you and how that

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Stand by your values but always be open minded. And trust your instincts – there is nothing as powerful as that spider sense – so listen to it.

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[Learn more about the 2019 Most Powerful Women in Accounting.](#)

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