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ACCOUNTING & AUDIT

AICPA News: February 2021

AICPA News is a round-up of recent announcements from the American Institute of CPAs.

Isaac M. O'Bannon • Feb. 02, 2021



AICPA Accepting Applications for Minority Accounting Scholarships

The [American Institute of CPAs](#) (AICPA) is now accepting applications for the Private Companies Practice Section (PCPS) [George Willie Ethnically Diverse Student Scholarship and Internship program](#). The George Willie program provides a scholarship and internship to ten ethnic minority accounting students who intend

to pursue their CPA licensure. The AICPA doubled the number of scholarships and internships available in 2021. The program provides ten students up to \$10,000 each with their final academic year tuition, while ten PCPS member firms each sponsor a student for an internship during the 2022 busy season (January to April). Full eligibility requirements, selection criteria and application are [available online](#).

The participating member firms are:

- **Abdo, Eick & Meyers**, Edina/Minneapolis and Mankato, MN
- **Anders CPA**, St. Louis, MO
- **Bowman & Company**, Voorhees Township, NJ
- **Dean Dorton**, Lexington and Louisville, KY
- **Gumbiner Savett Inc.**, Santa Monica, CA
- **King & Oliason**, Seattle, WA
- **Krost CPAs**, Pasadena and Woodland Hills, CA
- **Moss Adams**, All office locations.
- **O'Connor & Drew P.C.**, Braintree, MA
- **SobelCo**, Livingston and Woodcliff Lake, NJ

Tom Hood, CPA, Joins Assn of International Certified Professional Accountants as VP

Tom Hood, CPA, CITP, CGMA, former executive director and CEO of the [Maryland Association of CPAs](#) (MACPA), has joined the [Association of International Certified Professional Accountants](#) as executive vice president, business growth and engagement. He will report to Barry Melancon, CPA, CGMA, the Association's CEO.

Hood has been visible on a national level through speaking engagements and other forms of outreach. He expects to continue that visibility. "Absolutely! That's what they wanted me to make sure I did!" said Hood. He will use his extensive connections, influence, experience, and passion for the accounting and finance profession to engage with businesses, their leaders, and their global networks. He plans to convert those insights into actions that support the profession and work across the Association to grow its understanding of their challenges and opportunities.

When asked what is the most exciting part about going to the Association, Hood said, "Coming through COVID, we did some amazing things as a profession; it made us even stronger. To have a bigger stage with Barry [Melancon] and his team to continue our efforts to make the profession even more future-ready – that was the big appeal."

In addition to Hood's appointment, the Association has acquired the Business Learning Institute (BLI) from MACPA. The acquisition of BLI's many learning programs will enhance the Association's offerings to corporate employers in upskilling and reskilling their employees so they continue to meet ever-changing marketplace demands. Together, the Association and BLI will accelerate the introduction of new, innovative content for accounting and finance professionals globally. Founded in 1999 by MACPA, BLI is a highly respected source for human intelligence skill development and a strategic learning partner and talent management consultancy for businesses and CPA firms worldwide. Hood will continue to provide leadership in supporting BLI's clients, products, and services throughout BLI's integration with the Association.

Individual CPAs Now Eligible to Apply for .CPA Website Domains

Licensed CPAs can now apply on an individual basis for their preferred branding under the new restricted Internet domain for the accounting profession, .cpa. Until now, only licensed CPA firms and approved organizations, such as state CPA societies, were eligible.

For example, if available, a licensed CPA could obtain the domain name, www.JohnWSmith.cpa (this link is not real and may or may not be available- it is only for example purposes.)

Top-level domains are the handful of letters at the end of an email or website address, such as .com or .org. Using a .cpa domain allows practitioners to strengthen their brand identity in online communications and provides better security and resistance to Internet fraud, such as phishing and spoofing. And because the domain is only available to licensed CPAs and licensed CPA firms, it promotes greater trust with clients and the general public.

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