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Recipients

The Illinois CPA Society (ICPAS)—one of the largest state CPA societies in the nation—is proud to announce the recipients of its prestigious 2021 outstanding leadership awards.

Apr. 28, 2021



ILLINOIS **CPA** SOCIETY®

The Illinois CPA Society (ICPAS)—one of the largest state CPA societies in the nation—is proud to announce the recipients of its prestigious 2021 outstanding leadership awards.

“It’s always an honor and privilege to recognize the remarkable achievements of these diverse and dynamic individuals and the invaluable contributions they make to the CPA profession,” says Todd Shapiro, ICPAS president and CEO. “We’re truly

fortunate to have such inspiring members supporting our mission of enhancing the

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The Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor bestowed on a member who has demonstrated distinguished service to ICPAS and the accounting profession.

- Sara J. Mikuta, CPA, CGMA, CIA, CRMA – Retired (Wipfli LLP)

Women to Watch Awards

In partnership with the ICPAS Women's Committee and Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, Women to Watch Awards are presented in two categories, Experienced Leader and Emerging Leader, to recognize women who have made significant contributions to the accounting profession, their organizations, and to the development of women as leaders.

Experienced Leader

- Rebecca Shortridge, Ph.D., CPA – Donald E. Kieso Chair of Accountancy, Northern Illinois University
- JoAnna Simek, CPA – Partner, BKD CPAs & Advisors

Emerging Leader

- Danielle I. Martin, CPA – Manager, Porte Brown LLC
- Amanda M. Rzepka, CPA, CGMA – Accounting Manager, Berlin Packaging

Lester H. McKee Jr. Advancing Diversity Awards

Presented in two categories, Outstanding Leader and Emerging Leader, the Lester H.

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Outstanding Educator Awards

Awarded to educators at Illinois colleges and universities, the Outstanding Educator Award honors educators who have made significant contributions to the education of accounting students through their leadership, teaching excellence, and active involvement in the accounting profession.

- Justyna Koc, CPA, CGMA, MBA – Accounting Faculty, Triton College
- Lisa M. Sedor, Ph.D., CPA – Associate Professor, DePaul University
- Gerald A. Thalmann, CPA, CMA – Associate Professor, North Central College

Young Professionals Leadership Award

The Young Professionals Leadership Award recognizes a young professional who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills in his or her career, in public or community service, and through involvement in professional organizations.

- Lauren N. Smaga, CPA – Senior Staff Accountant, Shepard, Schwartz & Harris LLP

Time and Talent Public Service Volunteerism Award

The Time and Talent Public Service Volunteerism Award honors an organization for its outstanding service on Illinois CPA Society or CPAs for the Public Interest volunteer initiatives.

- Mowery & Schoenfeld

Distinguished Service Awards

ICPAS' Distinguished Service Award is bestowed on members who display a commitment to excellence by taking on extra challenges and responsibilities in their 2020-2021 volunteer service.

- Megan P. Angle, CPA – Porte Brown LLC, Not-for-Profit Content Advisory Group

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- Stan Green, CPA – Larry J. Wolfe Ltd., Taxation Practice and Procedures Committee
- Kathy L. Horton, CPA, CMA, CGMA – Loyola University Chicago, Awards Committee
- Mark S. Klesman, CPA – Klesman & Company PC, Peer Review Report Acceptance Committee
- Luis V. Plascencia, CPA, MBA – Luis V. Plascencia, CPA, Taxation Practice and Procedures Committee and Cannabis Content Advisory Group
- Deborah K. Rood, CPA – CNA Insurance, Taxation Practice and Procedures Committee
- Taylor Schuck, CPA – Mueller CPA, Cannabis Content Advisory Group
- Michael J. Singer, CPA – Michael J. Singer and Company PC, Taxation Practice and Procedures Committee
- Nathan Summers, CPA – Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd., Cannabis Content Advisory Group
- Randall S. Sylvan, CPA, MSA – Retired (CliftonLarsonAllen), Ethics Committee
- Andrew VanSingel, JD – Internal Revenue Service, Taxation Practice and Procedures Committee
- Larry J. Wolfe, CPA – Larry J. Wolfe Ltd., Taxation Practice and Procedures Committee

We would also like to specially recognize the additional following members who went above and beyond by virtually moderating the Government Report Review Program:

- Stephanie I. Blanco, CPA – John Kasperek Co., Inc.
- John F. Cutrera, CPA – BKD CPAs & Advisors

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Norman Smith, CPA – Eddy, Gibson & Co.

- Dean R. Snider, CPA – Snider McCree CPAs LLC
- Marites U. Sy, CPA, CIA, CISA, CGMA – Roth & Company LLP
- John C. Williams, CPA – Hearne & Associates PC

Award winner photos can be viewed [here](#).

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