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Sep. 01, 2021



The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) is pleased to announce the ten recipients of the [2021 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 a CPA. The AICPA provides a scholarship of up to \$10,000 to each student to assist with their final academic year. In addition, each recipient is given an internship during the 2022 busy season

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and, simultaneously, offers firms a new opportunity toward growing a diverse and inclusive workplace.”

“Due to the George Willie Scholarship Program, I was able to confidently grow as a student and professional. It allowed me to focus on school and my career without worrying about any financial obligations,” said Amber Richmond, a graduate accounting student at The University of Memphis and a 2020 participant in the George Willie program.

Recipients of the scholarship, where they will be interning, and their universities of study are listed below:

- **Reina Godeck:** King & Oliason; University of Washington
- **Summer Jaime:** Moss Adams; Hollins University
- **Alhasan Idrees:** Dean Dorton; University of North Georgia
- **Musab Makhtal:** Abdo, Eick & Meyers; Concordia University – St. Paul
- **Guillermo Malpartida:** SobelCo; Southern Connecticut State University
- **Francisco Martinez Jr.:** BPM, Inc.; California State University
- **Olajide Oladipo:** Bowman & Company; Villanova University
- **Deondra Ricketts:** O'Connor & Drew P.C.; Suffolk University
- **Kya Sanchez:** Anders CPA; Northwest Missouri State University
- **Amber Tabata:** Krost CPAs; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

This program was created in honor of George Willie, CPA, CGMA, a former chair of AICPA's PCPS Executive Committee and the AICPA Minority Initiatives Committee. Throughout his nearly four-decades-long career, Willie has promoted the benefits of a career in accounting to students and young professionals in pursuit of the CPA designation.

“Reflecting on our firm’s experience as a sponsor firm in the 2020 program, two

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graduate degree in accounting or an accounting-related major and who plan to sit for the CPA exam. Full [eligibility requirements are available online](#).

This is one of several student-based programs from the AICPA to help increase the diversity in in the profession. The [Accounting Scholars Leadership Workshop](#) is an annual, all-expenses-paid event for ethnic minority students to strengthen their professional and networking skills, while helping them to prepare for a career in accounting. And the AICPA Scholarship Award for Minority Accounting Students, part of the [AICPA Legacy Scholars program](#), provides funding to outstanding minority students studying accounting.

Firms interested in co-sponsoring by providing an internship opportunity during busy season 2023 can visit [aicpa.org/pcpsscholarship](https://aicpa.org/pcpsscholarship) for more information. Applications are currently open, with a deadline of November 1, 2021. Student applications will open in the spring of 2022 once the co-sponsoring firms have been selected.

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