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profession, it is inspiring to look to those who have attained those ranks ahead of them. The AICPA and CPA Practice Advisor partner each year to honor ...

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Erin Collins, J.D.

2022 Most Powerful Women in Accounting

National Taxpayer Advocate

Internal Revenue Service

TRAITS OF AWARD WINNERS

1. She has been the driving force to create a culture of excellence, innovation, and inclusion. If she is a vendor, she has helped to develop the technologies and solutions that will empower organizations to be more productive and profitable.
2. She is one of the top leaders in the accounting profession and her leadership has had a demonstrable effect upon the accomplishments of the organization with

which she is associated.

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Simplification. Administering tax and accounting regulations and laws is complex and overly burdensome. Accountants have the unique opportunity to look holistically across all lanes and propose solutions to improve and simplify regulations and laws, whether it be for tax administration, accountability for shareholders, or the efficiency of businesses. By minimizing the burdens on individuals, businesses, or other entities the accounting professionals can work towards simplification while preserving the purpose of the regulations and law.

What one thing would you recommend accountants do to prepare for the future?

Tomorrow's accountants will look different than their predecessors as the industry continues to move towards automation, data analytics, transparency, and a greater focus on data security. Gone are the days accountants just crunch numbers – the industry has evolved. This is an exciting time, and this transformation provides additional opportunities and challenges for accountants and will exponentially grow the industry to meet the changing need of the population they serve.

What one skill or experience would you recommend that young women getting started in the accounting profession master?

Own your career. Be yourself and follow your true north. You are your best advocate. Do not mistakenly think others will recognize or appreciate your skills, interests, or core values. Respectfully advocating for your career aspirations can open doors and provide opportunities and may even lead you towards a different path. However, always remember it is essential that the position you accept needs to fit your personality and values.

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Read more about the [2022 Most Powerful Women in Accounting Winners](#).

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