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Nov. 01, 2022



The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) is pleased to announce that 35 CPAs from around the country recently graduated from the Leadership Academy. The AICPA Leadership Academy was created to provide an immersive experience for emerging leaders within the profession.

Led by Elizabeth Burkhalter, CPA, senior manager of the AICPA Diversity and Inclusion team's Young Member Initiatives, the Leadership Academy features career-development workshops and sessions with some of the accounting profession's most prominent leaders, which this year included AICPA Chair Anoop Natwar Mehta, CPA,

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leadership skills of promising young professionals as they network with a peer group of talented and motivated CPAs.

The experience proved to be a positive one for leadership as well, according to Mehta.

“It was a privilege to be around such amazing young professionals,” the AICPA chair said. “They understand the importance of personal development and building relationships. The CPA profession is about people, and AICPA Leadership Academy believes in the importance of developing strong leaders.”

This year's class included representatives from 27 states. Participants represented all areas of the accounting and finance profession, including public accounting firms, business and industry, government, and consulting firms. The 2022 attendees were recommended by their employers, state CPA societies and volunteer organizations. The group comprised representation from a diverse mix of practice areas, organizations, ethnicities and gender.

Candidates for the program submit details on their education and work history, as well as personal statements on how the Leadership Academy would encourage them in their lives and careers. As part of this, candidates submit an essay outlining their opinions on the future of the profession and what they as leaders can do to shape that future.

“Each year at our Leadership Academy, we see the next generation of CPA profession leaders. This year's class will blend their unique perspectives to lead the profession on its continual course of innovation and trust,” Melancon said.

To date, more than 475 CPAs have participated in the AICPA Leadership Academy, many of whom have gone on to leadership positions within their firms, businesses or volunteer organizations.

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