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next generation of diverse CPA leaders by providing them with advanced leadership training.

Isaac M. O'Bannon • Dec. 18, 2023



The American Institute of CPAs has announced that 36 CPAs from around the country have graduated from the AICPA Leadership Academy, a program designed to expose the next generation of CPAs to a strong ethic of leadership and service.

The program, now in its 15th year, was held in Durham, N.C., from December 11-14. The AICPA Leadership Academy was created to inspire, nurture and empower the

next generation of diverse CPA leaders by providing them with advanced leadership

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The first half of the program is focused on leadership of self, a self-examination of personal leadership and steps where improvements can be made. The second half consists of how to have strategic conversations in organizations and in-depth discussions about the profession, the AICPA & CIMA, and the opportunities these emerging leaders have ahead of them.

“It was a privilege to be around such amazing young professionals,” Ramsey said. “These young professionals understand the importance of personal development and building relationships so they can seize the moment to brighten their future and the profession. 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 25 states. Participants represented all areas of the accounting and finance profession, including public accounting firms, business and industry, government, not-for-profit, academia and consulting firms. The group is diverse, representing a range of ethnicities, gender, as well as practice areas and organizations, and the average age of the group is 31. The 2023 attendees were recommended by their employers, state CPA societies and volunteer organizations.

“I am proud of our longstanding tradition of bringing the best and brightest young professionals together to prepare them to drive the profession forward in a continually changing world,” said Melancon. “Today, more than ever, we see the need for this next generation of CPA profession leaders to blend their unique perspectives to accelerate and lead the profession on its course of innovation and trust.”

To date, more than 510 CPAs have participated in the AICPA Leadership Academy, many of whom have gone on to take on leadership positions in their firms, businesses, and volunteer organizations.

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