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The Next Generation of ACUA's Educational Offerings

Howdy, Friends!

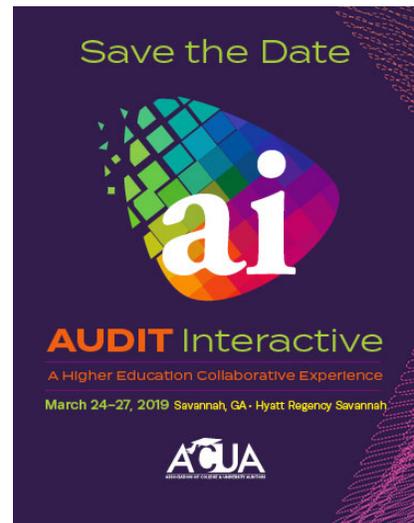
If you skipped out on ACUA's Annual Conference in New Orleans, you missed out on a fantastic meeting. I'm excited to announce that our New Orleans Annual Conference broke attendance records, but more importantly, across the four days we had outstanding education provided by both our amazing keynote speakers and break out session educators. Networking and collaboration abounded as we gathered nightly both formally and informally, and the business side of the Association was executed both in the board meetings that preceded the conference and Annual Business Meeting. Truly it was an amazingly educational and productive week.

As part of the in-person board meeting, the Board of Directors took part in a series of discussions, exercises, and decisions to take a deeper look at how ACUA executes its educational offerings. With the help of a new Executive Director, Tarah Remington Brown, and her dedicated staff team, the Board of Directors is making moves across both of our conferences to revamp the look, feel, and delivery of our educational content. I'd like to take a minute to highlight some of the more exciting and significant changes.

ACUA Midyear

At the Annual Business Meeting, I announced some exciting changes to our Midyear Conference. The Midyear Conference has been going strong for 30 years, but it is time for a refresh. In doing so, we will change the conference from a single track model, into four hour deep-dive sessions. Additionally, attendees will be allowed to switch between tracks, thus customizing your learning similar to the Annual Conference; and the educational offerings will be tailored around the hot topics affecting us today.

Next, with a new conference comes a new name and logo! In New Orleans we introduced *Audit Interactive: A Higher Education Collaborative Experience*. We are excited to bring to you a new experience as we gather March 24-27, 2019 in Savannah, Ga. I hope you will give Audit Interactive a look when details are released this fall.



ACUA Annual Conference

In addition to a refresh of our midyear offering, we are beginning the process to relook at our Annual Conference. Similar to Audit Interactive, we will be conducting surveys and deeply analyzing feedback on the Annual Conference. We will also update how we make our call for content.

Traditionally, the Association has published a generic Call For Proposals for the Annual Conference. An army of volunteer track coordinators took the proposal submissions and attempted to put together their individual matrices. In both situations the Association took a more passive position in soliciting educational content.

ACUA CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY • OPEN SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE • MUTUAL TRUST & FRIENDSHIP • RESPECT • COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION

We've decided to move away from this model. For the 2019 Audit Interactive conference, a team of volunteers has been active in creating an educational matrix that we hope is relevant to a broad spectrum of auditors. We are also reaching out directly to speakers asking if they can deliver the educational material we need. For the 2019 conference, our call for proposals will look different with another team of volunteers, called the Program Committee, taking a more hands on role in curating the topics and speakers. There will still be a call for proposals, but the call and expectations on speakers will be different.



As part of these efforts, we are deploying a new speaker educational expectation model. We will request our speakers break down their educational time into tight buckets of **Learn, Apply, Collaborate**. We will ask our speakers to teach a principle or topic (Learn), to then provide details on how to execute on the topic (Apply), and then leave time for a learning exercise or event (Collaborate). We truly want to bring a conference that allows you to walk away with actionable items.

Similar to midyear, a new conference will bring about a new name. I'm excited to introduce you to **AuditCon: A Higher Education Summit**. Our hope is that AuditCon will expand the opportunities for both education and network and be a place higher education audit practitioners will want to gather annually. Go ahead and mark your calendars now and plan to be at the inaugural 2019 AuditCon on September 15-19, 2019 in Baltimore, Md.

Friends and colleagues, as you can tell a lot of exciting things are happening in your Association. I do hope you will continue to be an active member and an active contributor to all that is going on. Be sure you check out this month's **Volunteer Spotlight** on the next page! If you have questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy Auditing!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin T. Noble".

Justin T. Noble
ACUA President
Assistant Chief Audit Executive
Texas Tech University System

Volunteer Spotlight: Erin Egan

Erin Egan is Senior Auditor at Rutgers University and has been a member of ACUA for nine years. She has served as a conference proctor and presented at the Annual Conference. Currently, Erin volunteers as co-director of the Governmental Affairs sub-committee.



ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Erin: After completing the ACUA Leads program in 2014, volunteering and becoming more involved in ACUA was the logical next step!

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Erin: I really enjoyed the ACUA Leads program and all of the lessons learned and contacts made.

ACUA: What have you learned as an ACUA volunteer/member?

Erin: Members of ACUA are so generous with their time and knowledge! Knowledge sharing amongst peers is such a unique trait—and unexpected benefit—of working in higher education.

ACUA: What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?

Erin: “Do what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life.”

ACUA: What are your hobbies/interests outside of audit?

Erin: Finding quality time with my husband and our 3 little boys!

Please contact Terri Tarbett-Wallace (Frances.Tarbett@usm.edu) or Toni Stephens (tmesser@utdallas.edu) if you would like to nominate a current volunteer for the next ACUA Volunteer Spotlight.