



Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you that ACUA has contracted with Higher Logic to provide the new online community that we are calling Connect ACUA. Higher Logic is a leading provider of cloud-based online community platforms and was chosen for its ability to provide better response time, flexibility in delivery through email or ACUA's website, and greater connectivity to other users. The Communications Committee team is diligently working with Higher Logic and Kellen on the implementation. Once the site is set-up, volunteers will be testing the tool. In the meantime, if you haven't taken a look at your data in ACUA's membership directory, please take this opportunity to verify your data is correct. You can find this in the Membership section of the website. Any updates to your individual profile can be made by logging in to the website with your personal user ID and password and then clicking on your name on the left side of the screen. From there edits can be made by clicking on the pencil icon. We are very excited to be transitioning to the new Connect ACUA online community! Stay tuned for additional implementation details and an expected implementation date to follow.

LAST CALL to participate in ACUA's Salary and Resource Survey. We encourage all our member institutions to participate in order to have the most comprehensive information available to our membership. If your institution did not receive a link to the survey, please contact ACUA-Info@kellencompany.com.

One of the primary goals of ACUA is to provide resources for our membership that allows members to network with professionals in their profession and industry, discuss current issues and gather information about best practices. Each month I will be including a **BEST PRACTICE** in my message as a reminder to ourselves of the importance of the support we provide our institutions and to periodically revisit our practices so they remain relevant and fresh.

This month's **Best Practice** is anonymous hotlines. As you know, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act requires public companies establish a reporting function that allows for confidential and anonymous reporting. While Sarbanes-Oxley does not apply to our industry, a significant majority of institutions have established a hotline as a best practice. An effective hotline is a good governance practice, and is essential to a successful compliance program and to the institution's long-term success.

ACUA's Volunteer Appreciation sub-committee provides a **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT** each month to recognize the efforts and great work of our member volunteers. This month's volunteer spotlight highlights Richard Cordova from University of Washington and the great work he is doing as Audit Committee Chair.

Don't forget to register for this year's Midyear Conference, March 26-29, 2017 in Austin, Texas. There are 7 tracks to choose from including topics on higher education compliance, IT, fraud, audit essentials, audit software, risk management and NCAA compliance. Registration for the conference is now open and we have already had several individuals register!

Happy New Year!

All the Best,

Pam

Pamela Doran CIA, CISA, CPA

ACUA President
Executive Director, Audit & Advisory Services, University of South Carolina

Committee Spotlight: Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is currently a committee of two individuals – Richard Cordova, University of Washington and Brian Daniels, Virginia Tech. They annually review the Financial Statements in support of the ACUA Treasurer and once every two to three years they conduct an Internal Audit of our management company, to ensure they have solid Internal Controls befitting of our organization and in conformance with our management service contract. The Audit Committee participates in the Monthly Board Meetings to stay abreast of the activities of ACUA, to ensure that they are aware of initiatives and business transactions in advance of our on-site audit with our management company. The Audit Committee supports the President and Board in any other way that they deem appropriate for the committee.

Volunteer Spotlight: Richard Cordova

Richard Cordova, Executive Director of Internal Audit at the University of Washington (UW), has been a member of ACUA for seven and one half years. He has volunteered with the Audit Committee for the last five years and delivered a number of courses at the Annual Conference.



ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Richard: I wanted to become more involved with ACUA and to meet and work with more of my peers. I had not worked in Higher Ed before arriving on campus at UW, so I knew that participating in the Association and volunteering to participate in any number of ways would speed my education of Higher Ed risks and build relationships with other Internal Audit leaders.

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

Richard: I have learned how talented my peers are around the country and that Higher Education is a place where people are very willing to share information for the betterment of the industry and each institution.

ACUA: What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Richard: "Get to know the Chief Audit Executives at other research institutions; they can help and you can begin to create a network to contribute to which will payback huge dividends" – this from a former colleague and CAE at UW – Maureen Rhea.

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

Richard: Audit is my life! My hobbies and interests revolve around sports and traveling. I am passionate about baseball – I am a Mariner season ticket holder, I still play adult baseball – last year some 40 games as a

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

pitcher, catcher, first baseman and outfielder. I still collect baseball cards – currently working on completing my 1956 set of Topps Baseball cards.