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ACUA and Education: It is what we do!

Howdy, Friends!

When you think of ACUA you likely think of a lot of things. It is my sincere hope that professional connections and camaraderie, resources and guides, and continuing professional education all are words you would use to describe your association. In fact, you can see the importance of professional education to the Association as it is referenced in both our mission statement and core values. I attempted to quantify the amount of money the Association expends to support the members' educational needs but simply could not determine what part of our budget does not ultimately support these critical activities. Just take a quick look at the other details in this month's newsletter to see all the professional education opportunities we are curating for you.

Conferences

If you were to ask what's the Association's single most expensive thing we do, conferences would top the list. In dollars spent and volunteer time expended, the efforts we go to in supporting and producing our conference offerings are extensive. This year, we have gone back to the drawing board to ensure the way we curate and produce our conferences continue to meet the membership's diverse needs. As of this letter the following activities are underway:

- **Audit Interactive** registration is open and off to a great start!
- **Audit Interactive** hotel rooms are approaching 50% full!
- **Audit Interactive** program committee has completed its work and speaker forms are being finalized for distribution.
- **AuditCon** program committee has been selected and commitments are underway.
- **AuditCon** program committee has begun the work to take member feedback and look at the conference schedule and delivery.
- A redesigned logo and marketing materials for **AuditCon** are being produced.

Distance Learning

We realize that the cost of conferences is prohibitive for some members. Over the last few months, the Distance Learning subcommittee has been at work lining up some great **webinar** presenters to ensure we continue this valuable learning resource this spring. If you haven't already, check out the February 7th offering detailed in this newsletter and on our homepage. And stay tuned for more offerings through our amazing strategic partnerships and other avenues.

Resources and Guides

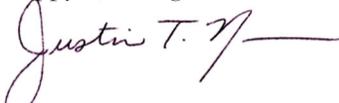
We have continued to grow our diverse set of resources and guides to help you in some of the niche portions of your job. Highest on that list is the ongoing development and deployment of **ACUA Kick Starters**. The Best Practices committee has already deployed a new **Kick Starter** this year and has **Kick Starters** in the pipeline to release a new one each month through the spring. Make sure you are on the lookout!

Some other updates on resources and guides:

- **NCAA Audit Guides** updates have been completed and uploaded to the website. Make sure you grab these updates as you begin your 2019 NCAA audits!
- The **Risk Dictionary** subcommittee has been very busy lately. We have a long list of updates ready for publishing once the new website goes live in late spring. I am encouraged to see the years of work on the refresh come to fruition!
- The **College & University Auditor** journal continues its tradition of excellence. The Communications committee continues to produce great articles that highlight emerging trends for us all to consider.

As you can tell, I could go on for pages describing all the ways we support and push the Association's education goals. I truly hope you are investing in yourself and your professional development. As always, we value your feedback about our offerings to ensure we are meeting your needs. More importantly, we value your continued willingness to be an active participant by speaking, contributing, or developing content to distribute. Truly, we are better when we share together.

Happy Auditing!



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

P.S. Don't forget to check on the volunteer spotlight on the next page!

Volunteer Spotlight: Heather Lopez

Heather Lopez is the Chief Audit Executive for Washington State University and has been a member of ACUA for more than 13 years. She currently serves as the Chair of the Best Practices Committee which "...puts out lots of resources for ACUA members including the biennial salary survey, ad hoc surveys, articles, maintains the QAR database, is currently revamping the Resource Library, and our newest project is to continue the great work done on bringing members the Kick Starters with a goal of having a brand new Kick Starter out every month." In her role, Heather "encourages engagement and coordinates with the volunteers that work on the various projects in our committee and across other committees."



ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Heather: Encouraged by peers that volunteering would be a great way to learn more about higher ed auditing, industry as a whole, and the valuable resources and information that networking with peers can bring to my job.

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Heather: Not any single memory, too many – there are a lot of dedicated and really great people that volunteer and within the whole of the ACUA community.

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

Heather: As a member, I have found the resources and knowledge provided by ACUA members to be very valuable in my career and helps me be a better auditor and leader for my institution. I like to hear the feedback from members and other volunteers on what more ACUA could do to help its members, and as a volunteer, I feel a bit more ownership and ability to actively make some change.

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

Heather: Volunteer!

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

Heather: Gardening, reading, travel, spending as much time as I can with my grown children, spending all time with my husband of 31 years. Not really a hobby or interest, but my husband and I have also been working (for the last 5+ years!!!) on remodeling/renovating our 130-year-old house, by ourselves. Fun sometimes, punishing most times, but I enjoy the end product and self-satisfaction of a job well done.