



ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AUDITORS

Advancing Auditing in Higher Education

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Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

Hard to believe that it is August already! There is still time to register for our **Annual Conference in New Orleans, September 9 – 13, 2018** if you haven't already done so! This conference marks the **60th Anniversary** of the first ACUA meeting and is ACUA's first Annual Conference in the Big Easy since 1967! Registration is ahead of schedule so make sure you don't miss out on exceptional training and networking opportunities with your colleagues in higher education. I am looking forward to this event and hope to see you in New Orleans!

The **Standards and Best Practices Committee** has been working on the 2018 Salary and Resource Survey that will be launched to Institutional Representatives in August. The survey provides a unique opportunity to benchmark where your organization stands compared to other ACUA members on compensation, staffing levels, and audit resources (based on relevant comparators). We know this biennial survey is an important member benefit, so we are looking forward to your participation!

The **Communications Committee** and Website Redesign Taskforce has devoted significant time to evaluating our options for building ACUA's new website. Our new site will be built on a content management system (CMS) and will provide improved functionality for our members, as well as improving the technical stability of the site. Be on the lookout in the coming months for more information as this project continues to move forward.

ACUA is excited to announce that it has relaunched the **ACUA Small-Shop Mentorship Program!** This program is sponsored by the **Membership Committee**. We are looking for members wishing to serve as mentors to others who may be new to higher education auditing or working on a small audit team. We also want to hear from members who wish to request a mentor. Please refer to the email sent a couple days ago with links to the appropriate survey or contact [Brian Daniels](#) if you have any questions regarding either survey or expectations.

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 Vijay Patel from The University of Southern Mississippi and the work he has done on behalf of ACUA in many, many roles, including currently serving as an ACUA Ambassador and on the Nominating Committee. ACUA has highly committed and active volunteers, and I greatly appreciate each of you!

Regards,

Sharon M. Kurek, CPA, CFE, MBA

ACUA President

Executive Director of Audit, Risk, and Compliance, Virginia Tech



ACUA CORE VALUES

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

Volunteer Spotlight: Vijay Patel

Vijay Patel is Director of Internal Audit at The University of Southern Mississippi as well as Interim Chief Audit Executive for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. He has been a member of ACUA for 22 years! Over the years, Vijay has worn many ACUA hats such as Board Member, Treasurer, and President. Currently, he serves on both the Nominating Committee and the Ambassador Committee.

ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Vijay: I wanted to be involved in a professional organization and volunteer to help reach its goals while at the same time, enjoy the comradery that ACUA members bring.

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Vijay: My favorite memory was hanging out with my ACUA peeps on a HOT Tuesday afternoon in Phoenix, at St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance during the Annual Conference. We worked hard, but it was well worth the cause.

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

Vijay: That I enjoy being part of this organization, and the more I give the better I feel.

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

Vijay: HA, I have been told to "WALK AWAY;" best advice ever. Let's just leave it at that...Conference conversation topic, LOL.

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

Vijay: I love being a Group Ride/Spin Instructor, cooking (eating), traveling, reading novels (John Grisham), and hanging with my son, Alkesh.



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.