



CTCPA Pipeline Task Force Mobilizes to Promote Accounting Career Path to Connecticut Students

Help us connect with students to increase awareness of career opportunities in accounting.

As national groups including the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the National Pipeline Advisory Group (NPAG) seek to address the profession's pipeline issues, the CTCPA Pipeline Task Force, led by Past President **Brian Reilly**, is working on a state level to mobilize our membership to share why they chose the profession, cultivate student interest in majoring in accounting, and support future Connecticut CPAs throughout their career path.

"The dynamic group of Pipeline Task Force members are working hard to create a supportive culture for future CPAs so the profession will continue to grow and prosper," Brian explained. "We're especially focused on increasing awareness of career opportunities in accounting to young students," he added.

Members of the task force – who range from college students to professionals in education, business and industry, and public accounting – have worked throughout the past year to pinpoint and analyze the most pressing challenges and trends.

Members broke into four subcommittees to focus in on key target areas. Each subcommittee is working to establish specific actions and goals as well as develop the tools and support they'll need to accomplish these goals.

Several initiatives will require member engagement to help us reach future CPAs, their educators and employers, and those who advise them.

[Learn more about the initiative and how to get involved on the following pages. >>](#)

Thank You to the Pipeline Task Force Members

Brian Reilly, Chair

Jenna Allegretto
Marcum LLP

Mark Caplan

Christian Chlebowski
UConn Student

Michael Jordan
Andersen

Marie Kulesza
Central Connecticut State University

Daniel Kusaila
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EY

Kimberly Vasquez Lozano
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Katherine Patnaude
PKF O'Connor Davies

Chaitra Sri Vatsavai
Central Connecticut State University Student

Noelle Taddei
Accounting Educator

John Turgeon
CohnReznick

Danielle Wellington
Voya Financial

Meet the Targeted Subcommittees:



Addressing Issues of Affordability

Chair: Kaitlin Librizzi, EY

This group is working to identify ways that community colleges, four-year universities, and employers can offer creative solutions to help address issues of affordability and time.

This group will also work to better promote scholarship opportunities from the CTCPA Accounting Scholarship Foundation and other organizations.



Core Messaging for Careers in Accounting

Chair: Mark Caplan

This subcommittee's members have developed a student presentation for members to present showcasing the opportunities the CPA career path offers as well as the countless possibilities to forge a unique path in almost any industry or interest area.

We all see the value, but how can we create this passion for the next generation?



High School Accounting Careers Awareness & Outreach

Chair: Christian Chlebowski, UConn Student

This group is developing a strategy to reach high school and even middle school students with our core messaging about the benefits of majoring in accounting and the CPA career path.

This will include interactive member outreach at career fairs, career days, and in classroom speaking engagements, as well as providing teachers and guidance counselors with the resources they need to support their students.



Higher Education Accounting Career Engagement

Chair: Michael Jordan, Andersen

Subcommittee members are developing strategies to support current accounting majors as they work to cross the finish line for CPA certification, as well as reaching students who are undecided to make sure they are aware of CPA career opportunities.

This group will also work with professors and career center staff to ensure they are aware of available internships, financial support, and other resources.



This success of this initiative hinges on member support.

Join the task force or volunteer for the Accounting Careers Speakers Bureau today!

If you're interested in helping with our student outreach initiatives, please reach out to **April DiFalco** at 860-258-0212 or aprilid@ctcpas.org.

We're particularly in need of Accounting Careers Speakers Bureau members to visit high school and college classrooms, attend career days and fairs, and help us pursue additional interactive outreach avenues.

Do you have connections with a high school or college educator or career counselor? Please let us know!



Building on current student outreach programs and initiatives.

CTCPA has developed several programs to help engage the next generation and make sure they're aware of all the opportunities accounting and finance careers have to offer. The Pipeline Task Force will build on and add to these current programs:

Accounting Is My Major (AIM) High School Programs at Connecticut Colleges

Our Accounting Is My Major (AIM) programs (pictured above) bring high school students from across the state to Connecticut colleges and universities. Participants hear from college faculty and students as well as those working in the profession about all the opportunities an accounting degree and the CPA designation can bring.

Scholarships for Accounting Majors

The CTCPA Accounting Scholarship Foundation (ASF) provides scholarships to Connecticut high school and college students. Support comes from CTCPA members and funds raised at the annual ASF Golf Tournament. This year, trustees awarded more than \$50,000 in scholarships to help aspiring CPAs. Learn more at www.ctcpas.org/scholarships.

Promoting the Profession at College Career Fairs

CTCPA heads to college career fairs around the state, providing students with materials including our *Becoming a CPA in Connecticut* guidebook and information from our joint partnership with the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA).

Classroom Visits for Accounting Opportunities Experience

As part of a nationwide initiative, we joined forces with the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and other state CPA associations for the Accounting Opportunities Experience. Our goal is to get members into as many classrooms as possible to share their stories and career paths and inspire tomorrow's CPAs – now.

CPA Exam Review Course Discounts and Personalized Help on the Path to CPA

We support our student members with discounts on CPA Exam review courses, help making sure they've fulfilled the requirements, and one-on-one guidance to help navigate the certification process.