

## UCA Students Present at Accounting Educators Conference

Arkansas Society of CPAs recently held its annual 21st Annual Accounting Educators Conference on May 14, 2025. The conference was held in person at the ARCPA Conference Center and virtually as a live webcast on Zoom. This year, three UCA students assisted in presenting at the event. Students assisted Dr. Connie McKnight and Professor Ashley Phillips with a presentation of a game, created to increase students' knowledge of accounting, called The Major is Right.

Other conference topics presented by accounting faculty included: Accounting Analytics, and AI, Increasing Student Interest in Accounting, AI Practical Classroom Strategies, Update on CPA Evolution, Gen Z Learners, and a State Board representative discussed CPA Pathways and Exam Pass Rates.

Professor Ashley Phillips with UCA students Rebecca Gaither, Izzy Saettele, and Carson Griffin, who assisted with The Major is Right presentation.



### Inside this issue:

## ARCPA Mock CPA Exam Hosted by Surgent

Are you truly ready to pass the CPA Exam? Have you studied enough? Are you focusing on the right material? There is only one way to find out, give it a try! Sign up for the free virtual event and give it a try. Register for the Mock Exam on **Thursday, September 18@ 1:00 p.m.**

Students and non-certified Associate members are invited to participate in a live 4-hour mock CPA Exam (virtual) workshop hosted by the Arkansas Society of CPAs and Surgent CPA Review. This unique opportunity will allow you to experience what it is like to sit for any CPA Exam section as you immerse yourself in questions pulled from the actual CPA Exam Blueprints. Plus, you will receive your own personalized ReadySCORE (an accurate measurement of your actual exam score) and a detailed report showing your areas of strength and weakness for that section.

Don't go into exam day unprepared. Find out if you are ready. Sign up today for this free virtual event!

To Register: <https://www.arcpa.org/become-a-cpa/mock-cpa-exam>

For questions, contact Robin Harris at ARCPA (501) 664-8739, or email [rharris@arcpa.org](mailto:rharris@arcpa.org)

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**Maria Craig, CPA**

Maria Craig is the current Central Chapter President, for the 2025-26 term. She works for a medium-sized CPA firm in Little Rock and performs attest services. Maria chose to become a CPA because she enjoys numbers and working with people.

**What do you do now, and why did you choose to become a CPA?**

I work for a medium sized CPA firm in Little Rock and perform attest services. I chose to become a CPA because I enjoy numbers and working with people.

**How do you define success?**

Success is setting a goal and achieving that goal while staying true to yourself and aligned with your moral compass.

**What's the best piece of advice you ever received?**

Pack light.

**What has changed the most since you entered the profession, and what do you see changing the most in the next five to ten years?**

I entered public accounting in 2006. Smaller firms have started experiencing difficulty meeting the new attest

standards and now many of those firms have merged or been acquired by larger firms. I see the landscape of accounting firms continuing to change in the next five to ten years. Hopefully, the level of client satisfaction and trust does not diminish as firm size increases.

**Describe what a perfect day outside of work would look like for you.**

Waking up leisurely to an already clean house, spending time outside (70 degrees, light breeze, no humidity), basking in the knowledge that my children are happy and living their best lives, doing a little community service, talking to friends, and watching a few episodes of a familiar TV show before going to bed for a full 8 hours of sleep.

**What is something most people would be surprised to know about you?**

I actually do enjoy picking up litter! Keep Little Rock Beautiful, people!



Maria and other members of Little Shaneyfelt Marshall & Company participate in the ARCPA Day of Service by picking up littler to Keep Little Rock Beautiful.

**ARCPA  
Staff**

**Executive Director / CEO**  
Marsha A. Moffitt

**Director of Finance and  
Technology**  
Zhengyu "Lee" Li

**Director of Education**  
Stephanie Tanner

**Director of Public Relations  
and Communications**  
Robin E. Harris

**Director of Membership  
and Marketing**  
Whitney Mayo

**Education/Administrative  
Assistant**  
Jordyn Major

**Guide to Public Accounting Booklet Now Online**

The Guide to Public Accounting Firms is a booklet which is printed annually and distributed to ARCPA student members and department heads of colleges and universities in the state. It contains a directory of public accounting firms where students may seek internships or employment. The Guide includes articles on the CPA Exam and offers information for employment search, writing a resume, interview tips, and more. Check it out!

View the Guide online at [www.arcpa.org](http://www.arcpa.org) then click on the Students menu, or go to <https://www.arcpa.org/become-a-cpa/guide-to-public-accounting-firms>

**2024-2025**  
Guide to Public Accounting Firms  
in Arkansas



**ARCPA**  
Arkansas Registered CPAs

## Connect With ARCPA on Social Media



[www.facebook.com/arcpafans/](http://www.facebook.com/arcpafans/)



<https://twitter.com/ARSocietyofCPAs>



[www.linkedin.com/company/arcpa](http://www.linkedin.com/company/arcpa)



Review us on Google  
Arkansas Society of CPAs

## Student Conferences Discounts

Student members may attend ARCPA conferences for just \$15! (we're not kidding!) Meet and network with professionals and prospective future employers at any of these ARCPA events for \$15 each:

- End of Busy Season CPE & Fish Fry
- Equip Conference
- Business & Industry Conference
- Fraud Conference
- Agriculture Conference
- AR Federal Tax Institute

Call ARCPA to register: (501) 664-8739 or (800) 482-8739.

## Becker CPA Review

Arkansas Society of CPAs associate or student members can receive a discount on the Becker Professional CPA Review for the full 4-part review course. Save \$300 off of the full 4-part review of either Live, Online, or self study review course format. Becker CPA Review classes correspond with the exam testing windows that you select.

# Becker+

For more information on this member service, or to access ARCPA preferred pricing with Becker, ARCPA members should visit the partner page <https://www.becker.com/arcpaPP>.

## Surgent CPA Review

Surgent CPA Review can help students prepare for the CPA Exam during or after their undergraduate or graduate education. The 100% online course utilizes a state-of-the-art adaptive learning platform that shortens study time and improves retention allowing students to prepare and pass faster! Enrollment includes access to 350+ 20 minute-or-less video lectures, a test bank of over 7,700 multiple-choice questions, over 400 simulations, customized study guides, and unlimited practice exams.

# Surgent

  
CPA Review

ARCPA members receive a 35% discount on the Surgent CPA exam review course! These state-of-the-art online lectures provide a customized study program, access that doesn't expire, and a pass guarantee with every course. Studying with Surgent means less stress for you—and a faster path to passing the CPA Exam. Learn more: [www.surgentcpareview.com/partners/arkansas-society-of-cpas/](http://www.surgentcpareview.com/partners/arkansas-society-of-cpas/)

## UWorld CPA Review

ARCPA members save 20% off the Unlimited access course! Prepare to pass the CPA Exam with exceptional course materials that make difficult concepts easy to understand. Proven with a 91% pass rate, we proudly serve the accounting profession's top educators, employers and professional organizations to ensure success for future CPAs.



Learn more, at <https://accounting.uworld.com/cpa-review/lp/partner-organizations/>

## CPA Review Courses



## Controllers for a Cause Scholarship

The shortage of CPAs and accountants is acute, and the Controllers for a Cause™ scholarship fund by the Controllers Council™ seeks to reverse this trend by bringing awareness of the extraordinary opportunities of CPA careers, and bringing financial support to students pursuing CPA licensure. The Controllers for a Cause™ scholarship fund is a program developed in partnership with the Controllers Council and the AICPA Foundation (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants).

The scholarship application period is open from June 1, 2025, and closes on September 30, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EST. The Controllers for a Cause scholarship will assist candidates with some of the costs associated with taking the CPA Exam. Up to 60 applicants who are awarded scholarships will be paid up to \$1,000 in a lump sum to reimburse and assist with expenses for exam fees and CPA exam preparatory courses.



Applicants must provide a copy of their Notice to Schedule (NTS) for at least one section of the CPA Exam and a copy of the receipt for payment of exam application fees. For reimbursement of CPA Exam preparatory courses/materials, applicants must provide proof of purchase with their application. Some recipients may be awarded less than the full amount of this scholarship.

For eligibility requirements, or to apply: <https://www.thiswaytocpa.com/education/scholarship-search/CPAexamgrant/>

## Join the ARCPA Mentorship Program

### Join the ARCPA Mentorship Program

The Arkansas Society of CPAs (ARCPA) is accepting mentors and mentees for the 2025/26 program.

Are you looking to take the next step in your accounting journey? The ARCPA is excited to offer you a unique opportunity to be matched with a licensed CPA through our new Mentorship Program!

This is your chance to:

- Receive personalized career guidance from a CPA
- Learn what a career in accounting *really* looks like
- Get tips on preparing for the CPA exam and landing your first job
- Build your professional network

Gain insights from someone who once stood exactly where you are now



Whether you're just getting started or preparing to graduate, this mentorship program is designed to support you at any stage of your accounting path.

**Sign up today to become a mentee!**

<https://fs17.formsite.com/arcpa/form19/index>

**Become A Student Member Today! Membership is Free**

**Join Arkansas Society of CPAs (ARCPA) for free.** Apply Online: <https://www.arcpa.org/join>



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