

Press Release

AICPA Presents Awards to Outstanding CPAs in Government

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Washington, D.C. (Aug. 10, 2015) – The [American Institute of CPAs](#) (AICPA) is pleased to announce that Wendy M. Payne, CPA, of Washington, D.C., is the Institute's recipient of the Outstanding CPA in Government Career Contribution Award honoring her lifelong contribution to the profession.

The Outstanding CPA in Government Career Contribution Award recognizes significant contributions to the efficiency, effectiveness or innovative service delivery of the CPA's respective local, state or federal employer organization over the length of a career.

The AICPA also announced that Leah L. Nikaidoh, CPA, of Cincinnati, Ohio, Jacob Flournoy, CPA, CGMA, of Little Rock, Ark., and Anne Harty, CPA, of Rock Hill, S.C., are recipients of the Outstanding CPA in Government Impact Award. Nikaidoh received the federal impact government award, Flournoy the state impact award and Harty the local impact award.

The Outstanding CPA in Government Impact Award recognizes CPAs working in federal, state and local government who have contributed significantly to increased efficiency and effectiveness of government organizations and to the growth and enhancement of the CPA profession. Current or recent accomplishments, within the past three to five years, are the focus of this award.

[Tommye Barie](#), chair of the AICPA's board of directors, presented the awards today at the Institute's 31st Annual National Governmental Accounting and Auditing Update Conference in Washington, D.C.

"Our 2015 winners of the Outstanding CPA in Government Awards have raised the proverbial bar within our profession to new heights and, in doing so, have earned our esteem and respect. These amazing individuals, each with a significant story to tell, are paramount in their fields and have created a new standard of excellence," Barie remarked.

Payne is Executive Director of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) in Washington, D.C. She manages the research staff supporting Board deliberations and chairs the Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee of the FASAB. She led the FASAB in a highly complex and controversial Reporting Entity project in December 2014.

Payne has been a major driving force in improving and advancing the federal government's financial reporting, and is one of the nation's foremost federal accounting experts. Prior to her employment with the FASAB, she worked in the utility field. Her experience includes consumer advocacy and corporate financial planning, and she has served as an auditor, expert witness, and financial

forecaster. Payne graduated with distinction from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce. She received a Masters in Public Administration from George Mason University.

Nikaidoh is the National Single Audit Coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General in Cincinnati. Serving in this role has allowed her to expand her knowledge and skills in the federal grant compliance arena. During the past two years, she has served on national work groups convened by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to update and consolidate numerous OMB Circulars related to grants. She has presented at various seminars and conferences related to single audits and grants compliance. Nikaidoh earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Iowa.

Flournoy is the Internal Audit Director for the University of Arkansas System, where he established the Internal Audit Department and worked with the Board of Trustees and senior management to develop charters for the University's Audit and Fiscal Responsibility Committee and the Internal Audit Department. He also created the University's Fraud Hotline and developed a risk-based audit universe for the University of Arkansas System. More than 50 percent of the employees who have left the Internal Audit Department during his tenure as director have been promoted to increased levels of responsibility within the University or the state government of Arkansas. He has taught auditing courses for the AICPA in 25 states and Washington D.C. to over 1,600 CPAs during the last fifteen years. Flournoy received his BBA from the University of North Texas and his MBA from the University of Oklahoma.

Harty is the chief financial officer/municipal clerk for the City of Rock Hill, S.C., where she oversees the Divisions of Accounting, Risk Management, Customer Services and Records Management. She also serves on the city's budget committee. She previously served as the city's performance manager and customer services manager. Harty currently serves on the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) National Committee on Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting and is Co-Chair of the National Government Finance Officers Association Women's Public Finance Network. She received the South Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants (SCACPA) Women to Watch Award in 2012 and is the three-time past-president of the Catawba Chapter of the SCACPA. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Winthrop University.

A list of previous winners can be found on the AICPA's Outstanding CPA in Government Awards' [page](#).