

Fall 2026

THE ASSET

Official Publication of the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants



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Investing in What's Ahead

By Jim O'Hallaron, CAE

This is always one of my favorite editions of *The ASSET* because it features our scholarship recipients. There

are few better illustrations of the impact of our work or reminders that the future of the CPA profession is in good hands (page 12).

The number of applications and thank-you messages from recipients makes it clear that your generosity is making a difference for aspiring CPAs. We've shared one of their notes on page 15 that shows just how meaningful your support can be.

As you think about year-end giving, I hope you'll consider a gift to MOCPA's Legacy Endowment Scholarship Fund. Options include gifts from an RMD, Donor Advised Fund or IRA; publicly traded stock; or a lasting gift through your estate plan. With nearly \$1.4 million raised, the endowment has a strong foundation for continued impact.

One of the most rewarding parts of my job is spending time with those who represent the profession's future—attending student events, meeting with educators, and recognizing recent CPA exam passers and

newly licensed CPAs. You can meet many of them at our Awards Celebrations in November (see the back cover). I hope you'll join us in honoring accomplishments at every stage of the professional journey.

Another way to invest in our future is through Destination CPA. Each semester, members visit high school classrooms across Missouri to share their experiences and give students a firsthand look at the CPA profession. Over the past few years, we've reached 390 classrooms. To participate, contact Patti Woods at pwoods@mocpa.org or visit mocpa.org/destination-cpa.

As Jen mentions in her column, we also spent considerable time this past year working through a new licensure pathway and accompanying regulations. That progress was possible through collaboration with accounting educators, firm leaders and the State Board of Accountancy. While we bring different perspectives, we share the goal of ensuring Missouri accounting graduates are prepared for the workforce and the profession's evolving needs.

That collaboration continues at our annual Educator and CPA Leadership Forum, where these groups discuss challenges and opportunities at the

intersection of education and accounting practice. This year's forum is Jan. 7 in Columbia. Learn more at mocpa.org/eflf.

Fall is also one of our busiest times for in-person events, and I enjoy seeing members connect in our learning center and across the state. From our CFO Series and Women's Committee service projects to chapter events and professional development, there are plenty of ways to get involved. We're also seeking volunteers to join our new member communities. Find highlights on page 22 and more at mocpa.org, or call our office to discuss options.

With students settled into a new school year, perhaps it's a good time for the rest of us to do the same: explore something new, make a connection or find another way to grow through MOCPA.

I wish you and yours a wonderful fall and holiday season and look forward to all we'll accomplish together as we close out 2026. 

Jim O'Hallaron is a certified association executive (CAE) and is the president and CEO of the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants. He leads the staff and operations for the 9,000-member society.

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Evolving Without Losing What Matters

By Jen Vacha, CPA

Would you board a plane if you knew the air traffic controller was scrolling social media while directing flights?

Most of us would answer no without hesitation. We understand instinctively that some responsibilities require complete attention, sound judgment and unwavering trust. The same principle applies to the accounting profession.

Whether we are discussing CPA licensure, developing future leaders or strengthening professional relationships, the underlying issue is trust: trust between generations of professionals who will shape our future, and trust placed in us by the public, our clients and our teams.

Those themes were top of mind as I recently read Simon Sinek's "Leaders Eat Last," a book filled with observations about leadership, responsibility and the long-term consequences of our decisions. Leadership is rarely about making perfect decisions. More often, it is about having the courage to make thoughtful decisions, measure their impact and adjust when necessary.

On Aug. 28, Missouri's new CPA licensure pathway became effective, joining more than 40 other jurisdictions that have adopted similar legislation. The pathway allows individuals to become licensed with a bachelor's degree, two years of experience and successful completion of the CPA exam, while preserving Missouri's existing pathways.

Supporting a new pathway means recognizing that our profession must evolve while remaining steadfast in its responsibility to protect the public interest. MOCPA is committed to helping the profession measure the success of this evolution over the long term. If the pathway strengthens the profession while maintaining competency, public trust and exam success, we should celebrate that progress. If we identify unintended consequences, we should have the courage to address them.

Protecting the public interest is not achieved by preserving every rule forever. It is achieved by continually evaluating whether our systems produce the outcomes the public deserves.

Even if we design the right pathway, public trust is ultimately sustained by the people entering and leading our profession.

We live in an age of nearly constant distraction. Sinek's observations reminded me that the challenge is not a lack of intelligence or capability. It is learning to focus amid unprecedented distraction and to develop confidence, judgment and resilience when answers are available instantly.

Today's professionals have access to more information than any generation before them. Yet leadership has never been about access to information. It has always been about judgment.

Accounting is fundamentally a profession of judgment. Clients rarely bring us problems with obvious answers. Auditors encounter conflicting evidence. Tax professionals analyze gray areas in the law. Controllers and CFOs make decisions with incomplete information. Success requires more than technical knowledge. It requires perseverance, critical thinking and the confidence to work through difficult questions before reaching for immediate solutions.

Future leaders will not distinguish themselves simply by what they know. They will distinguish themselves by how they think, respond to challenges and continue learning when the answer is not apparent. They will need the discipline to focus on what matters most: serving clients, protecting the public and leading others with intention.

That is why leadership development remains central to MOCPA's mission. Technical competence may earn a seat at the table, but relationships sustain careers, strengthen organizations and develop leaders.

A central theme in author Brené Brown's work is that we are hardwired

for connection. The irony of modern life is that we have never been more connected digitally, yet many people feel increasingly isolated. Social media promises connection but often delivers comparison. Instant communication promises relationships but can replace meaningful interaction. MOCPA is offering something different.

As we launch our Member Communities, we are creating opportunities to build authentic relationships. These communities are more than networking groups. They are places where members can learn from one another, share experiences, develop leadership skills and build lasting professional relationships. Those connections can strengthen careers, improve well-being, create accountability and help us navigate challenges together.

The future of our profession will not be determined solely by regulation, technology or licensure models. It will be shaped by people.

As we continue leading the CPA profession in Missouri, I am optimistic about what lies ahead. Missouri's new licensure pathway reflects our willingness to evolve. Our investment in leadership development reflects our commitment to excellence. Our Member Communities reflect our belief that strong relationships remain essential to personal and professional success.

Progress, leadership and connection are not competing priorities. Together, they are how we earn trust, prepare the next generation of CPAs and build a stronger future for Missouri's profession. I look forward to walking with you on this journey. 

Jen Vacha is a partner with Armanino specializing in nonprofit tax. She is chair of MOCPA's Board of Directors for 2026-2027.

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PETS INFLUENCE AMERICANS' FINANCIAL DECISIONS

Americans who have a dog or cat don't just love their pets. They make personal financial decisions based on the animals' well-being, according to a survey conducted for the AICPA.

- **95%** of Americans who have a dog or cat consider their pets to be family members.
- **62%** have a budget for spending on their pets.
- **69%** say they're more likely to cut spending on themselves than on their pets.
- **40%** of pet owners who have a will or a trust have included provisions for their pets.

On its website (aicpa-cima.org), the AICPA provides tips for pet owners that include creating a dedicated pet budget and emergency fund; evaluating pet insurance; reviewing estate planning documents; and creating a pet care plan for emergencies.

—journalofaccountancy.com

"Success isn't only about what you earn—it's also about what you own, what you overcome and what you do with it."

—Dolly Parton



AI Readiness, Skills Gaps Top Concerns of Finance Leaders

Finance professionals expect artificial intelligence (AI) to significantly disrupt the profession over the next two years, but few feel equipped to harness the full potential of these tools, according to a new AICPA and CIMA survey of 1,400 members in senior finance and accounting roles.

- **51%** of respondents said generative AI has become the most prominent skills gap for their organizations.
- **88%** believe AI will be the most transformative technology trend in accounting and finance over the next 12 to 24 months, but only **8%** said their organization is "very well prepared" to manage this transformation.
- **50%** say the biggest barrier to technology adoption for their company was a lack of human capital, skills, and talent, followed by safety and security concerns (**47%**).
- **61%** ranked on-the-job training as the most effective upskilling approach to address the skills gaps.

—fm-magazine.com

Seven People Who Don't Count

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better."—Theodore Roosevelt

Whose impact on your life should you minimize? Whose impact should you maximize?

7 people who don't count:

- Sir Sits-A-Lot—Always observing, never engaging.
- Mrs. Hindsight—Knows everything after the fact.
- Captain Critic—Leads no one; judges everyone.
- Lady Smug Spectator—Safe, silent, superior.
- Mr. Perfect-Plan-Never-Launched—Still polishing the blueprint.
- The Honorable-Judge-Rearview—Obsessed with how others stumbled.
- Miss I-Would-Have—Never did. Just would have.

7 people who count:

- Sergeant Skin-in-the-Game—Bleeds for what matters.
- Ms. Fell-Hard-Stood-Up-Anyway—Knows the taste of dirt and the value of rising.
- Dr. Showed-Up-Scared—But showed up anyway.
- Miss Mud-on-Her-Face—Tried, failed, tried again.
- Lady Tried-and-Tried-Again—Only preaches what she practices.
- Professor Learns-from-Failure—Finds wisdom in bruises.
- Major Dirt-Under-Her-Nails—Talks less, builds more.

Action items:

- Make a list of people who don't count. Minimize your contact with them.
 - Thank someone who's in the arena with you.
- You count when you act. What are you doing that counts?

—leadershipfreak.blog



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Evelyn Edwards, CPA, Buda, TX

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Beyond 2025: OBBBA Changes for 2026

By Ren-Tin Harn, CPA; and Kyle Willibey, CPA

The tax bill enacted last year, often called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), may have made its debut in 2025, but 2026 brought its second act. While many of the law's headline provisions, including the new deductions for tipped income and overtime pay, became effective in 2025, several other important individual and business tax changes took effect this year.

The following are selected 2026 changes that may require careful consideration by taxpayers and their advisers.

Individual Deductions and Other Related Provisions New in 2026

The OBBBA indefinitely extended, with modifications, several individual tax provisions scheduled to expire at the end of 2025 and introduced certain new provisions.

Charitable deduction for non-itemizers: Section 170(p) allows non-itemizers to deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for joint filers) for certain qualifying charitable contributions.

Limitation on deduction of contributions made by individuals who elect to itemize: Individuals who itemize their return may only deduct charitable contributions that exceed 0.5 percent of adjusted gross income. This floor does not apply to the charitable deduction for non-itemizers under section 170(p). The provision also permanently extended the 60 percent limitation for cash gifts made to qualified charities.

Limitation on itemized deductions: For taxpayers in the top individual rate bracket, otherwise allowable itemized deductions are reduced by 2/37 of the lesser of the deduction amount or the taxpayer's taxable income over the threshold for the 37 percent bracket. The provision effectively limits the value of affected itemized deductions to 35 percent for those taxpayers.

Employer provided dependent care tax benefits: Employees may exclude up to \$7,500 annually from gross income for employer-provided dependent care assistance (\$3,750 for married individuals filing separately).

Child and dependent care tax credit: The credit rate generally increases to 50 percent of employment-related expenses, up from 35 percent, with a maximum credit of \$1,500 for taxpayers with one qualifying individual and \$3,000 for taxpayers with two or more qualifying individuals, subject to income-based reductions.

Trump Accounts: Beginning July 4, 2026, taxpayers may contribute to Trump Accounts, a new type of tax-advantaged investment account for minors. Annual cash contributions are limited to \$5,000 per beneficiary, indexed for inflation, and may be made only before the beneficiary turns 18. A federal pilot program also provides a one-time \$1,000 contribution for a qualifying child born after Dec. 31, 2024, and before Jan. 1, 2029.

State and local taxes (SALT): The SALT deduction cap increased from \$10,000 to \$40,400 for tax years 2026 and then increases by one percent each year through 2029, before reverting to \$10,000 (\$5,000 for married individuals filing separately). The higher cap phases out for high-income filers with adjusted gross income of \$505,000 for married filing jointly and individuals and \$252,500 for married filing separately.

Estate and gift tax exemption amounts: The basic exclusion amount for federal estate, gift, and generation-skipping taxes was permanently increased to \$15 million (indexed for inflation) per individual for decedents dying and gifts made after Dec. 31, 2025.

Credits and Incentives

The OBBBA introduced changes to federal energy tax provisions by rolling back and/or modifying some clean energy provisions enacted under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Other provisions were expanded. Some of the changes made include:

Residential clean energy credit: The OBBBA terminated the residential clean energy credit with respect to expenditures made after Dec. 31, 2025.

Energy efficient home improvement credit: The OBBBA terminated the credit for energy efficient home improvement property placed in service after Dec. 31, 2025.

Electric vehicle tax credits: The OBBBA repealed point-of-sale EV tax credits and replaced them with an interest deduction on the purchase of brand-new, American-made vehicles, with phaseouts at adjusted gross income of \$200,000 for married filing jointly and \$100,000 for individuals.

Extension of the new markets tax credit: On the other hand, the New Markets Tax Credit generally provides investors with a federal tax credit for qualified equity investments made through qualified Community Development Entities serving low-income communities over a seven-year period. Beginning in 2026, the OBBBA permanently extended the new markets tax credit under section 45D, with a new allocation amount of \$5 billion for each calendar year.

Low-income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC): The federal program increased state funding for affordable housing by 12 percent and lowers the required bond financing threshold from 50 percent to 25 percent to unlock federal credits.

Business Provisions

The OBBBA includes several measures affecting business entities, including provisions that make certain incentives permanent and introduce new limits on business-level deductions. Some of these provisions are outlined below.

Charitable contributions made by corporations: Beginning in 2026, the OBBBA added a new 1 percent floor to the existing rule that limits a corporate taxpayer's charitable contribution deduction to 10 percent of taxable income. Corporations may deduct charitable contributions only to the extent aggregate contributions exceed 1 percent of taxable income and do not exceed the existing 10 percent cap. Contributions over the 10 percent cap may be carried forward for five years but contributions below the floor may be permanently nondeductible.

Qualified business income deduction: The OBBBA made the section 199A pass-through businesses deduction permanent. Beginning in 2026, the phaseout range increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for

single filers and from \$100,000 to \$150,000 for joint filers, allowing some taxpayers to retain a larger portion of the deduction. The law also established a minimum deduction of \$400, indexed for inflation, for certain taxpayers with at least \$1,000 of active qualified business income.

Business meals: As set forward in the 2017 tax law known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), for amounts paid or incurred after Dec. 31, 2025, employers will no longer be able to claim deductions for certain employee meal expenses, including those for employer-operated eating facilities and meals provided for the convenience of the employer.

Form 1099 reporting thresholds: Beginning in 2026, Form 1099-MISC reporting generally applies only when reportable payments total at least \$2,000 (indexed for inflation) during a calendar year, an increase from the \$600 threshold. Separately, for Form 1099-K reporting by third-party settlement organizations, the OBBBA reinstated the \$20,000 and 200-transaction threshold.

Farm-land capital gains deferral: Sellers of qualifying farmland may elect to pay capital gains tax over four equal annual installments, interest-free if the land has a 10-year history of agricultural use and is sold to an active farmer who agrees to a 10-year restrictive covenant to keep the property in agriculture.

Interest exclusion on loans for agricultural property: To lower the borrowing cost for farmers, financial institutions can exclude 25 percent of their gross interest income from federal income taxes on loans secured by agricultural or rural real property.

International Taxation

The OBBBA also changed several international tax provisions, including rules related to regimes previously known as Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income (GILTI) and Foreign Derived Intangible Income (FDII), while building on the framework established by the TCJA in 2017. Although several modifications are generally taxpayer-friendly, these are paired with reduced deduction rates that will have different impacts on taxpayers depending on their facts and circumstances. Multinational taxpayers should consider modeling the overall impact of these changes before relying on any single provision in isolation.

Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income (GILTI) regime (replaced by NCTI): The OBBBA modified the GILTI regime by removing the reduction related to a taxpayer's qualified business asset investment (QBAI). As a result, taxpayers now include net CFC tested income (NCTI) rather than GILTI.

The OBBBA lowered the percentage deduction for a taxpayer's NCTI inclusion and related section 78 gross-up to 40 percent. This generally results in an effective tax rate of 12.6 percent on NCTI.

The OBBBA also reduced the haircut for foreign income taxes deemed paid with respect to an NCTI inclusion from 20 percent to 10 percent.

For foreign tax credit limitation purposes, the OBBBA limits the deductions that are allocated and apportioned to a taxpayer's NCTI inclusion to (1) the section 250 deduction attributable to a NCTI inclusion, and (2) any other deductions to the extent they are directly allocable to a NCTI inclusion. The OBBBA also specifies that no amount of interest expense or research and experimental expenditures is allocated and apportioned to a NCTI inclusion for foreign tax credit limitation purposes.

Foreign-Derived Intangible Income (FDII) regime (replaced by FDDEI): Under the OBBBA, the FDII regime was modified to remove the impact of a U.S. corporation's QBAI. The law generally allows a deduction of 33.34 percent, down from 37.5 percent, of the corporation's Foreign-Derived Deduction-Eligible Income (FDDEI). This generally results in an effective tax rate of 14 percent on FDDEI. It also eliminates the allocation or apportionment of interest expense and research and experimental expenditures for purposes of computing Deduction-Eligible Income (DEI) and FDDEI.

Base Erosion and Anti-Abuse Tax (BEAT): The BEAT rate was increased to 10.5 percent (11.5 percent for certain banks and securities dealers), up from 10 percent (11 percent for certain banks and securities dealers).

Look-through rule for CFCs: The look-through exception to foreign personal holding company income (FPHCI), for certain amounts paid or accrued between CFCs, was made permanent.

Modifications to pro rata share rules: The OBBBA amends sections 951 and 951A to require every U.S. shareholder of a CFC that owns stock during the CFC's tax year to include in gross income its pro rata share of the CFC's subpart F income and NCTI.

Taken together, these 2026 changes touch nearly every corner of the tax code, from individual deductions and credits to business taxation and cross-border income. Taxpayers and their advisers should review the relevant provisions and consider how they may affect tax filings, existing tax planning, and future tax structures.

For a closer look at the changes in tax laws, many of which include specific effective dates, phase-in schedules, and eligibility requirements, the following sources provide additional detail.

- Deloitte Tax LLP's summary of each OBBBA provision, *A Closer Look: Inside the New Tax Law*
- OBBBA, P.L. 119-21
- Joint Committee on Taxation Explanation of P.L. 119-21 (JCS-1-26) 



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Powering AI: What CPAs Need to Know About the Data Center Boom

Contributed by Andy Karcher, CPA; Zach Morgan, CPA; Jeff Parkison, CPA; Adam Ward, CPA; and Jeff Ward, CPA



against significant operational, financial, and reputational risk.

That tension was the focus of a recent panel discussion hosted by MOCPA's Business Transformation Committee (MOCPA BTC), which explored what CPAs

should understand about the rapidly evolving data center landscape.

Why This Matters to CPAs

As trusted advisers, CPAs are uniquely positioned to help clients navigate these challenges. Whether advising on capital allocation, tax incentives, infrastructure investments, sustainability reporting, enterprise risk management, or business continuity planning, CPAs can bring a balanced and objective perspective to decisions that will have long-term financial consequences.

Understanding the Fundamentals

Energy is fundamental to the discussion, and thankfully we have a unique perspective within the MOCPA BTC in this industry. The first step with energy is to understand the difference between energy consumption and demand.

While discussions often focus on how much energy data centers consume over time, infrastructure challenges are frequently driven by demand peaks rather than total usage. Capacity constraints arise when large users require substantial power at a specific moment, creating stress on local generation and

transmission systems. Understanding this distinction helps explain why communities and utilities are increasingly focused on grid capacity, transmission upgrades, and infrastructure planning.

It is also important to separate headlines from reality. Much of the public conversation assumes that AI is solely responsible for recent growth in data center demand. In reality, cloud computing continues to represent a substantial portion of data center activity, alongside traditional enterprise workloads and emerging AI applications. While AI is certainly accelerating demand, understanding the broader ecosystem provides a more comprehensive picture of the forces shaping infrastructure investment.

Key Risks Emerging from the Data Center Boom

As demand grows, so do the risks.

Energy availability and cost remain at the top of many organizations' concerns. Large-scale facilities require enormous amounts of electricity, making power reliability and pricing essential variables in investment decisions. Organizations that underestimate future energy costs or fail to secure reliable power sources may face significant operational and financial challenges.

Water usage is another growing consideration. Many data centers depend on substantial cooling infrastructure, often requiring significant water resources. In regions facing water constraints, this can create tension between economic development initiatives and community concerns. These factors increasingly influence permitting, zoning decisions, and public perception.

Cybersecurity risks also continue to evolve, and this is another area of expertise within the MOCPA BTC. As data

As artificial intelligence drives unprecedented demand for computing power, data centers have become one of the most consequential infrastructure investments of our time. For CPAs, understanding the opportunities and risks behind this growth is rapidly becoming a professional imperative.

If you had asked most people five years ago what a data center was, you likely would have received a vague answer involving "the cloud" and rows of servers hidden away in an anonymous warehouse. Today, data centers have moved from invisible infrastructure to the center of business, economic, regulatory, and public policy discussions. They power everything from financial transactions and healthcare systems to global supply chains and artificial intelligence. In many respects, they have become the backbone of the modern economy.

At the same time, data centers are no longer viewed solely as engines of innovation. They are increasingly scrutinized for their energy consumption, water usage, cybersecurity exposure, tax incentives, and long-term sustainability. This creates a familiar challenge for CPAs: balancing significant economic opportunity

centers become critical infrastructure, they become more attractive targets for threat actors. The panel highlighted a growing reality: AI is simultaneously strengthening cyber defenses and enhancing the capabilities of attackers. Organizations must prepare for an environment where both offense and defense are operating at machine speed.

Additionally, cybersecurity threats extend beyond software. Supply chain vulnerabilities, compromised hardware, physical security weaknesses, and emerging concerns surrounding quantum computing all create long-term risks that organizations must consider as part of their overall governance strategy.

Warning Signs CPAs Should Watch

For CPAs serving as business advisers, several warning signs deserve attention.

Infrastructure fragility is one of the most significant. Rapid increases in demand can expose weaknesses in generation capacity, transmission networks, or local utility infrastructure. Organizations that assume adequate capacity will always be available may face unexpected delays, cost increases, or operational constraints.

Concentration risk is another concern. Many organizations have embraced cloud computing under the assumption that moving workloads to the cloud automatically improves resilience. While cloud providers offer substantial redundancy, concentration of critical operations within a limited number of providers or regions can introduce new risks that require careful evaluation.

Network and connectivity bottlenecks can be equally important. Even where power generation exists, limitations in transmission infrastructure or connectivity can create unexpected constraints on growth and reliability.

Practical Actions Aligned with CPA Value

The panel emphasized that CPAs possess skills that are directly relevant to the conversations shaping the future of data centers. Cost allocation, rate making, investment analysis, scenario modeling, and risk assessment are core competencies of the profession. Furthermore, CPAs have long served as objective voices helping stakeholders understand complex issues and make informed decisions.

As utilities, regulators, businesses, and communities debate how infrastructure costs should be allocated, how incentives should be structured, and how risks should be managed, CPAs can play a meaningful role in ensuring decisions are grounded in facts, economics, and sound governance.

Powering Forward

The data center boom is reshaping more than the technology landscape. It is changing how communities plan for growth, how businesses evaluate infrastructure, and how leaders balance innovation with cost, resilience, and public trust. For CPAs, that makes this moment both complex and consequential. Our value is not in predicting every turn of the technology cycle, but in helping clients ask better questions, challenge assumptions, understand the economic trade-offs, and govern decisions with discipline. As organizations look to power the next era of AI, CPAs can help ensure they power forward with clarity, accountability, and confidence. 

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Meet MOCPA's 2025-2026 Scholarship Recipients

Aspiring CPAs earn scholarships, thanks to member contributions.

Congratulations to MOCPA's 2025–2026 scholarship recipients! Thanks to the generosity of MOCPA members and their organizations, the society awarded \$60,000 in traditional scholarships from the Legacy Endowment Scholarship Fund this year. High school seniors received \$500 toward their accounting education, and college students received \$1,000.

An additional \$42,000 was awarded through special named scholarships, bringing this year's total scholarship support to \$102,000. Scholarship applications are now being accepted for the 2026-2027 school year. If you know an accounting student who may be interested, encourage them to learn more at mocpa.org/scholarships.

Congratulations to these outstanding students and future leaders of the CPA profession.

College Scholarship Winners

**Denotes previous
MOCPA scholarship recipient*



Baylor Adamovsky
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Hannah Barron
Southeast Missouri
State University



Isaac Bebee*
Missouri State
University



Braden Best
Missouri Valley
College



Jada Boddy
University of Central
Missouri



Giovanna Bonifacio
Truman State
University



Madalyn Breckenridge
Truman State
University



Upendra Chapagain*
Truman State
University



Olga Cherniavska
University of
Missouri-Kansas City



Lauren Christians
University of
Missouri-St. Louis



Michael Clark
University of
Missouri-St. Louis



Lisa Clenin
Missouri Western
State University



Brynn Cox*
University of
Missouri-Columbia



Breanna Crockett*
Columbia College



Breanna Derritt
University of Central
Missouri



Ava Diekhoff
University of
Missouri-Columbia



Hillary Elifrits*
Northwest Missouri
State University



Iqra Faheem
Maryville University



Maylin Fernandez
University of Missouri-
Kansas City



Jack Fitzgerald
University of Central
Missouri



Latisha Graham
Central Methodist
University



Victoria Gruca
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Daniel Gutierrez
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Paige Heitman
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Abigail Hicks
University of Missouri-
Kansas City



Benjamin Huelskamp
Missouri State
University



Keira Jensen
Saint Louis University



Lucas Jordan
Missouri State
University



Cheyenne Kemp*
University of Missouri-
St. Louis



Evie Kolb
Missouri State
University



Carla Lackey
University of Missouri-
Kansas City



Samantha Lane
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Lauren Langenbacher
Maryville University



Kaden Lansford
Lindenwood
University



Lillian Le
University of Missouri-
Kansas City



Brandon Lechene
Missouri State
University



Lucas Lenear
Southeast Missouri
State University



Xiaohan Liu
University of Missouri-
Kansas City



Logan Mathews*
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Lexie Meyer
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Madelynn Morgan
University of Missouri-
Columbia



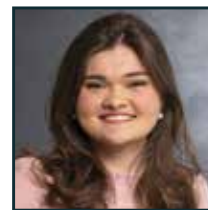
Allison Newkirk
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Jared Novak
Missouri State
University



Abby Olson
Missouri State
University



Alexandria Paubel
University of Missouri-
St. Louis



Julio Pedro
Saint Louis University



Celimar Rentas*
University of Missouri-
St. Louis



Brock Schofield*
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Emma Scruggs
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Carter Simmons*
Missouri State
University



Drake Skaggs
Avila University



Nathan Smith*
University of Missouri-
Columbia →



Isabelle Thrall
Missouri State
University



Davin Tubbs
University of Missouri-
Kansas City



Joshua White
Columbia College



Sarah White
Missouri State
University



Jackie Wilmes*
University of Missouri-
St. Louis



Lucinda Wulff
Southeast Missouri
State University

High School Scholarship Winners



Krishaben Avaiya
Pattonville High School
Now attending:
Saint Louis University



Lillian Chitwood
New Franklin High
School
Now attending:
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Caleb Couch
Francis Howell North
High School
Now attending:
University of Missouri-
Columbia



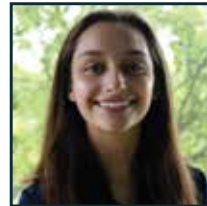
Cole Schweizer
Savannah High School
Now attending:
University of Missouri-
Columbia

MOCPA/RubinBrown Scholarship

RubinBrown's Charitable Foundation provided each of these students \$10,000 to use toward their accounting education. The scholarships are renewable for up to five years. Congratulations to these students, and thank you to RubinBrown for making such a life-changing impact on aspiring CPAs.



Sophina Bradley*
Truman State
University



Valerie Negrete*
University of Missouri-
Kansas City



Donovan Herrion
University of Missouri-
Columbia



Jade White*
University of Missouri-
St. Louis



Tristen Sutton
St. Louis Community
College
Now attending:
University of Missouri-
Columbia

MOCPA/Markus Ahrens Transfer Scholarship

Markus Ahrens and affiliates have established a scholarship fund to provide an annual \$2,000 scholarship to a community college student transferring to a four-year university to pursue an accounting degree. Congratulations to this year's recipient, and thank you to the contributors for supporting future CPAs on their educational journey.



The Impact of Your Generosity...in Their Own Words

With nearly **\$1.4 million** raised, MOCPA's Legacy Endowment Scholarship Fund continues to invest in the future of Missouri's accounting profession. But perhaps the best measure of that impact comes from the students themselves. Each year, scholarship recipients share what MOCPA members' generosity and encouragement mean to them. Here is one of their stories.



Dear MOCPA Members,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of the MOCPA/RubinBrown Scholarship. Words can only express so much to describe how much this means to me. I am so grateful and amazed that there are so many people out there who care about accounting students like me. An award of any kind is amazing, but for your group to be so generous blows my mind. I am incredibly honored to receive such a generous investment in my future, and will forever be both inspired and motivated to grow in my career as an aspiring CPA.

As a dedicated accounting student at Mizzou, I continue to do my best, work hard, and form meaningful connections to help me be successful both academically and professionally. The field excites me because of the opportunities that it opens up, the knowledge and understanding of the business world that it teaches, and the transferable skills that you learn throughout the course work.

This investment in my future will fuel me to persevere and work hard as a dedicated accountancy student. I will forever be grateful for the generous investment you've made in me.

Sincerely,
Donovan Herrion

Help Build a Legacy



Every gift to MOCPA's Legacy Endowment Scholarship Fund helps open doors for aspiring CPAs and strengthen the future of the profession. You can be part of that impact by making a tax-deductible gift at **mocpa.org/contribute**. One hundred percent of your donation goes directly to scholarships. Thank you for helping the next generation of CPAs achieve their goals!



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Third-Party and Vendor Risk: How to Actually Read a SOC 2® Report

By Audrey Katcher, CPA; and Christine Figge, CPA

Security outages and failures today come not only from your direct service provider (“vendor” for this article), but from the other vendors your vendor relies on to protect your information.

It is time to check the “security food chain.”

- Read the vendor’s SOC 2 reports for insights, especially related to security, for your most critical vendors as well as the vendors they are using (subservice organizations or third- and fourth-party service providers).
- For guidance on the vendor risk management process and the role of SOC 2 reports in evaluating service providers, see the white paper “How to Perform Proper Vendor Management” (at aicpa.org).

Did Someone Say AI?

When your vendor, or your vendor’s vendor, utilizes AI relevant to their SOC 2 Service Commitments and System Requirements, ensure they have considered AI Governance controls to support:

- Accuracy and reliability;
- Bias prevention;
- Security, confidentiality and privacy; and
- Explainability and interpretability.

See the latest insights for SOC 2 and AI here: mocpa.org/soc1.

Dissect the Report for Yourself— for Your Environment

And, when it comes to you using AI to evaluate vendors, instead of using AI to evaluate the report (which may base its results on information that is not relevant to your environment), think and review the SOC 2 report using the eight steps in this grid.

Why take these steps? Your vendors can directly impact your company reputation. When there is a situation, it may be your company in the headline.

Steps		Action is needed
1.	Find the controls in the report to meet the security commitments this vendor has with your company.	If there is no control over what is committed to you: • Exercise the right to audit the vendor. • Escalate across your organization an evaluation of mitigation in case of an event.
2.	Verify whether the vendor uses subservice organizations (third- and fourth-parties) and identify who they are, if applicable.	Request the subservice organization reports and perform Step 1. Track your monitoring of these subservice organizations.
3.	Determine if the vendor’s audit opinion is qualified, adverse or disclaimed.	If the opinion is anything other than unqualified, fully understand the cause of the qualification and potential exposure to your company. Escalate as needed.
4.	Validate the SOC auditor and ensure the SOC auditor has a current peer review. • Heed this advice: “The risks of quick-turn SOC engagements and what CPAs should know” mocpa.org/soc2. • Visit this site to confirm a peer review has been performed within the last three years: mocpa.org/soc3.	If you cannot validate the SOC auditor, contact them for further context. Consider: • Exercise the right to audit the vendor. • Escalate across your organization an evaluation of mitigation in case of an event.
5.	Determine if the period covered is consecutive with the prior period to ensure no gaps in coverage of control performance.	Identify performance of controls in the gap periods and potential exposure to your company. Escalate as needed.
6.	Verify boundaries and coverage of the report by reading the description.	If the report does not cover the boundaries and services you use: • Exercise the right to audit the vendor. • Escalate across your organization an evaluation of mitigation in case of an event.
7.	Verify that testing performed by the SOC auditor is beyond just inquiry.	If the report does not include more than inquiry testing: • Exercise the right to audit the vendor. • Escalate across your organization an evaluation of mitigation in case of an event.
8.	Validate how the vendor uses AI in the services for your company. Talk to those who directly interact with the vendor. Verify AI Governance and Control coverage in the SOC 2 report.	If the report does not include AI governance and controls, yet your company stated they are using AI “services” from this vendor: • Exercise the right to audit the vendor. • Escalate across your organization an evaluation of mitigation in case of an event.

Red Flags

As you review the report, consider these aspects of the SOC 2 audit and look for warning signs that may indicate a lower-quality engagement.

Red Flag 1: References to "SOC Certification"

SOC 2 examinations are not certifications. Organizations or vendors promoting "instant SOC certification" may be misrepresenting the nature of the engagement.

Red Flag 2: Unrealistic Speed Claims

Marketing that emphasizes obtaining a report in weeks, days, or even hours should be carefully evaluated. SOC 2 examinations require evidence gathering, testing, professional judgment, and independent assessment over a period of time.

Red Flag 3: Boilerplate Language

Reports that appear generic or nearly identical to reports issued for other organizations by the same SOC auditor may indicate inadequate tailoring.

Red Flag 4: Excessive Reliance on Inquiry

When testing relies primarily on management representations via inquiry rather than documented evidence, assurance quality may be reduced.

Red Flag 5: Limited Scope

Important systems, services, or environments may have been excluded from the examination.

Red Flag 6: Unexplained Exceptions

A report that identifies deficiencies without discussing root causes or remediation may leave users with an incomplete understanding of risk.

As highlighted by leaders within the AICPA and SOC community, users should be wary of reports that appear commoditized, templated, or produced under unrealistic timelines. The value of a SOC 2 report depends on the rigor of the examination behind it.

After you perform the eight steps and consider the six red flags, double check yourself with the following questions.

Questions Every Vendor Risk Team Should Ask When Reviewing a SOC 2 Report:

- Who issued the report?
- Is it a Type 1 or Type 2 examination?
- What review period does it cover?
- Which Trust Services Criteria are included?
- Do the scoped services match the services we use?
- Were any exceptions identified?
- How were exceptions remediated?
- Which subservice organizations are involved?
- Does the testing appear detailed and evidence-based?
- Does the report appear customized to the organization being examined?

The answers to these questions often provide more value than just the opinion itself.

Learn what to look for in a SOC 2 report with the "Key Elements of a SOC 2 Report" video series (at aicpa.org), and use the accompanying checklist to streamline your review.

Conclusion

A SOC 2 report should never be viewed as a simple pass-or-fail compliance document. It is a risk management tool designed to provide transparency into how a service organization manages security, and other critical controls throughout a period.

The most effective reviewers go beyond the auditor's opinion and assess the scope, control design, testing approach, and reported exceptions. They understand that the quality of assurance depends not only on what the report says but also on how thoroughly the underlying examination was performed.

As the SOC 2 marketplace continues to evolve and concerns increase regarding rapid-turn and highly commoditized engagements, organizations must become

more sophisticated consumers of SOC 2 reports. Doing so helps ensure that vendor risk decisions are based on meaningful assurance rather than marketing claims.

Ultimately, a good SOC 2 report does more than demonstrate compliance. It provides evidence that a service organization has thoughtfully designed, implemented, and tested controls that can be trusted. Readers of these reports can feel more confident their service providers are providing a well-controlled environment.

We support helping companies understand the SOC reports for vendors they rely upon. Contact us any time. 



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PARTING PERSPECTIVES:

A Conversation with Patty Faenger

For the past seven years, Patty Faenger has served as executive director of the Missouri State Board of Accountancy. As she prepares to retire Dec. 31, she leaves a lasting mark, including helping strengthen the collaborative relationship between the Board and MOCPA. That partnership was most recently demonstrated as the two organizations worked together to establish a new pathway to CPA licensure in Missouri. Faenger reflects on her time with the Board, changes she has seen in the profession and the advice she leaves with Missouri CPAs.

What has been the most rewarding part of serving Missouri CPAs and CPA candidates?

My goal was to make a positive difference. My hope is that I did so in some small way. Having worked in the medical profession for years before moving into professional licensing, I understood what it meant to be in a regulated profession. Over the years, I experienced regulators who lived by the Golden Rule, and unfortunately, some who didn't. When I became a regulator, I understood that you won't always deliver good news, but whatever news you deliver, you can do it with respect. For me, it was simple: Treat others as you want to be treated.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the CPA profession during your tenure?

One of the biggest has been the changing educational requirements. The idea initially caused some shockwaves throughout the profession and among regulatory boards. One big concern was how mobility would be affected. Once the idea gained momentum, though, we adapted, and now Missouri has joined nearly all jurisdictions in adopting new requirements. Change is always hard, but sometimes it can be very good, too.

What are the most common compliance issues the Board encounters?

CPE, CPE and CPE. CPE compliance is by far the most common issue, and it's easy to avoid. Through rulemaking, the Board provides a grace period after the reporting period, January–March 1. CPE earned during the grace period can be counted toward the previous reporting period, if necessary. It's a good way to address a shortage if you had difficulty obtaining the required CPE during the reporting year.

And if you find you are short when it's time to report your hours, honesty is always the best policy.

What is one thing you wish more CPAs understood about the role of the State Board?

The Board itself is made up of CPAs who understand the challenges involved in getting licensed. They have started successful CPA firms, held executive leadership positions in larger firms or private business, or used their licenses in fields such as academia. The Board will always give a fair shake to a CPA or firm that comes before it for a regulatory matter.

If you find yourself in that position, my advice is to learn from the experience and avoid repeat violations. The Board's role is to protect the public. It takes no pleasure in issuing discipline, but when it does, the expectation is that the licensee learns from the action and avoids repeat offenses.

Missouri is entering a new era for CPA licensure. What should current CPAs, candidates and firms understand about the changes taking effect, and what should they be watching for as implementation continues?

In Missouri, stakeholders including the Board, MOCPA, educators and licensees were involved in the recent changes and worked well together to get us where we are today. That coordination and communication should continue. The pathway changes are new, and we need to stay on top of how they affect students, licensees and the public. We have shown we can work together to address issues important to the profession, so we must stay engaged and continue that cooperation.

What has your relationship with Missouri's CPAs taught you about the profession?

My encounters with Missouri CPAs have been very positive. I have learned from them and absolutely respect what it takes to become a CPA. I'm not sure the public fully appreciates what it takes to hold a CPA license. Obtaining one is not for the faint of heart. I count myself lucky to have been selected as executive director of the Missouri State Board of Accountancy.

As you prepare to retire, what would you like Missouri CPAs to know about the staff who will continue serving them at the Board?

The staff who support Missouri's CPAs through the licensing board are hardworking and dedicated. They answer questions, process licensing applications and sometimes are just there to lend an ear. Missouri CPAs should know they are some of the best!

What are you looking forward to in retirement?

I'm still wrapping my head around it, but I have a 4-year-old granddaughter and 7-year-old grandson who will help me figure it all out! 

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Are Your Clients Asking You About Trump Accounts?

By Sandi Weaver, CPA, CFP, CFA

Trump Accounts went live on July 4. Some clients may want to take advantage of the \$1,000 “free” gift from the federal government for babies born 2025-2028. Others might want to open “teaching IRAs” for their kids; the child must be under age 18, but there’s no earned income requirement. Clients may be asking you soon for how-to details and your opinion. Here’s a FAQ on the basics.

Who can open one? The parent or a legal guardian, or if not available then adult siblings then grandparents, fills out IRS Form 4547. If they already have an account at the IRS, they can complete that online there. They can also download the app from trumpaccounts.gov and complete the form on their phone, or do it manually with a paper form. The parent will get an email, usually in a few days, to activate the account on trumpaccount.com where Robinhood is custodian. In the future, parents should be able to roll over their Trump Account to different institutions such as Fidelity, Vanguard, Schwab. Stay tuned!

How is the account funded? Parents can contribute \$5,000 per year by Dec. 31, with the contribution limit adjusted for inflation over time. Employers of the child or the parent can contribute \$2,500 of that annual \$5,000. Charities or governments can make “qualified general contributions” without limit. If your child is born between 2025–2028, the federal government kicks in \$1,000. Your clients don’t need to track cost basis; the account custodian does. Individual contributions are after-tax and build basis. Other contributions are pre-tax. Your clients will see a 5498-TA every year detailing contributions.

How do parents or legal guardians invest the money? Investment options are limited to a sole handful of inexpensive U.S. equity index funds.

How do clients add a beneficiary? They don’t. If the child dies before 18, the account is taxable in the child’s estate.

However, clients can set up a “trusted contact” similar to those now at many financial institutions. Trusted contacts are tapped if the custodian (Robinhood) cannot reach a parent or suspects fraud.

Beyond the free \$1,000 why should a client do this? The funds grow tax deferred. There’s no earned income requirement as with an IRA. At age 18, the child:

- Gets control;
- Is responsible for investment choices;
- Rolls the account over to an IRA;
- Can convert to (and pay tax on) a Roth;
- Can withdraw funds (and pay tax);
- Needs to shift cost basis tracking over to Form 8606; and
- Should set up the beneficiaries.

If they withdraw, they pay tax pro rata based on the account’s cost basis. If their tax rate is low, converting some to a Roth and paying tax may be advantageous if the unearned income stays on their tax return and does not slide to the parents’ return.

Are these a good deal? Or just another account for parents to track? Children already have 529 accounts and UTMA/UGMA custodial accounts. College savings 529 accounts have tax-deferred growth, and if used for qualified expenses (college, apprenticeships, graduate school, some K-12) the withdrawals are never taxed. These allow \$35,000 to roll over to a Roth. That beats the Trump account for those types of expenses.

UGMA and UTMA accounts are taxable accounts usually with the parents as custodians until the child is 18 or 21. Income is taxed to the child but can land on the parents’ return due to the Kiddie Tax. The Kiddie Tax allows a low/no tax rate on \$2,700 of unearned income in 2026



for the child. A \$200,000 investment in Vanguard’s S&P 500 ETF would generate income lower than that. An UTMA offers more flexibility and fewer rules than a Trump account; your client may view that as a curse or a blessing. When modeling investment growth on a Trump account versus an UTMA, the after-tax values can be close.



Sandi Weaver is the owner of Weaver Financial in Mission, Kan.

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- Integrated Planning, Forecasting, and Budgeting for Organizational Success
- Critical Issues That CPAs in Industry Will Need to Face This Year

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Jan. 26 | Virtual

MISSOURI STATE SPECIFIC ETHICS

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Presented by Larry Gray, who has been named one of the 100 most influential people in the accounting profession by *Accounting Today*, this two-day event is packed with the latest tax updates. Explore new legislation, rulings and cases that impact taxpayers, and delve into issues pertaining to small businesses. Master what you need to know so you can develop the appropriate, cohesive tax defense and compliance strategy for both businesses and individuals.



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- Create measurable community impact



Questions? Contact our Team

Pete Cerone, Executive Director
314-792-7732 or petecerone@archstl.org



Visit our Website

Scan code to learn more or visit
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FIRM LEADERSHIP



New Tools to Strengthen Your Firm

MOCPA has partnered with the AICPA Private Companies Practice Section (PCPS) to bring a new value-added benefit to members in public practice. You now have access to the complete Transforming Your Business Model (TYBM) toolkits!

The TYBM resources address key challenges and opportunities related to firm culture and business models, all supported by success stories from profession leaders. Use them to help you build a stronger workplace culture that attracts, retains, and develops top professionals while fostering sustainable business growth.

The initiative is structured around five fundamental pillars: strategy, governance, service offerings, technology, and talent engagement and growth. Take advantage of these available toolkits:

- Strategic Planning;
- Employee Compensation;
- Mentoring;
- Non-CPA Workstream;
- Outsourcing for CPA Firms;
- Talent Trend;
- Revenue Modeling;
- Right-Sizing Your Client Base;
- Governance; and
- Technology.

Visit mocpa.org/pcps to access this benefit and continue elevating your firm and client service!

Questions? Contact your Public Practice Relationship Manager, Liz Schaezel, at (314) 392-5834 or lschaezel@mocpa.org.



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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome!

The MOCPA network continues to grow!

The following Fellow members joined the society in June, July and August. Please take time to welcome them and invite them to participate in events and programs with you.

Mary Ashby, CPA
Safety National Casualty Corp.

Samuel Barrer, CPA
PwC

Alexander Caffrey, CPA
Watermark Capital Partners, LLC

Christopher Calhoun, CPA
Miller Bales & Company PC

Rachel Campbell, CPA
Safety National Casualty Corp.

Matthew Collins, CPA
KPM CPAs & Advisors

Mack Delane, CPA
KPMG LLP

Adam Denniston, CPA
Forvis Mazars, LLP

Cole Dickerson, CPA
Coffman and Company

Mitchell Eckrich, CPA
KPMG LLP

Sean Egan, CPA
Linup, LLC

Benjamin Fahey, CPA
Forvis Mazars, LLP

Brendan Foster, CPA
Anders

Victoria Frazier, CPA
KPMG LLP

Sam Garrett, CPA
Forvis Mazars, LLP

Haley Gatewood, CPA
City Utilities of Springfield

Sarah Groene, CPA
EY

Robert Hayes, CPA
UHY

Maya Henderson, CPA

Derek B. Herbison, CPA
CLA

Katlyne Hodge, CPA
Equitas Accounting LLC

Deanna Hotop, CPA
Buchheit Inc.

Daniel Howard, CPA
KPMG LLP

Benjamin Joerger, CPA
EY

Makenzie Johnson, CPA
KPMG LLP

Riley Johnson, CPA
Forvis Mazars, LLP

Stacey Johnson, CPA
Buchheit Inc.

Morgan Kantouth, CPA
KPMG LLP

Holden Kelleher, CPA
KPMG LLP

Travis Liebl, CPA
Forvis Mazars, LLP

Joseph H. Marsh, CPA
Unger & Marsh PC

David McDonald, CPA
Safety National Casualty Corp.

Stephanie Miller, CPA
Hospice of Southern Illinois Inc.

Daniel Mirakian, CPA
KPMG LLP

Lucas Morefield, CPA
Forvis Mazars, LLP

Maggie O'Brien, CPA
Forvis Mazars, LLP

Brett Paubel, CPA
PwC

Jesse Perez, CPA
Aprio

Jordan Peters, CPA
Massie Fudenberg Goldberg LLC

Meredith Plein, CPA
KPMG LLP

Travis Ralls, CPA
Stern Brothers & Company

Brendan Rasch, CPA
RSM US LLP

Andrea Revilla, CPA
Spilker McKeone & Nelson, PC

Kelli Rinkenberger, CPA
KPMG LLP

Meghan Risley, CPA
KPMG LLP

James Ritter, CPA
KPMG LLP

Jennifer Ruessler, CPA
Buchheit Inc.

Andrew Santoyo, CPA

Gerald Schiele IV, CPA
Forvis Mazars, LLP

Edvin Sinanagic, CPA
Safety National Casualty Corp.

Hailey Sparacio, CPA
Forvis Mazars, LLP

Aidan Spencer, CPA
CLA

Sydney Stuke, CPA
KPMG LLP

Ethan Sturm, CPA
KPMG LLP

Jason Swarts, CPA
KPMG LLP

Natalie Walsh, CPA
KPMG LLP

Thomas Wensing Jr., CPA
CLA

Patrick Westall, CPA
KPMG LLP

Jiangnan Yue, CPA
Honkamp P.C.

MOCPA'S WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: REAL CONVERSATIONS, FRESH PERSPECTIVES

OCT. 22 | ST. LOUIS | VUE 17



Join MOCPA for an inspiring, interactive forum designed to empower women to grow personally and professionally.

Featured sessions include:

- Fit-Flavors: Lessons from an Entrepreneur;
- Ain't Misbehavin'—a look back at the business and accounting scandals of the 1920s, '30s and '40s that shaped the CPA profession (*includes ethics*);
- From Battles to Beginnings; and
- Burnout, Boundaries and the Myth of "Having It All."

The day will conclude with the Women to Watch Awards presentation, celebrating outstanding women in the profession, followed by a networking happy hour—a great opportunity to connect and continue the conversation.

Bring Your Team!

Make the experience your team's retreat. Reserve a table of six for \$1,100, with discounted pricing available for additional attendees.

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A new, fully accessible aquatic facility is coming to Wonderland Camp to improve aquatic accessibility for thousands of campers with disabilities from Missouri.

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EVERY GIFT WILL BE MATCHED

Every gift is matched dollar-for-dollar toward our \$800,000 project goal.

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Missouri Department of
Economic Development

✉ stephanie@wonderlandcamp.org
📍 18591 Miller Cir.
Rocky Mount, MO 65072

🌐 wonderlandcamp.org
☎ 573.392.1000

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SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT



Explore MOCPA's Career Center

Whether you're an employer looking for the right candidate or a job seeker in search of the best opportunity, MOCPA's Career Center provides the tools you need to find a solid match!

- **Employers** can choose from expanded job packages; add boosts to increase job posting exposure; and view résumés for free!
- **Job seekers** have access to career resources, including complimentary résumé review; interview tips; techniques for communicating online; and email alerts to new job postings.

Get started today at mocpa.org/careers!

Update Your MOCPA Profile and Password

As you plan your professional development for the fall, take a minute to log into your MOCPA member profile page at mocpa.org/profile to ensure you're receiving the resources most applicable to you. Update your contact information, areas of interest, as well as your preferences.



Jonathan Ahrens, CPA



Jeremiah Hathorn, CPA

Leadership Academy Welcomes Two MOCPA Members

Jonathan Ahrens, CPA, with RubinBrown, and Jeremiah Hathorn, CPA, with Hathorn Advisory Group, were two of only 36 professionals selected nationwide for the AICPA's 2026 Leadership Academy. The 36 participants were chosen for their exceptional leadership skills and professional experience. Congratulations, Jonathan and Jeremiah!

MOCPA Offers Valuable Tax Season Resources

To help you navigate busy season, MOCPA offers a variety of ways for you to exchange ideas with other members and stay up to date on the latest tax developments. Take advantage of the following:

- **MOCPA Taxation Listserve:** Pose your questions and respond to the questions of others through this popular member forum. You can read and respond to listserv communications directly through your email inbox.
- **Discounted Career Center Posting:** If your firm needs part-time help during busy season, you can place your opportunities on MOCPA's Career Center for 60 days at the discounted rate of \$100. Your postings will be promoted to MOCPA's 9,000 members throughout Missouri, and applicants will then apply directly to your postings online.
- **CCH Tax Prep Guides:** MOCPA members can purchase the 2027 *U.S. Master Tax Guide* for a greatly reduced price of \$178.50 per copy, a 25 percent savings! In addition, members receive preferred pricing discounts on hundreds of other CCH tax and accounting titles.
- **Federal Tax Video Series:** Tune in for weekly updates from Ed Zollars, CPA, as he discusses recent federal tax developments.

For a complete list of resources, please visit mocpa.org/tax.

Tools Designed for Accounting Professionals

Help clients prepare for year-end with ease

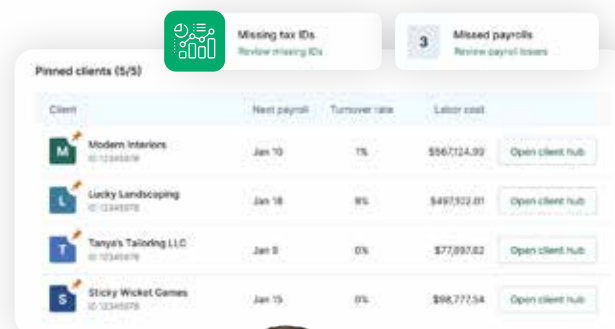


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Client	Next payroll	Turnover rate	Labor cost	
Modern Interiors ID: 12345678	Jan 10	1%	\$86,712.39	Open client hub
Lucky Landscaping ID: 12345678	Jan 18	8%	\$497,922.81	Open client hub
Tanya's Tailoring LLC ID: 12345678	Jan 8	0%	\$77,887.82	Open client hub
Sticky Wicket Games ID: 12345678	Jan 15	0%	\$98,777.54	Open client hub



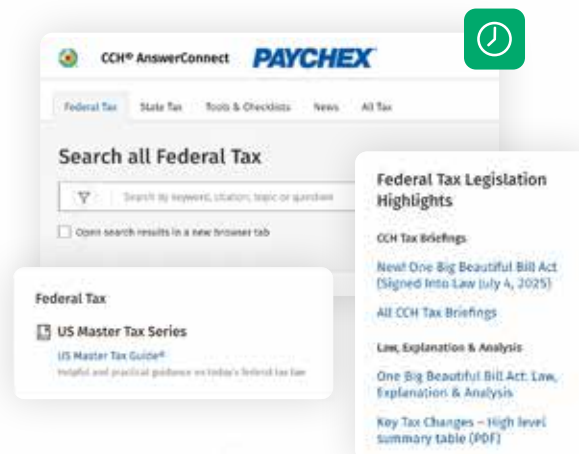
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View a demonstration of these accountant tools at go.paychex.com/mocpa-ye.

Simplify the grind. Elevate your role.



MOCPA SNAPSHOTS

Chapter Launch Party

July 16 | Kansas City

KC Bier Co. provided the backdrop for Kansas City Chapter members to connect, meet this year's local leadership and explore ways to get involved.

Discover ways to get involved with your local chapter, including community service, professional development, networking, and sharing your CPA story with high school students. Visit mocpa.org/chapters to learn more!



Service and Socializing

July 23 | St. Louis

MOCPA's Women's Initiative Committee members gathered in MOCPA's Learning Center for conversation, snacks and beverages while assembling care packages for a local women's shelter.

Join this group at MOCPA's Women's Conference on Oct. 22 in St. Louis. You'll meet the 2026 Women to Watch Award winners, participate in interactive learning sessions, and walk away feeling inspired to continue your growth in and out of the workplace. Register today at mocpa.org/womens-events!



Springfield Cardinals Game

July 30 | Springfield

Southwest Chapter members spent an afternoon at Hammons Field watching the Springfield Cardinals take on the Wichita Wind Surge. The outing included an all-inclusive picnic and plenty of time to connect with fellow members.





MERGER/ACQUISITION

Selling or Buying a Practice? Close This Year!

Accounting Practice Sales is the largest marketer of CPA firms in the United States with more than \$2 billion in practice sales. The reason? Proven success! Contact us to receive a FREE valuation of your practice or for a confidential, no obligation discussion of your situation at (888) 847-1040 x2 or Wade@APS.net. Featured listings for sale (gross revenues shown):

- Kansas City Tax & Accounting \$735k
- Warren County (CPA) \$598k
- Phelps County (CPA) \$495k
- South Kansas City (CPA) \$374k
- SE Kansas Tax & Accounting \$245k
- East of Kansas City (CPA) \$200k
- NE of Kansas Tax & Accounting \$151k

Recent sales:

- SOLD—St. Charles County (Accounting) \$215k
- SOLD—Franklin County (CPA) \$1,000,000
- SOLD—West Wichita (EA) \$350k
- SOLD—Wichita Area (CPA) \$587k
- SOLD—St. Louis VIRTUAL (CPA) \$214k
- SOLD—Boone County (CPA) \$792k
- SOLD—Suburb of St. Louis (Tax) \$800k
- SOLD—North of the River KC Metro (CPA) \$210k
- SOLD—Southeast MO (Tax) \$350k
- SOLD—Southeast MO (Tax) \$295k
- SOLD—Creve Coeur (CPA) \$280k
- SOLD—Springfield Area (CPA) \$247k
- SOLD—Southwest MO (EA) \$200k
- SOLD—South Springfield Metro (EA Owned) \$1,700,000
- SOLD—Leawood KS (CPA) \$400k
- SOLD—Western St. Louis (CPA) \$320k
- SOLD—East Jackson County (CPA) \$330k

For more information on available listings or to be notified when we have new opportunities for sale, please email Holmes@APS.net or visit www.APS.net.

Selling Your Firm in 2026?

Let's Talk!

Sell with confidence. Exit with ease. With over 34 years of combined experience, we know how to assist you in selling your firm with confidence. Our processes are proven, personalized and confidential, helping you find the "win-win" deal you are seeking.

As Certified Business Intermediaries, we are dedicated to providing a seamless experience, combining professional wisdom with a personal touch. Our brokers are the only Certified Business Intermediaries (CBI) specializing in the sale of CPA firms in the country. When you are ready to sell, we have the buyers, financing contacts and the experience to assist you with the successful sale of your firm! Contact us TODAY to take the first step! Current listings:

- North of KC, MO Gross \$590k (NEW)
- KC Metro-Jackson County, MO Gross \$400k (NEW)
- Lee's Summit, MO Gross \$214k (NEW)
- South St. Louis Gross \$1.275M (SALE PENDING)
- Springfield Area Gross \$975k (SALE PENDING)
- SE MO Gross \$1.5M (SALE PENDING)
- North Central, AR Gross \$465k (NEW)

Recently sold listings:

- Rural NW Missouri Audit & Tax Firm Gross \$560k
- St. Charles Gross \$1.4M
- St. Louis Gross \$932k
- St. Charles Gross \$470k
- South St. Louis Suburb Gross \$272k

Kathy Brents, CPA, CBI
Cell (501) 514-4928

Kathy@AccountingBizBrokers.com
www.AccountingBizBrokers.com

TAX CREDITS

Tax Credits Supporting Local Food

Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture has 50 percent state NAP tax credits for development of Columbia's Agriculture Park. Donations will equip the park's new Welcome Center to support Food As Medicine programs, a commercial kitchen supporting local farmers, youth gardening education, hunger relief, and beginning farmer training. Donations of stock and IRA distributions accepted to maximize tax benefits. Contact Billy Polansky at (573) 514-4174 or BillyP@ColumbiaUrbanAg.org.

Wonderland Camp has 70 Percent Missouri NAP Tax Credits Available

Tax credits are available for gifts to the Wonderland Waterpark, a new, fully accessible aquatic facility serving children and adults with disabilities from across Missouri. Gifts will replace the aging pool with a modern facility that improves safety, removes barriers and expands aquatic opportunities for generations to come. All gifts are matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact. Stock and IRA distribution gifts are welcomed. Contact Stephanie Fisher at (573) 392-1000 or stephanie@wonderlandcamp.org.



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Join your fellow CPAs for an evening of honoring those who have achieved major milestones and earned prestigious awards during the past year. Honorees will include: recent CPA exam passers, newly licensed CPAs, Impact Award winners, 35-year and 50-year members, MOCPA scholarship winners, MOCPA scholarship contributors and 100% MOCPA Membership companies. There will be two celebrations; attend whichever one is most convenient to you!

WESTERN REGION AWARDS CELEBRATION

WHEN: Thursday, November 5
5:00 - 7:45 p.m.

EASTERN REGION AWARDS CELEBRATION

Thursday, November 19
5:00 - 7:45 p.m.

WHERE: InterContinental—Kansas City River City Casino—St. Louis

For complete details, visit mocpa.org/awards-celebrations.