

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 8, 2005

Contact: Jennifer I. Curtin, MPA

Director of Public Affairs, AGA

410.430.1785

[jcurtin@agacgfm.org](mailto:jcurtin@agacgfm.org)

**Louisiana Approves Comprehensive Government Accounting Certification**

**AGA Examinations to Raise Standards in Government Accounting**

**Alexandria, VA** – Louisiana has become the latest state to recognize the Association of Government Accountants' (AGA) unique examination program for government financial managers. The Louisiana Board of Certified Public Accountants has approved the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) examinations, which aim to raise standards in government accounting and increase efficiency, which could ultimately save taxpayers money. Successful completion of the CGFM examinations will now count as continuing professional education (CPE) for CPAs in Louisiana.

The CGFM program is designed to improve standards in government accounting by equipping government employees with the expertise necessary to be successful in all levels of government. It is the only certification program available which is specifically designed to recognize the unique skills and special knowledge required of professionals who specialize in government financial management. Successful completion of the program gives government employees a competitive advantage and is evidence of advanced skills.

AGA's Immediate Past National President, Jullin Renthrope, CGFM, CPA, and Manager of New Orleans area Office of the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, said:

"We welcome the AGA's CGFM examinations as a useful educational tool for those in the government financial management sector, and believe such a certification will go a long way to raising standards in government accounting in Louisiana."

AGA's Executive Director, Relmond Van Daniker, welcomed the Louisiana Board's decision as an important move forward, saying,

"I am delighted that Louisiana has approved the CGFM examinations for CPE credit. We believe that the CGFM certification is a sign of superior financial management skills in the government workforce and will lead to improved government accountability.

He continued, "The CGFM is rapidly becoming the industry standard for government financial management professionals, and we look forward to its continued expansion to other states across the nation."

Since its inception in 1994, over 13,000 people have received the CGFM certification. Between 2002 and 2003 program years CGFM applications increased by 21 percent nationwide and the number CGFM examinations taken increased by 28 percent. In the same period, the number of individuals who earned the CGFM increased by 67 percent.

The Association of Government Accountants is a 15,000-member professional association. It is devoted to meeting the continuing professional education needs of financial managers at all levels of government, the private sector, and academia. For more information about the Association, or the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, call 800.AGA.7211, or visit our website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

###