Awards Program

Wednesday, February 24 | 12:25 p.m
- Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award
- William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award
- Excellence in Government Leadership Award

Thursday, February 25 | 12:25 p.m
- Elmer Staats Award
- Andy Barr Award
- Distinguished Federal Leadership Award
- National Collegiate Leadership Program
Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award
Local government professionals

Jay Poole, CPA, CIA, CFE, CGMA
City Auditor
Chesapeake, Virginia

Over the last 29 years, Jay made substantial contributions to the Chesapeake City Government through his work as city auditor. Jay also helped a sizable number of other local government entities in the U.S. and Canada establish, improve or preserve their audit functions. A nationally recognized speaker on local government audit issues, Jay completed two U.S. State Department speaker projects — one with a delegation from Afghanistan, and one in South Africa.

William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award
State government professionals

Meredith Barrieau
First Deputy Auditor
State of Massachusetts

In her efforts to professionalize and modernize the work of the Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor (OSA), Meredith has led by example. She demonstrates the values, integrity, and commitment to quality that have positioned the OSA as a national leader of government accountability.

Excellence in Government Leadership Award
State/local government professionals; honors cumulative career achievements

Deborah V. Loveless, CGFM, CPA, CGMA
Retired Director of the Division of State Audit
State of Tennessee

The mission of the Tennessee Comptroller’s Office is to make government work better. Deborah dedicated her 41-year government career to achieving this mission through both individual audit work and oversight of other audit staff as she progressed into management of the Division of State Audit. She also demonstrated her commitment to the profession through her involvement with the AICPA, AGA and ASPA, and her work with the NSAA and NIAF.
Elmer Staats Award
Federal professionals; honors cumulative career achievements

Brett M. Baker, Ph.D., CPA, CISA
Assistant Inspector General for Audit
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Through his exceptional leadership and sustained dedication to strengthening the oversight of federal expenditures, Brett’s service as chair of the Federal Audit Executive Committee and in other key positions in the Inspectors General community has resulted in significant improvements throughout the federal government. In particular, his leadership has resulted in dollar savings, most notably in grants management, data analytics, and federal auditing.

Andy Barr Award
Private sector professionals (federal government support); honors cumulative career achievements

Srikant K. Sastry, CGFM
Managing Principal, Advisory Services
Cherry Bekaert LLP

This honor is in recognition of Srikant outstanding, career-long contributions to promoting and supporting government that works better and costs less. Srikant’s effective leadership helped in driving cost management, developing diverse talent focused on improving government, and delivering innovative approaches to solve problems by leveraging policy, business, and technology best practices.

Distinguished Federal Leadership Award
Elected or presidentially appointed federal officials

Tom Harker, CPA
Acting Secretary of the Navy
Department of Defense

Tom is committed to protecting our nation’s security while maximizing taxpayer value for investments in the Armed Forces. He led the Department of the Navy through its first full financial statement audit and transformed its financial management processes. By reforming budgetary process and consolidating financial systems, he generated significant savings that were invested in military strength and readiness to support the National Defense Strategy.
Joshua Awoyera  
Accounting Major  
Morgan State University  
“My goals are to work on different government contracts that hybrid accounting and information systems that can be awarded.”

Rachael Bender  
Accounting and Business Administration Double Major  
Cameron University  
“I have found my place in this world through accounting. If the CGFM and CPA credentials define ultimate success in the accounting world, then that is what I will achieve.”

Melody Brown  
Accounting Major  
Cameron University  
“I would like to find a job at a respectable company that I will enjoy working for so that I can stay there for a long amount of time. This way, I can learn everything I can about the company and potentially even manage it.”

Austin Kays  
Accounting Major  
Missouri State University  
“My career aspirations currently are to find a job in Indianapolis with the DoD, while also finishing my MBA and pursuing certifications that could further my career in a general manner. Other possible job opportunities I would like to look at would be the FBI in some sort of agent status or forensic accounting.”
Seth Matthews  
Accounting and Finance Major  
Mississippi College  
“I aspire to work with governmental and non-governmental agencies that create opportunities for business growth in developing areas. I am eager to do this in both domestic and international settings.”

Tafadzwa Njanike  
Accounting Major  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
“I am an aspiring Certified Public Accountant with the determination to persist until I succeed and continue the legacy my dad left behind.”

Zachary Wages  
Accounting Major  
Bowie State University  
“My dream is to become a Certified Public Accountant. I am a self-motivated, passionate leader ready to inspire and influence the behavior of those after me to become future leaders in the accounting profession.”

Dominic Ryan Vince Cruz  
International Studies and Economics Double Major  
Washington College  
“I have a passion for research and learning, and I hope to apply to a research analyst position in a government agency. I love to learn and spread interesting knowledge that I believe is helpful to others.”
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