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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Inspectors General Challenged by Tight Budgets, Slow Government Hiring

**(ALEXANDRIA, VA – SEPTEMBER 21, 2015)** – Inspectors general continue to adapt more efficient approaches to their work despite feeling burdened by increasing mandates, according to “Accelerating Change: The 2015 Inspector General Survey,” released this week by AGA and Kearney & Company. Federal inspectors general anonymously answered 66 questions on topics including resource allocation, budget and operations, data analytics, cybersecurity and information security auditing. This year’s survey reflects changes occurring in the IG community – a community actively engaged in influencing change to enable them to fully execute authorities rooted in the Inspector General Act to provide efficient and effective oversight.

Survey findings include positive aspects of working together as well as some continued challenges:

- Conflicts in the perception of IGs’ authority to access information have mobilized the IG community to work together and share information, data and best practices.
- Uncertainty about how many resources the DATA Act will require and uneasiness about information security add to budget concerns—more than half of IGs surveyed said if they received additional resources, they’d direct them toward information security-related audits.
- 52% of IGs surveyed spend at least 20% of their audit resources on mandatory audits, while 13% spend at least 40% of their resources on mandatory audits. Smaller IG offices carry a disproportionate burden, having fewer resources but an equal base level of audit work.
- 45% of IGs say their number of staff has declined since FY 2012; meanwhile, mandates have expanded.
- 61% of IGs surveyed believe the current federal hiring process is lengthy and results in delays or requires significant reengineering, and only 25% believe the current hiring process fails to provide a sufficient pool of qualified candidates.

“There is positive change occurring in the IG community on a number of fronts,” said David M. Zavada, survey director and partner at Kearney. “While the survey again identified common themes relating to the budget, personnel and planning, there is a new energy in the community.”

AGA CEO Ann M. Ebberts also saw common trends. “The IGs suffer similar challenges as other financial managers, most notably the inability to hire qualified staff with specialized skill sets in a timely matter. This is consistent with the discussion we held with more than 100 federal, state and local financial management professionals at our national training event in Nashville in July.”

**About AGA:** AGA is *the* member organization for financial professionals in government. We lead and encourage change that benefits our field and all citizens. Our networking events, professional certification, publications and ongoing education help members build their skills and advance their careers.

**About Kearney & Company:** Kearney & Company is a Certified Public Accounting firm that provides auditing, accounting, and consulting services exclusively to the federal government. Headquartered in Alexandria, Va., Kearney provides industry-leading insight to its customers at all levels of federal operations.

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