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Call to New Accounting Graduates: Now is the Time To Begin Earning ACAT Tax and Accounting Credentials

ALEXANDRIA, VA, June 10, 2013 – As tempting as it might be for new accounting graduates to rest on their laurels, now is the time to start earning more advanced credentials to set themselves apart from a slew of new graduates.

A recent Yahoo! Education report noted that the average starting salary for an accountant is \$45,400, and the average mid-career salary is \$77,500.

The Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation (ACAT) offers these advanced credentials, which provide a competitive edge and help graduates jumpstart their careers to break into the accounting profession.

The window for registering for an ACAT exam, the first step in the accreditation process, extends through July 9, 2013. Those who register now have until Spring 2014 to take the exam, and also save the \$50 examination fee.

Accounting graduates seek accreditation from ACAT for a variety of reasons, including raising salary levels, earning professional recognition, and achieving a competitive advantage. ACAT assists and supports credential seekers through education and testing programs.

ACAT accreditation provides evidence to clients, prospective clients, employers and the public that the accredited professional has met national standards and has a mastery of accounting and taxation procedures and practices.

The credentials ACAT offers are pursued by accounting professionals at all levels ranging from recent accounting graduates and practitioners just entering the accounting profession to more experienced accountants.

The Accredited Business Accountant® (ABA) is ACAT's designation for accreditation in accountancy. The ABA is a prestigious professional accounting credential that demonstrates to clients, potential clients and employers that the

credential holder has a thorough knowledge and proficiency in financial accounting, financial reporting, financial statement preparation, taxation, managerial accounting, business law, and ethics for small- to medium-sized businesses.

The examination for the ABA is a two-part 200-question exam that tests the technical proficiency of candidates in financial accounting, financial reporting, financial statement preparation, taxation, business consulting services, business law and ethics. Emphasis is placed on a practical approach to public accounting.

The Accredited Tax Preparer® (ATP) is a leading national credential for tax practitioners who have a thorough knowledge of the existing tax code and preparation of individual tax returns with an expertise in comprehensive 1040 issues including supporting schedules, self-employed returns, and ethics.

The examination to earn the ATP credential is a 100 multiple-choice question examination that tests proficiency in taxation and ethics.

The Accredited Tax Advisor® (ATA) is a premier national tax credential for practitioners who handle sophisticated tax planning issues, including planning for owners of closely held businesses, planning for the highly compensated, choosing qualified retirement plans, and performing estate tax planning. The 100-question ATA exam covers tax returns for individuals, business entities, fiduciaries, trusts and estates, as well as tax planning, tax consulting and ethics.

Study courses and other resources to prepare for ACAT exams are available from the National Society of Accountants (NSA), which is affiliated with ACAT.

For more information, visit www.acatcredentials.org and www.nsacct.org.

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ACAT is an independent accrediting and monitoring organization affiliated with the National Society of Accountants (NSA). ACAT accredits professionals in independent practice who have demonstrated measurable knowledge of the principles, practices, and ethical standards of accounting, taxation, information technology and related financial services. For more information, visit www.acatcredentials.org. For information about NSA, visit www.nsacct.org.