



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACAT Elects New Officers and Directors

WASHINGTON, DC, October 11, 2016 – The Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation (ACAT) named new officers and directors to its 2016-17 Board of Directors.

Virginia Bruns, CPA, EA, ABA, ATA, ATP, ARA of Big Lake, MN, is the new President. She began her term at the National Society of Accountants (NSA) 71st Annual Convention in Tampa, FL.

ACAT is an independent accrediting and monitoring organization affiliated with NSA. It 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.

Bruns, who was previously Vice President of ACAT and served as the NSA Administrative Chair of Education, holds all four credentials offered by ACAT, which include:

- **ABA Accredited Business Accountant® (ABA)** – For practitioners who specialize in the financial accounting, financial reporting, financial statement preparation, taxation, business consulting services, business law, and ethics for small-to-medium-sized businesses and in financial services to individuals and family.

- **Accredited Tax Advisor® (ATA)** – For practitioners who can 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. Their expertise covers tax returns for individuals, business entities, fiduciaries, trusts and estates, as well as tax planning, tax consulting and ethics.
- **Accredited Tax Preparer® (ATP)** – For practitioners who have a thorough knowledge of the existing tax code and the preparation of individual tax returns. Their expertise covers comprehensive 1040 issues (including supporting schedules, self-employed returns, etc.) and ethics.
- **Accredited Retirement Advisor® (ARA)** – For practitioners who have expertise in preparing their clients for retirement; the essentials of estate and trust planning and choosing appropriate retirement plans.

Tax and accounting professionals earn their credentials through a combination of experience and passing a credentialing exam.

Carla Rich of Pensacola, FL was also elected as ACAT Vice President/Educator. She was previously an ACAT Board member.

Two new ACAT Board members were also installed at the NSA Annual Meeting, including:

- Cynthia Hunt, EA, ATA of Huntsville, AL – She previously served as governor of District VI for four years on the NSA Board of Governors and was the NSA State Director of the Year in 2010.
- Brian Thompson, CPA of Little Rock, AR – He also serves on the Board as NSA First Vice President.

Other ACAT officers and directors continuing their terms on the Board of Directors include:

- Secretary/Treasurer Christine Giovetti, CPA, ABA, ATA, ARA of Catonsville, MD.
- Director Michael P. Salazar, CPA, EA, ABA of Augusta, GA.
- Director Joe Santoro, CPA, ABA, CVA of Wolfeboro, NH.

- Director Lawrence Walkden, EA, ATA, ABA, ARA of Monroe, WA.
- Public Director Peter M. Berkery, Jr., JD, CFP of New York, NY.

For more information about ACAT, visit www.acatcredentials.org or call 888-289-7763.

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