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NASBA and AICPA to Re-issue Exposure Draft on Proposed Revisions to Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Provider Standards

Additional Public Comment Sought Through April 30, 2016

NASHVILLE and NEW YORK (February 2, 2016) – The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) today re-issue their Exposure Draft on the proposed revisions to the [Statement on Standards for Continuing Professional Education \(CPE\) Programs](#) (*Standards*) for public comment. Published jointly by NASBA and the AICPA, the *Standards* provide a framework for the development, presentation, measurement and reporting of CPE programs.

The *Standards* Exposure Draft was initially open for comment April 2015-October 2015. The 2015 comment period resulted in a total of fifty-one (51) comment letters received from sources including CPE providers, licensed practitioners, CPA Firms, State Boards of Accountancy, and State CPA Societies. The areas receiving the most significant comment included the proposed addition of two new instructional delivery methods for CPE; nano-learning and blended learning. Additional stakeholder comments addressed program evaluations, CPE credit for technical reviewers, purchasing content from other entities, application of the word count formula in determining the CPE credit for self study and changes to the terminology of group internet-based program.

"We appreciate those individuals and organizations that took the time to provide their comments to the initial Exposure Draft and for the hard work of the CPE Committee and CPE Working Group in reviewing and addressing those comments," said [Maria Caldwell, Esq.](#), NASBA's chief legal officer and director of compliance services. "The new nano-learning and blended learning delivery methods remain a part of the re-exposure draft and will help address the need for learning that is more personalized and on demand. We believe the revisions to the *Standards* have been enhanced by the most recent round of changes and will help keep CPE relevant and meaningful to CPAs," Caldwell continued.

All submitted comments were first vetted by the CPE Standards Working Group in November 2015. In December 2015, the Working Group submitted its recommendation to NASBA's CPE Committee for consideration. The recommendation was approved by the CPE Committee with minor revisions and was moved to the Joint AICPA/NASBA CPE Standards Committee where it was approved with one revision in early January 2016. Due to the significance of the areas of comment, the final recommendation was submitted to request approval for re-exposure of the proposed revisions to the *Standards*. The re-issuance was approved by the NASBA and AICPA Boards of Directors during their respective January 2016 meetings.

“These proposed revisions to CPE standards take advantage of a range of available learning options and provide CPAs greater opportunities and increased flexibility in their professional education. This revised Exposure Draft makes clear that all CPE, regardless of delivery method, will continue to be held to a rigorous standard,” said [Clar Rosso](#), AICPA vice president of member learning and competency. “Feedback from our stakeholders plays a valuable role in the CPE standards process and we encourage all interested parties to review the updated Exposure Draft and submit their comments.”

Comment Period

Interested parties are encouraged to download and review the [CPE Standards Exposure Draft, Executive Summary and Fields of Study Description](#) or visit, <http://www.aicpa.org/CPEAndConferences/CPERequirements/Pages/CPERequirements.aspx> to learn more.

Public comments will be accepted through **April 30, 2016**. Final approval on the proposed revisions will be requested by the NASBA and AICPA Boards at their respective July and August 2016 meetings, with an anticipated effective date to the *Standards* of **September 1, 2016**. Additional information about the *Standards* is also available on NASBA’s [LearningMarket.org](#) website.

About NASBA

Celebrating more than 100 years of service, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) serves as a forum for the nation’s Boards of Accountancy, which administer the Uniform CPA Examination, regulate more than 700,000 certified public accountants and oversee the practice of public accountancy in the United States.

NASBA’s mission is to enhance the effectiveness and advance the common interests of the Boards of Accountancy in meeting their regulatory responsibilities. The Association promotes the exchange of information among accountancy boards, serving the needs of the 55 U.S. jurisdictions.

NASBA is headquartered in Nashville, TN, with satellite offices in New York, NY, and San Juan, PR, and an International Computer Testing and Call Center in Guam. To learn more about NASBA, visit www.nasba.org.

About the AICPA

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) is the world’s largest member association representing the accounting profession, with more than 412,000 members in 144 countries, and a history of serving the public interest since 1887. AICPA members represent many areas of practice, including business and industry, public practice, government, education and consulting.

The AICPA sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for private companies, nonprofit organizations, federal, state and local governments. It develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination, and offers specialty credentials for CPAs who concentrate on personal financial planning; forensic accounting; business valuation; and information management and technology assurance. Through a joint venture with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), it has established the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation which sets a new standard for global recognition of management accounting.

The AICPA maintains offices in New York, Washington, DC, Durham, NC, and Ewing, NJ. Media representatives are invited to visit the AICPA Press Center at aicpa.org/press.