NASBA

STATE ♦ BOARD ♦ REPORT

A Digest of Current Developments Affecting State Accountancy Regulation

Summer 2026

Key Takeaways from NASBA's 2026 Regional Meetings

This June, Board of Accountancy representatives and NASBA leaders gathered in Puerto Rico and Utah for NASBA's 2026 Regional Meetings. From private equity and professional mobility to the UAA and CPA Exam, attendees explored the issues shaping accountancy regulation and NASBA's work in support of its member boards. Read more on page 2.

IN THIS EDITION

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Key Takeaways from NASBA's 2026 Regional Meetings

NASBA members gathered this summer for the 2026 Eastern and Western Regional Meetings, held June 9–11 in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, and June 23–25 in Park City, Utah. Across both meetings, discussions focused on the regulatory issues, trends in the profession and emerging challenges facing State Boards of Accountancy.

Private equity and alternative practice structures remained a major topic. NASBA's Private Equity Task Force continues to examine these developments, with particular attention to auditor independence and the authority boards already have under their statutes and rules. The task force is developing recommendations that will offer jurisdictions a range of policy options while supporting greater consistency across states.

NASBA also launched the External Relationships Assessment (ERA) Task Force to review the organization's partnerships and ensure they continue to serve NASBA's mission and member boards.
A session on Puerto Rico's audit process and time-stamping requirements gave attendees a closer look at how the jurisdiction approaches audit oversight. The discussion provided another example of how regional meetings can help boards compare practices and learn from one another.

New Board Member Orientation is offered to all new state board members.

Meeting attendees participate in round table discussions.

Members of the Alabama Board of Accountancy attend the regional breakouts.

On the legislative front, pathways and mobility continue to move forward. Research from the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) reinforced an important point: when voters understand what licensing boards do, support for deregulation decreases. The research also underscored the importance of tailoring messages to different audiences.

Kent Absec of NASBA and James Cox of the AICPA opened discussions on the 10th edition of the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA). Boards voiced strong support for the UAA and its role in promoting consistency across jurisdictions and supporting effective regulation. Participants also expressed broad support for CPA title use, greater uniformity among jurisdictions and development of a common definition of the practice of public accountancy.

On the CPA Exam, CPA Evolution is showing positive results, with volumes and pass rates rebounding in 2025. Boards expressed interest in more detailed Exam data and additional tools to help explain changes to candidates and educators.

Other informative sessions addressed continuing professional education, private-company financial reporting, international relationships and jurisdiction-specific regulatory practices.

The Western Regional Meeting also welcomed participants from the 2026 StudentCPT Leadership Conference. Hosted annually by the NASBA Center for the Public Trust, the conference attracted 56 student leaders representing 29 colleges and universities. During the 2-day conference, students had the opportunity to network with NASBA membership and staff, participate in an ethics-based case study competition and hear from speakers covering topics ranging from ethical leadership and team building to networking. NASBA thanks all attendees for their engagement and support of this year's meetings.

Participants of the 2026 StudentCPT Leadership Conference gather in Utah.

PRESIDENT'S MEMO

Fundamental Frequency

by Daniel J. Dustin, CPA, President & CEO

No matter the weddings you attend or karaoke nights you're dragged to, there's no escaping the infamous power ballad or memorable rafter-raising solo anthem. (My go-to standard, if you must know, is Rush's "Tom Sawyer" and, as an encore, "The Spirit of Radio.") Those big vocal moments, from Queen's "Somebody toLove" to Aerosmith's "Dream On," are celebrated for good reason. They stir the audience and transport us. At a concert, they're often the moments most eagerly anticipated, with perhaps less attention being paid to the supporting cast behind them. This is a pity.Because while the soloist may initiate the experience, it's the ebb and flow of sound from the larger group that actually moves an audience. There are, it seems, scientific reasons for this. When voices come together, individual imperfections blend into a more stable, powerful sound—something called "pitch averaging."

Another concept I like is called, charmingly, "choral warmth." Apparently, singing groups shift acoustic energy downward into what's known as a "fundamental frequency." While soloists achieve sharper peaks, fundamental frequencies favor a richer, deeper layer of sound. We feel the vibrations more because of choral warmth and the space a band occupies. The result is something a solo singer cannot replicate. In other words: The soloist may get us going, but it's the group that gets us somewhere.

This July, NASBA kicked off an External Relations Assessment (ERA) Task Force. The acronym is no accident. If you've read 100 Years of NASBA, a book which chronicles NASBA's history, you know that NASBA's early days bear little resemblance to how it operates now. The organization has not only matured since 1908, but its mission has expanded, and so have its relationships. But do we know how those relationships have changed? More importantly, do we know how they should evolve from here? Like a good marriage, have our partners remained mindful of us and we of them? Do we still want the best for each other, and how do we avoid the detachment, negligence, or "take-for-grantedness" that puts any relationship—and its mutual benefits—at risk?

At the end of the day, NASBA is an organization defined by relationships. And increasingly I'm convinced our particular "choral warmth" is what makes us effective. Within our partnerships, yes, but more importantly—and because of those partnerships—for our members and to the public we are dedicated to protecting. That doesn't mean we can't have disagreements or make mistakes. But strong relationships help us work through them. If we as regulators occupy a solid, collective place in the rooms we enter, we can, like a musical group, transform them—even a tough crowd. Given the wariness that can sometimes greet regulators, we can never forget that choosing the humbler "band" over the attention-getting soloist can make us better understood, more influential and better able to further our common cause.

The ERA Task Force is taking a fresh look at NASBA's external relationships to ensure they continue to support our mission and create value for our member boards. It's identifying the best positioned people to give us candid insights and shaping the questions that will surface them. As we did with the Diagnostic process, we're not shying away from the hard questions. Asking them gives us a better-informed path forward and makes us less likely to backtrack later.

You may have noticed this same spirit in our recent reworking of the mutual recognition agreement (MRA) with Canada, where a candid and timely outreach helped move an important partnership forward. NASBA has also begun exploring the concept of international membership categories that would provide a structured framework for engagement with peer regulatory bodies outside the United States. The proposal being discussed would include both affiliate and full membership categories, recognizing that not every regulatory relationship is the same. The intent is not membership growth for its own sake, but to create appropriate pathways for collaboration, information sharing and engagement that strengthen NASBA's ability to serve its member boards. Or, to keep with our musical metaphor, these relationships can help broaden the perspectives that inform our work and strengthen the collective voice of the boards we serve.

When we announced the ERA Task Force at the 2026 Regional Meetings, several people approached me after to say this was a good project and a timely one. There is a real energy within NASBA and its wider community, to examine things with fresh eyes and pursue the "responsible reinvention" described at last year's Annual Meeting.

In these and other areas, NASBA has heard the solo note that's inspired us to start moving. Now comes the shared work of turning that first note into something larger, richer, and more enduring.

Daniel J. Dustin, CPA
NASBA President and CEO

Meet the Nominees:
Introducing NASBA's 2026-2027 Slate

In accordance with Article VII, Sections 7.2 and 7.3, and Article IV, Section 4.5, of NASBA's Bylaws, the 2025-2026 NASBA Nominating Committee, under the leadership of Chair Maria Caldwell (FL), has unveiled its recommended slate of 2026-2027 officer and director nominees to be voted on by the member Boards of Accountancy at NASBA's Annual Business Meeting on October 27, 2026. Congratulations to this year's nominees.

Chair

- Katrina Salazar (CA – Associate)

Vice Chair

- J. Andy Bonner (TN – Delegate)

Directors-at-Large (three-year term)

(second term)	Alison Houck Andrew (DE – Associate)
(first term)	Timothy Egan (CT – Delegate)
(first term)	Dan Vuckovich (MT – Associate)

Regional Directors (one-year term), A regional director may serve three one-year terms.

(third term)	Central	Melissa Ruff (NE – Delegate)
(third term)	Great Lakes	Thuy Barron (WI – Delegate)
(first term)	Middle Atlantic	Dale Mullen (VA – Delegate)
(first term)	Mountain	Terri Herron (MT – Delegate)
(first term)	Northeast	Edward David (NH – Delegate)
(first term)	Pacific	Kate Dixon (WA – Delegate)
(first term)	Southeast	Michael Bryant (TN – Delegate)
(first term)	Southwest	Shane Warrick (AR – Delegate)

The following board members will continue to serve for the balance of their unexpired terms. At-large directors may serve two three-year terms. For purposes of Bylaws Section 4.5.7 compliance, an at-large director's status as a delegate or associate is based upon their status when elected.

Directors-at-Large (second year of three-year term)

- (first term) Steven Platau (FL – Delegate)
- (first term) Laurie Warwick (VA – Associate)
- (second term) Katrina Salazar's unexpired term

Directors-at-Large (third year of three-year term)

- (first term) J. Andy Bonner's unexpired term
- (first term) Jason Peery (ID – Delegate)
- (first term) Michael Schmitz (ND – Associate)

Past Chair

Nicola Neilon (NV – Associate) will accede to the office of past chair upon the installation of Salazar as chair.


Katrina Salazar


J. Andy Bonner, Jr.


Nicola Neilon


Alison Houck Andrew


Thuy Barron

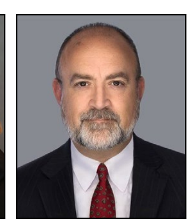

Michael Bryant


Edward David


Kate Dixon


Timothy Egan


Terri Herron

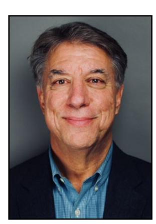

Dale Mullen

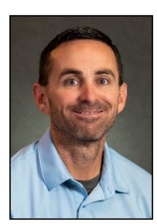

Jason Peery


Steven Platau


Melissa Ruff


Michael Schmitz


Dan Vuckovich


Shane Warrick


Laurie Warwick

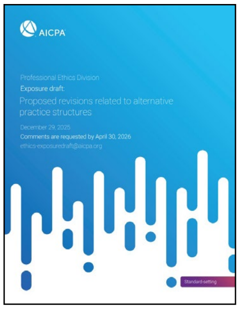
NASBA and State Boards Respond to PEEC

State Boards of Accountancy, along with NASBA, provided tremendous response to the AICPA's Professional Ethics Executive Committee (PEEC) Exposure Draft: ***Proposed Revisions related to Alternative Practice Structures (APS).*** Of the 81 comment letters PEEC received on the exposure draft, over a third of them came from NASBA and the state boards. The common themes in the NASBA and state board letters were that independence in appearance was not sufficiently addressed and the exposure draft was overly complex to be applied and enforced consistently.

After considering the comment letters to the exposure draft, the PEEC APS Task Force presented its recommendations at the PEEC meeting on August 4-5, 2026, which has resulted in a re-write of the exposure draft.

Some of the key changes to the proposed revised interpretation include:

- Significant influence or control by an investor over a closely aligned entity prohibits all attest services to any entity within the investor's structure, regardless of materiality.
- An investor with control is automatically a network firm. Cooperation is no longer a precondition.
- "Closely aligned entity" replaces"non-attest entity" for broader applicability to address the attest firm's dependency on another entity rather than whether the entity performs non-attest professional services.
- Expands the "investor" definition to broaden who qualifies, including investment funds, general partners and investment advisers.



PEEC will continue deliberations on the proposed revised interpretation and will convene a special meeting in October with an expected vote on releasing a second exposure draft with a 120-day public comment period. Should the anticipated dates hold true, this would give interested parties until approximately mid-February 2027 to comment on the second exposure draft.

NASBA encourages state boards to once again be active in responding to this important issue. Your voice does make a difference. NASBA is committed to helping state boards get the information they need to respond to the second exposure draft.

NASBot Puts CPA Exam Answers Within Reach

Am I eligible to sit for the CPA Exam? What do I need to complete my application? Where can I find information about the Exam process? These are common questions posed by CPA Exam candidates as part of their journey to licensure. Now, finding answers to these common questions, and countless others, is easier with NASBot, NASBA's new virtual assistant.

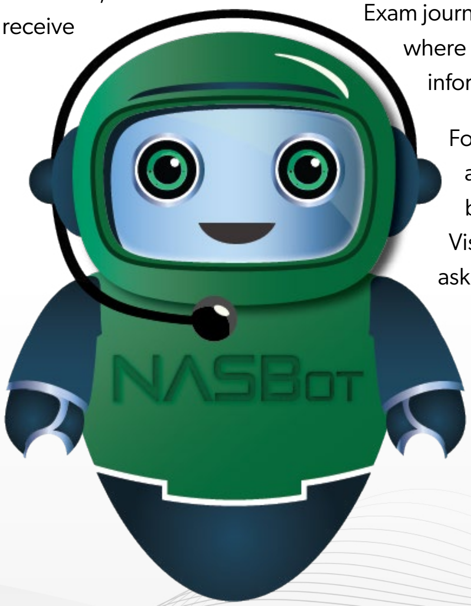
Recently launched for public use, NASBot provides CPA Exam candidates a convenient way to access trusted information about eligibility, applications and the CPA Exam process. Rather than navigating multiple webpages to locate the right resource, candidates can now ask NASBot a question and receive an immediate response sourced directly from NASBA, helping ensure greater accuracy and responsiveness.

NASBot is available 24 hours a day through NASBA.org and the CPA Mobile App, putting information within reach whenever questions arise—whether a candidate is just beginning the application process, preparing for an upcoming Exam section or checking details after hours.

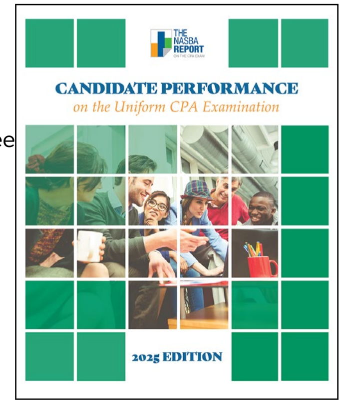
One important feature sets NASBot apart from general-purpose artificial intelligence tools: the information it uses. NASBot does not search the public internet to formulate its responses. Instead, it references only NASBA-owned and NASBA-approved content. This focused approach is designed to provide candidates with responses that are accurate, consistent and aligned with official NASBA guidance.

The launch also reflects NASBA's ongoing efforts to make the CPA Exam journey easier to navigate by meeting candidates where they are and helping them connect with the information they need more efficiently.

For candidates, that can mean less time searching and more time focusing on the next step toward becoming a CPA. Have a CPA Exam question? Visit NASBA.org or open the CPA Mobile App and ask NASBot today.



Explore the Numbers Behind CPA Exam Success



The newly released *NASBA Report: Candidate Performance on the Uniform CPA Examination – 2025 Edition* takes readers inside the numbers, offering a comprehensive look at emerging trends and candidate outcomes across jurisdictions and institutions.

Featuring statistical data from all four CPA Exam testing quarters of 2025, the publication covers each of the three Core sections — Auditing and Attestation (AUD), Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) and Taxation and Regulation (REG) — as well as the three Discipline sections: Business Analysis and Reporting (BAR), Information Systems and Controls (ISC) and Tax Compliance and Planning (TCP).

The report provides jurisdiction-level performance summaries, including the number of sections taken, number of unique candidates, average candidate age and pass rates. Readers can also explore university statistics, performance data for the top 20 international countries based on candidate-reported home addresses, and jurisdiction rankings across key performance measures. Section descriptions are also included to explain each view and provide context for the reported metrics.

BY THE NUMBERS

NASBA Report: Candidate Performance on the Uniform CPA Examination – 2025 Edition

87,660	36,590	23,978
Total Candidates	First Time Candidates	Final Section Passed

Top Three Jurisdiction Pass Rates

NEBRASKA	UTAH	KANSAS
64.7%	62.4%	61.8%

NASBA has gathered CPA Examination candidate data since 1982 and published reports on candidate performance and selected characteristics since 1985. The annual publication continues that tradition by providing Boards of Accountancy, the academic community and the accounting profession with a valued resource for understanding CPA Examination performance and trends.

Questions about the 2025 Edition and other candidate performance products may be directed to cpb@nasba.org. The book is available in softback for $300. Order your copy at NASBAreport.com.

Griesbeck and Hart Receive TSCPA Honors

NASBA congratulates two of its members, John Griesbeck (TN) and Amelia Hart (TN), who were recently honored as 2026 TSCPApex Award recipients by the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA).

Presented during TSCPA's 95th Annual Meeting and Convention, held June 9–12, in Isle of Palms, South Carolina, the TSCPApex Awards recognize accounting professionals whose leadership, service, innovation and commitment are making a meaningful impact on the profession.

Griesbeck, of Reynolds, Bone and Griesbeck, PLC, received the 2026 TSCPApex Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes a TSCPA member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, made significant contributions to the accounting profession and established an outstanding record of service to the society and local community.

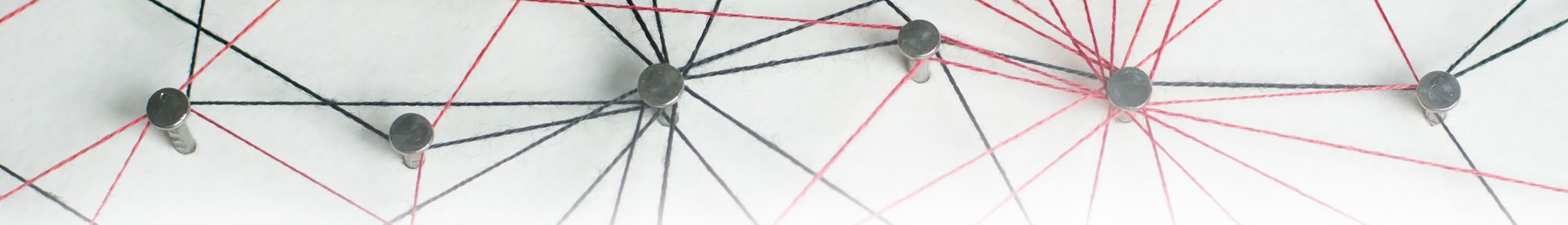
Amelia Hart, associate professor of practice in the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, received the 2026 TSCPApex Women to Watch–Experienced Leader Award. The award recognizes accomplished women whose leadership and contributions are helping shape the accounting profession.


John Griesbeck


Dr. Amelia Hart

As members of the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy, Griesbeck, a resident of Memphis, represents West Tennessee as a CPA member and currently serves as board chair, while Hart, also a CPA member, represents East Tennessee and is a resident of Knoxville.

Their honors reflect the many ways NASBA members contribute to the profession and to their respective jurisdictions — through regulatory service, education, leadership and a commitment to the public interest.



Looking Ahead:
NASBA's Strategic Planning Progresses

NASBA's strategic planning work is moving into a new phase as the organization narrows a broad range of ideas into a more focused set of priorities for the years ahead. The accounting profession and regulatory environment continue to change, and this work is about making sure NASBA evolves alongside them and stays useful to the boards it serves. Members can expect to hear more about that direction at NASBA's Annual Meeting in October, including the major themes taking shape and how the organization plans to move from strategy into implementation.

Several broad themes are emerging from the work, including strengthening NASBA's support for state boards, helping members anticipate and respond to regulatory issues, improving tools and services, and ensuring the organization's governance and operations are aligned with future needs.

Those priorities are the product of an extensive process that began with a broad organizational diagnostic. The diagnostic included more than 100 hours of interviews with NASBA board members, senior staff and individuals connected to 90 percent of NASBA's member boards. It was designed to give an honest, outside-in look at what is working well and where the organization should focus. That work was followed by a six-month phase in which member and staff task forces generated and explored new ideas.

The task forces explored opportunities across six areas: brand identity; meetings; communications and engagement; internal operations; governance; and deregulation. Hundreds of ideas were generated through that process and then consolidated and prioritized into a more concentrated group of potential strategic initiatives.

The current focus is on refining those ideas and determining what they would require in practice. That includes evaluating priorities through the lens of staffing, budget, timing and implementation so the eventual strategic plan can serve as a practical guide for decision-making.

Following the Annual Meeting, NASBA will begin developing a formal five-year strategic roadmap. Additional updates will follow as priorities are finalized and implementation begins.

Advancing the Profession Through Research:
2026 Grant Recipients Announced

Three research teams representing four U.S. universities were recently named recipients of NASBA's 2026 Accounting Education Research Grants. Collectively, their research will advance knowledge of audit quality, explore the impact of private equity investment in accounting and address how the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in financial reporting affects audit risk.

The 2026 grant recipients include:

Virginia Commonwealth University — Aarati Nepal, doctoral student, and Lindsay Andiola, CPA, Ph.D., associate professor, received $6,770 for their study, Audit Client Inquiry: The Effects of Generative AI and Auditor Rank on the Client's Persuasive Communication. Their research will examine how generative AI influences communication between audit clients and auditors, with findings expected to help firms strengthen auditor skepticism and develop new training and review practices.

University of Connecticut — Tuan Doan, Steven Utke, Ph.D., Ying Zhou, Ph.D., and Youli Zou, Ph.D., received $14,115 for The Consequences of Private Equity Investment in Accounting. The team's study will explore how private equity investment is reshaping accounting firms, including its effects on growth, talent acquisition, mergers and acquisitions, audit quality, operational efficiency and profitability, providing timely insights for the profession and regulators.

Alabama A&M University and Grambling State University — Joseph Reid, Ph.D., and Kelley Duncanson, Ph.D., of Alabama A&M University, and Cynthia Lloyd, Ph.D., J.D., CPA, of Grambling State University, received $14,115 for Client-Side AI Adoption and Financial Statement Audit Quality: An Empirical Investigation of How AI in Client Financial Reporting Processes Affects Audit Risk. Their research will investigate how organizations' use of AI influences audit risk, audit quality and auditor decisionmaking, helping inform future auditing practices, AI-related continuing professional education (CPE), and regulatory policy.

Established in 2011 and spearheaded by the NASBA Education Committee, the grant program supports research that advances accounting education and helps educators, regulators and practitioners navigate a rapidly evolving profession. Approximately $325,000 in academic research funding has been awarded nationwide since the program's inception.

The 2027 Call for Proposals is open now through March 3, 2027 (11:59 p.m. CT). Applicants must be affiliated with a U.S. academic institution. Suggested research interest areas include Artificial Intelligence (AI), Private Equity (PE), Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours and the CPA Pipeline. Post-doctoral researchers and professors seeking funding are encouraged to submit grant proposals for consideration prior to the deadline. The 2027 grant recipients will be announced in summer 2027.

For additional information, including a full program description, eligibility requirements, research topics and details on past recipients, visit: https://nasba.org/education/researchgrants/. For questions regarding the program, email: grantproposal@nasba.org.

NASBA Launches Young Professionals Advisory Council to Elevate the Voice of Emerging CPAs

NASBA has launched the CPT Young Professionals Advisory Council (CYPAC), a new initiative designed to bring the perspectives of emerging professionals directly into conversations about the future of the accounting profession.

CYPAC was established to provide NASBA and its member boards with insight into the experiences, expectations and challenges facing emerging accounting professionals. The council will serve as a strategic advisory body focused on advancing the relevance and accessibility of the CPA pipeline while supporting its long-term sustainability.

The creation of CYPAC grew from a key finding in the NASBA diagnostic report: "The people currently dictating the future of accountancy are not the people who will be in the workforce in the next 10 years." NASBA Board Chair Nicola Neilon and NASBA President and CEO Daniel Dustin proposed creating a mechanism to address that challenge, and NASBA Center for the Public Trust (CPT) President Sedrik Newbern developed the concept into the Young Professionals Advisory Council.

By leveraging CPT alumni and other emerging professionals, CYPAC creates a direct connection between young professionals and NASBA leadership. The council's charge encompasses five key areas: identifying challenges facing emerging professionals; recommending strategies to strengthen the CPA pipeline; providing insight into the impact of regulatory and licensure policies; supporting NASBA strategic initiatives; and strengthening communication between young professionals and NASBA's member boards.

Members will provide insight reports to NASBA leadership, serve as a focus group for proposed policies, participate in select board and committee meetings, represent NASBA at campus and early career events, and have opportunities for one-on-one mentoring with NASBA board members.

The inaugural council includes William Carpenter, Sam Chappin, Ben Epperson, Alyssa Hudson, Reese Rogers, Ashley Root and Lane Shaw, representing different organizations, career paths and stages of the CPA journey.

The value of CYPAC was evident during its first meeting in July, when members identified opportunities to engage future CPAs earlier and highlighted communication gaps between NASBA and CPA candidates. That type of immediate, candid feedback represents exactly what CYPAC was created to provide.

The launch of the CYPAC represents an important investment in both the future of the CPA profession and the emerging leaders who will shape it.

By creating a seat at the table for young professionals today, NASBA is helping ensure that the next generation of leaders has a meaningful voice in decisions impacting the profession they will one day lead.