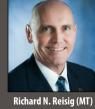
NASBA STATE BOARD REPORT

A Digest of Current Developments Affecting State Accountancy Regulation

Fall 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-22



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PERSEVERE



114th Annual Meeting Attracts Over 500

NASBA's 114th Annual Meeting returned to the virtual stage for the second consecutive year amid continued COVID-19 concerns. The two-day meeting, held via Zoom November 2-3, 2021, attracted a record total attendance of 519 state board representatives and stakeholders, representing 54 U.S. jurisdictions.

Following the theme "Persevere," the meeting featured a variety of plenary sessions, leadership updates and opportunities for NASBA members to engage and discuss emerging topics. Chief among the topics discussed include CPA Evolution, CPA Exam and Pipeline as presented by NASBA Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Colleen Conrad and AICPA Vice President - Examinations and Pipeline Michael Decker; Achieving Diversity, Equity and Inclusion featuring NABA President & CEO Guylaine Saint Juste and NASBA Chief Ethics and Diversity Officer Alfonzo Alexander; Enhancing Board Resources led by members of NASBA's Peer Review Compliance Committee and Innovations in the EY Internship and Education Program featuring Ellen Glazerman, ED, Ernst & Young Foundation and Americas Director, University Relations of EY.

In his State of NASBA address, NASBA President and Chief Executive Officer Ken L. Bishop thanked governance volunteers and staff for making the Association's success possible and assured Annual Meeting attendees that even with business disruptions including a reduction in CPA Examination candidates entering and progressing through the CPA Pipeline, NASBA is strong, more viable and will continue to persevere, as the Association works to fulfill its mission during a global pandemic.

President Bishop cited several organizational achievements in his presentation, including:

- Maintained stakeholder relationships
- Adopted a new Strategic Plan
- Broadened infrastructure investments
- Began implementation of CPA Evolution
- Enhanced focus on diversity, equity and inclusion
- Dedicated staff and resources to address CPA Pipeline issues
- Focus on reduction of technical debt over next few years
- Implemented enhanced security training for staff
- Acquired new membership data platform

He concluded his address by emphasizing the significance of making CPA Pipeline a high priority, reminding attendees that "becoming a CPA remains a promising career opportunity." He also challenged regulators and members of the profession to "embrace changes to attract students with an interest in artificial intelligence, information technology and to "do more to educate students on the potential of the professional CPA career."

NASBA leadership remains optimistic that the 115th Annual Meeting will be held in-person, October 30 – November 2, 2022, in San Diego, CA. ◆

Candidate Performance Book Publication Paused

In a statement recently issued to Boards of Accountancy and members of the academic community, NASBA announced that due to the necessary and important focus on bringing CPA Evolution to fruition, NASBA has ceased publishing the *Candidate Performance on the Uniform CPA Examination* publication until this important transition is completed. This is effective with the 2020 edition forward. Significant changes to reflect the new exam and licensure structure are underway to the National Candidate Database, plus other NASBA systems and platforms.

The new CPA Exam core plus discipline structure also brings additional complexity to the publication format and data to be provided.

Quarterly reports will continue to be provided to each Board of Accountancy, and it is anticipated that annual summaries will also be made available. As always, accountancy boards may also continue to reach out to NASBA for additional information on an ad hoc basis. Publications through 2019 remain available on our website, <u>www.nasbareport.com</u>, for interested third parties.

For more information regarding this change, <u>CLICK HERE</u> to view Candidate Performance Book FAQs. ♦

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CHAIR'S MEMO

Rebooting and Returning to Basics

I know that I have big shoes to fill in succeeding Chair Carlos Barrera and Past Chair Laurie Tish as they have done an outstanding job leading NASBA through the pandemic. I look forward to working closely with you and your boards as we continue to move through uncharted territory. And I am confident that this time next year, we will feel proud about what we have accomplished to strengthen the regulation of the profession.

Two years ago, I never would have imagined being the third chair to lead NASBA through a hybrid year of virtual meetings. My hope is for NASBA to transition back to live meetings next year.

I am extremely proud of what the NASBA staff, board members and you, the volunteers, have accomplished during the pandemic to ensure timely, effective communications while working through many important matters such as NOCLAR, CPA Evolution and continuing to ensure that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion remain in our focus.

As more than 650,000 licensees throughout the country, and throughout the world, reboot their professional lives under the always changing "New Normal," there are procedures that we must follow in order to protect



W. Michael Fritz Chair 2021-22

the public. Likewise, state boards will need to reconsider the crucial elements of operation, in this new and challenging regulatory environment. During my career, I experienced changes in public accounting resulting from the Savings and Loan crisis in the early 80s the implementation of Sarbanes Oxley as a result of Enron and World Com, the creation of the Single Audit act as a result of misuse of government funds, and increased regulation of the DOL over employee benefit plan failures. Recently, there was a *Wall Street Journal* article about perceived weak oversight of audits of billions of dollars of private assets. Personally, I am not sure that Sarbanes Oxley is the end all to large audit failures. A CPA can do everything according to professional standards and a business may still fail due to fraud or other irregularities.

As a profession and the regulators to that profession, we need to be able to adapt to address any criticisms that may come because of possible future failures. We need to ensure that professional quality, whether in performing an audit under PCAOB standards, a private audit, preparing a tax return or any other service, is supported by strong, relevant, professional standards. Next year, I believe the bar will be set even higher due to increased pressure for anti-regulation, enhanced oversight of the SEC and increased scrutiny of inspectors general on single audits, especially as audits of billions of dollars received under various stimulus plans become subject to special audit procedures.

In NASBA's budget for next year, we devoted more funds to mission spending in support of state boards to help you with any of your needs. We all need to work together to address any criticism that may be directed at state board regulation the next time a major audit failure occurs...and to reboot if necessary. And I promise, NASBA will be there to assist you!

It is also critical that we continue to look for ways to increase the pipeline of new individuals into the profession. As shared during the Annual Meeting, the number of candidates taking the CPA Exam continues to decline. It is essential to the protection of the public that we, as regulators, look for ways to increase the number of candidates that ultimately become CPAs.

As the AICPA continues to work with state societies to demonstrate the value of the CPA license to potential candidates, we all need to look for new ways to encourage non-traditional students to enter the profession. As a matter of fact, AICPA Chair Bill Pirolli attended a community college, and I attended a branch campus of a university. I challenge each of you to explore non-traditional avenues when hiring new employees.

There is not one silver bullet that will solve the pipeline issue, but I believe that NASBA, state boards, state societies and the AICPA all working together can bring more talented people into the profession.

As we continue to work with other countries to renew or enter into mutual recognition agreements, one common, major hurdle, is the discussion around the experience requirement for individuals signing an audit opinion. Many countries have longer experience requirements than we have in the U.S., particularly for certified accountants performing attest work. We will continue to discuss whether a firm requirement should be considered requiring a CPA to have more experience prior to signing an audit opinion in the U.S.

All of us have seen how the world has changed in the past year. As the demographics of the U.S. continue to change, we need to shift our focus to find ways to become more diverse, inclusive and equitable. I have seen the NASBA Board of Directors grow more diverse over my years as a Board member. In fact, the four previous chairs who succeeded me represent that initiative. NASBA's 2021-22 Board is also one of the most diverse boards I can remember.

Before I conclude, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the support and commitment of my wife and best friend, Phyllis, for allowing me to devote the time to serve as chair of this great organization. I would not be able to do what I am doing without her support.

In summary, our number one goal is to get back to basics to make sure that quality is evident in every professional service that is delivered to the public. Secondly, we need to all do our part to strengthen the CPA pipeline. Third, is to continue to move towards the implementation of the CPA Evolution so we are ready in 2024. Lastly, we need to keep our eye on the ball and move the needle as it relates to diversity, equity and inclusion.

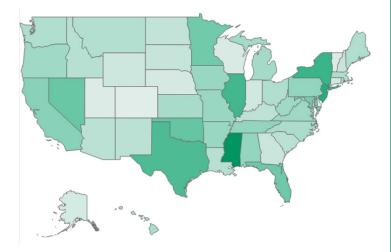
If you will support me in my priorities for this next year, I am positive we will persevere and can adapt to strengthen the profession by enhancing state-based licensing and ultimately do a better job of protecting the public we serve. Thank you, and I look forward to working with you as we persevere through this "New Normal" together!

W michael

— W. Michael Fritz, CPA Chair 2021-2022

Gearing Up for 2022 Sessions

With 39 of the 51 jurisdictions convening in January (Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Texas do not have a regular session in even-numbered years), NASBA has already been monitoring pre-filed legislation for 2022. In addition, 26 legislatures work within the framework of a two-year cycle, allowing them to carry over legislation. For example, 78 de-regulation bills monitored by NASBA and filed in 2021 can potentially carry over to 2022 sessions. NASBA, along with <u>ARPL partners</u>, will be monitoring these and any new de-regulation bills filed in 2022, and assisting state partners to defeat or amend legislation as needed.



To review legislation of interest to a Board of Accountancy, <u>CLICK HERE</u>. Once on the Legislative Tracking home page, using graphs and maps, plus descriptive text, the page clearly displays not only what issues are being raised in various states directly impacting State Boards of Accountancy, but also spotlights trends in legislation that other professions are encountering. Users can filter bills to focus on specific topics such as: deregulation, marijuana, digital currencies, and tax preparers. \blacklozenge

Key Person Contact

NASBA's Key Person Contact (KPC) program identifies Board of Accountancy members and executive directors who have personal and/or professional relationships with those serving in state and federal legislatures – along with those serving in the executive branches of state government. These individuals can provide additional backing for the support or opposition of legislation affecting the regulation of the accounting profession and produce a coherent and cohesive network. The KPC program will serves as a nexus for transmitting information to legislators and reporting information about proposed or pending legislation to NASBA. <u>Click here to learn more.</u>



Innovations in Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY) Internship and Education Program

Ellen Glazerman, Executive Director of the Ernst & Young Foundation and America's Director University Relations of EY, presented to NASBA Annual Meeting attendees on an innovative CPA candidate internship program, developed by EY, that allows students to close the 150-hour education requirement. Her agenda covered many facets of the program, including the environment, Career Path Accelerator elements, program design and the Career Path Accelerator pathway.

To begin, Glazerman explained the challenge: affordability and accessibility of the accounting profession for those who want to be CPA-eligible. Her solution is the EY Career Path Accelerator. EY is currently very interested and focused on helping people come through the CPA pipeline with the 150-hour requirement in place. The program is focused on candidates coming to EY without a master's degree, who seek to acquire the 150-hours in a nontraditional manner.

The program contains a number of components, including being affordable (need based financial aid for the program is available through the Ernst & Young Foundation), allowing students to jumpstart their career, offering appropriate and rigorous content, students gaining targeted skills and candidates obtaining credits that are accredited and portable. The EY Career Path Accelerator allows EY interns, who are not pursuing a master's degree, to earn their additional credit hour requirement for CPA licensure by leveraging EY's relationship with Hult International Business School.

The program does not compete with university accounting programs, as it does not include any accounting hours. In fact, EY emphasizes to candidates that they must get their accounting hours through their undergraduate institution. Rather, the program focuses on targeted skills, the business and elective hours.

When a student begins the program, they must sign-up for one of three credit packages. To be eligible, students must have completed or will have completed all accounting course requirements to sit for the Exam, made the decision to not get a master's degree and are responsible for knowing and obtaining all state requirements to sit for the Exam. Included in the program is learning and assessments, a winter or summer internship and a Capstone project. To learn more about EY's internship program, visit <u>https://www.ey.com/en_us/</u> careers/internships.

PAST CHAIR'S MEMO

Onward & Upward as We Persevere!

My year as chair of the NASBA Board of Directors has reached an end. It is difficult for me to acknowledge that 12 months have passed since my virtual inauguration last November. I deeply regret that we were deprived of the satisfaction received from attending our Regional and Annual conferences. Let's face it, Zoom is not, and never will be, a substitute for personal contact.

Our theme for 2021 is "Persevere," which describes NASBA's continued work despite obstacles and discouragement brought on by the pandemic. Regardless of the unfortunate reality, we have all survived the past two years and much has been accomplished as NASBA continues to persevere to fulfill our mission to you, our Boards of Accountancy.

CPA Evolution, an initiative which began under my predecessor, Laurie Tish, is still "front and center" as a priority for the profession. Although the journey we have been on in partnership with the AICPA, to revamp and modernize our professional licensure model is not over, there have been some positive accomplishments in this



A. Carlos Barrera Chair 2020-21

area this past year. Last fall, the AICPA and NASBA established four joint task forces comprised of volunteer subject matter experts from the academic community and CPAs from professional practice, business and industry, to develop the CPA Evolution Model Curriculum that the academic community could use as a tool to update their current accounting programs. Their work culminated 6-months later in a launch event hosted this past June by the American Accounting Association, that attracted over 2000 attendees. We continue our joint efforts with the AICPA to inform academic and student communities about forthcoming changes to the Uniform CPA Exam. In fact, surveys were sent out to accounting program chairs, educators, and students to provide important information on our joint efforts as we move toward implementation of a new Exam model in early 2024.

Legislatively, 2022 will likely be another busy year for John Johnson, Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs. During the last legislative session, NASBA identified and tracked some 228 pieces of deregulation bills. We can anticipate five to ten jurisdictions will have some form of deregulation bills filed next year in 2022. In addition, there is rollover legislation from 2021 that will also affect several states. This legislation will adversely affect the CPA profession across all jurisdictions. We will be working hard to ensure this does not happen. Our partnership with the AICPA and other professions to establish the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) will continue to ensure our states have the tools necessary to provide talking points, suggested amendments and other research to our state partners to better inform state lawmakers that the CPA profession must and should be viewed and treated differently because we are a technical, licensed and learned profession. We are not an occupation that would warrant wholesale deregulation.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was one of the key issues I proposed when I became NASBA chair, and it will also be one for my successor, Mike Fritz. During my inaugural address, I shared, "The challenge that diversity presents is one that begins with a willingness to have a conversation and to understand and accept that there are differences that exist among us, and that these differences should be viewed as tools to strengthen us, not to divide us."

As our population grows and becomes more diverse, it is extremely important for our profession to reach out and attract qualified women and minorities to become CPAs. Efforts must be made, not only to encourage the study of accounting to a young, more diverse population adding help to the pipeline - but also to afford opportunities in management and governance, in both private and public sectors.

There has been positive movement in the makeup of our state boards to be more inclusive and diverse. I have participated in our regional calls and heard the discussions by our state boards as they tackle diversity and inclusion in their board makeup. I am pleased to hear that the "conversation" that I mentioned earlier is happening. Currently, only seven percent of our state boards currently lack women representation, which is a positive step. But it might surprise you to know that over 40% of our boards still have no minority representation, which confirms that more effort is needed in making our state boards reflect the licensees they regulate. I challenge you to consider giving opportunities to those who may be overlooked or marginalized, as their contributions to our profession may surprise you.

During my term, I had the pleasure of chairing the Strategic Planning Task Force. Like most well run organizations, a good deep dive into our mission and objectives is necessary to keep NASBA on track and responsive to all our stakeholders. I assembled a very diverse group of 15 individuals, men, women, and persons of color, from all eight NASBA regions to unite and evaluate our current Strategic Plan. The process spanned 7-months, starting in December and concluding this past June. We looked at the guiding mission, vision, and values of our organization, and evaluated our objectives and determined whether they were truly measurable to ensure that the services we provide were purposeful and meaningful for our member boards. The process was tedious and demanded much thought and effort, and no stone was left unturned. The Board adopted this new and improved Strategic Plan at its July Board of Directors meeting.

Finally, I want to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to those of you who unselfishly gave of your time to serve on a NASBA committee or were our representative on a joint committee with the AICPA. Without you, the work that is so important to the profession and to the regulation of our profession could not be possible. To the leadership and staff of NASBA, my heartfelt thanks go to you for everything you do, and for helping me fulfill my role as chair. It is because of you that NASBA remains "Mission Driven – Member Focused."



— A. Carlos Barrera, CPA Chair 2020-2021

Harris, Ross and Ley Receive Honors

Mark P. Harris, CPA (LA), Randall A. Ross, CPA (OK) and Barbara A. Ley, CPA (OK) were honored as 2021 NASBA award recipients at the Annual Business Meeting on November 3.



Mark P. Harris, NASBA Chair 2011-2012, was presented the William H. Van Rensselaer Public Service Award by Awards Committee

Mark Harris

Chair Janice Gray. Harris is credited with promoting increased communication and membership involvement within NASBA, spearheading the establishment NASBA's Diversity Task Force and Legislative Support Committee, and coining NASBA's Mission Driven, Member Focused motto. He served as co-chair of NASBA's Education Committee when the Accounting **Education Research Grants Program** was formed. Additionally, during Harris' term as chair, NASBA's mission was also broadened to include "advancing the common interests of the Boards of Accountancy."



Randall A. Ross, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Accountancy Board, was presented the Lorraine P. Sachs Standard of Excellence Award by

Randall Ross

Ms. Sachs, NASBA Executive Vice President Emerita. A former Executive Directors Committee chair and liaison to the NASBA Board of Directors, Ross is a member of NASBA's Legislative Support Committee, and a former member of NASBA's CBT Administration, Enforcement Resources, Executive Directors and Peer Review Compliance Committees, as well as the Joint ALD/ERC Subcommittee.

Barbara A. Ley

received the NASBA Distinguished Service Award. Ley is a former chair of the CPA Examination Review Board (2016-2017), a former Southwest

Barbara Ley

Region representative on NASBA's Nominating Committee, and a former member of NASBA's CPA Licensing Examinations and Education Committees. In addition, she is a former chair, vice chair, secretary and member of the Oklahoma Accountancy Board, and a former president, treasurer, secretary, and member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA). Ms. Gray presented the Distinguished Service Award to Ms. Ley.

National Registry eSummit Explores Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunity

Due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic, NASBA's National Registry Summit was once again an eSummit, held virtually. During the September 2021 event, themed "Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunity," two keynote speakers touched upon accessibility within educational environments and interaction with learners.

Kassy LaBorie, Principal Consultant, Consulting LLC, lead a presentation entitled, "Interact and Engage!" LaBorie began her presentation with a humorous video that shared her take-away message: Zoom as you'd be Zoomed to. She shared with eSummit attendees that as a new era in business emerges, now is an opportune time to work on making meetings and trainings better than they have been before. Should you find yourself required to give a lecture, a great way to boost interaction is to challenge participants to write test questions. When sharing the questions, create friendly competition between the author and respondents. To hear more from LaBorie, visit kassyconsulting.com.

Additionally, Lainey Feingold spoke to attendees about the Americans with Disabilities Act and learning providers' responsibility to ensure accessible quality education for CPE is being provided. Elizabeth Wolfe, NASBA Regulatory Counsel, also spoke about the updates to rules in the states and jurisdictions.



waves of change... Occans of opportunity

This topic is always of relevance with Registry sponsors.

John Pytel, co-founder and chief executive officer of Conferences i/o, presented on the benefits of this learning tool. Discussing the future of CPE technology, Pytel made sure to incorporate Conferences i/o into his brief but well-thought-out presentation. Starting as an engagement tool in 2013 for live events, Conferences i/o evolved into a more robust tool. NASBA has used this tool for its group live requirements for engagement, Q & A and session evaluations.

To conclude the eSummit, NASBA Associate Director-National Registry Jessica Luttrull took on the "Ask NASBA" segment of the program and answered many questions regarding the *Standards*.



New PCAOB Appointments

The Securities and Exchange Commission recently announced the appointments of Erica Y. Williams as chairperson and Christina Ho, Kara M. Stein, and Anthony (Tony) C. Thompson as Board members of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). The Commission confirmed that Duane DesParte will continue his service as a Board member and will remain acting chairperson until Williams begins her term.

"The PCAOB was formed in response to a crisis of confidence in the corporate disclosures of issuers after the WorldCom and Enron accounting scandals nearly 20 years ago. Finance is about trust, and the PCAOB has a critical role to play in ensuring that public company financial disclosures can be trusted by investors," said SEC Chair Gary Gensler. "With these additions to the Board, the PCAOB will have the leadership to meet the mission given to it by Congress. Erica, Christina, Kara, and Tony have demonstrated deep commitment to public service. They will represent the interests of investors and the public at the PCAOB. I would like to thank Duane DesParte for his valuable service as acting chairperson during the last several months, and I am pleased that he will stay on as a key member of the Board."

According to the PCAOB website, it is a nonprofit corporation established by Congress to oversee the audits of public companies in order to protect investors and further the public interest in the preparation of informative, accurate, and independent audit reports. The PCAOB also oversees the audits of brokers and dealers, including compliance reports filed pursuant to federal securities laws.

The New Appointments:

Erica Y. Williams served many roles at the SEC for over a decade, including managing legal and operational functions and workflow relating to recommendations from the Division of Enforcement and Office of Compliance, Inspections and Examinations (now Division of Examinations) and served as deputy chief of staff to three former SEC chairs and assistant chief litigation counsel in the SEC's Division of Enforcement trial unit. Following her time at the SEC, Williams served as special assistant and associate counsel to President Obama, specifically focusing on financial and economic policy issues.

Duane M. DesParte has served as the PCAOB's acting chairperson since June 2021. Following his retirement from the Exelon Corporation, DesParte joined the Board as its chief accounting officer, corporate controller and other financial roles for almost two decades. He graduated with highest honors from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in accountancy.

Christina Ho has nearly three decades of experience in public finance, policy development, accounting and auditing, disclosure modernization, data analytics, and technology innovation. Ho previously served as the deputy assistant secretary for Financial Transparency & Accounting Policy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as controller and interim chief financial officer for the University of Maryland College Park and held senior positions with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Deloitte & Touche LLP. Most recently, she served as vice president of Government Analytics and Innovation at Elder Research.

Kara M. Stein served as a commissioner of the SEC from 2013 to 2019. Today, she serves as a distinguished policy fellow and lecturer-in-law at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and is director of the AI, Data, and Capital Markets Initiative at the Center on Innovation, University of California Hastings Law. She previously served as senior policy advisor for securities and banking matters for U.S. Senator Jack Reed and Majority Staff Director of the Securities, Insurance, and Investment Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. Stein earned a J.D. from Yale Law School and a B.A. from Yale College.

Anthony (Tony) C. Thompson has held senior positions at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as chief financial officer for a number of U.S. Air Force Bases and served in the United States Air Force for over three decades, reaching the rank of Colonel and serving as the chief budget officer. He serves as the executive director and chief administrative officer of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), where he oversees the Division of Administration. Thompson earned a B.S. from Regis University, an M.B.A. from Golden Gate University and an M.S. from Air War College.

NASBA Committee Interest Draws Record Response

Each year, NASBA appoints state board members to serve on more than 20 committees and task forces. These groups position members and staff to strategically address current and emerging issues impacting the regulation of the accounting profession. According to NASBA Chair W. Michael Fritz, the 2021 committee interest period resulted in a record number of applications received from NASBA membership. In fact, the overwhelming response resulted in an increase in the size of select committees to accommodate appointments of all board members. Below, is a listing of 2021-22 NASBA Committee chairs. <u>CLICK HERE</u> to view a complete listing of committee rosters for 2021-22.

Committee	Committee Chair	Committee	Committee Chair
Administration and Finance Committee	Tyrone E. Dickerson (VA)	Executive Directors Committee	Kent Absec (ID)
Audit Committee	Michael Schmitz (ND)	International Qualifications Appraisal Board	Sharon A. Jensen (MN)
Awards Committee	Laurie J. Tish (WA)	Legislative Support Committee	John F. Dailey, Jr. (NJ)
Bylaws Committee	Jimmy E. Burkes (MS)	Nominating Committee	A. Carlos Barrera (TX)
CBT Administration Committee	Nancy J. Corrigan (CA)	Past Chair Advisory Council	A. Carlos Barrera (TX)
Communications Committee	Faye D. Miller (ND)	Peer Review Compliance Committee	Maria E. Caldwell (FL)
Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Committee	Katrina Salazar (CA)	Regulatory Response Committee	Stephen F. Langowski (NY)
CPA Examination Review Board	Ruben A. Davila (CA)	Relations with Member Boards Committee	Kenya Y. Watts (OH)
Diversity Committee	Alison L. Houck Andrew (DE)	Standard-Setting and Professional Trends Advisory Committee	Nicola Neilon (NV)
Education Committee	Jason D. Peery (ID)	State Society Relations Committee	Jeannine Birmingham (AL)
Enforcement Resources Committee	Lynn V. Hutchinson (LA)	Uniform Accountancy Act Committee	Stephanie M. Saunders (VA)
Ethics Committee	J. Coalter Baker (TX)		

Grant to Fund Pipeline Focused Research

Having received the approval of the NASBA Board of Directors at its October 2021 meeting, the NASBA Education Committee will award an Accounting Education Research Grant in the amount of \$4,500 to the research team of Tristan B. Johnson (University of South Alabama) and D. Shawn Mauldin (Mississippi State University). Their project titled, "Will CPA Evolution Increase the Attractiveness of the Accounting Profession to Students with Higher Analytical and Technological Skills?" is focused on the CPA Pipeline, which remains a relevant and timely topic of discussion among NASBA and Boards of Accountancy.

This grant marks the second award presented to a research team in 2021. In August, the Education Committee awarded a research grant to a team from Clark Atlanta University for their project titled, "Do the program curriculum, faculty characteristics, and support association at Minority Serving Institutions contribute to achieving CPA certification?"

Since 2011, the program has awarded over \$174,500 in support of academic research nationwide. The 2022 Call for Proposals is open

now through 11:59 p.m. CT on March 11, 2022. Post-doctoral researchers and professors seeking funding are encouraged to submit grant proposals for consideration prior to the deadline. Grant recipients will be announced in summer 2022.

For additional information (including a full program description, eligibility requirements, research topics and details on past recipients), <u>CLICK HERE</u>. For questions regarding the program, email: <u>grantproposal@nasba.org</u>. ♦



2022 CONFERENCE CALENDAR

40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND BOARD STAFF

April 25-27, 2022 Clearwater Beach, FL

27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY LEGAL COUNSEL April 25-27, 2022 Clearwater Beach, FL

WESTERN REGIONAL MEETING June 7-9, 2022 Colorado Springs, CO **EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING** June 27-29, 2022 White Sulphur Springs, WV

115TH NASBA ANNUAL MEETING

October 30 - November 2, 2022 San Diego, CA Tentative





