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NASBA APPOINTS WALTER C. DAVENPORT AS 2014-15 CHAIR

Newly Elected Chair Calls for NASBA and Boards of Accountancy to Embrace the Future

NASHVILLE, TENN. (November 12, 2014) – The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) is pleased to announce Walter C. Davenport, CPA, of Raleigh, N.C., as chair of its 2014-15 Board of Directors. Davenport, along with a slate of newly elected board members, was installed into office during NASBA's 107th Annual Meeting, held November 2-5, in Washington, D.C.

A retired audit partner with Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, Davenport was engaged in financial and business consulting for not-for-profit entities and was responsible for firm-wide not-for-profit operations as director of the firm's Not-for-Profit Industry Group. He is the second African-American elected to lead NASBA, which is charged in preserving the public trust through the regulation of the accounting profession across the 55 U.S. jurisdictions.

Davenport's inaugural address entitled, "Embracing the Future Without Seeing It," challenged NASBA and Boards of Accountancy to embrace change and give consideration to three critical areas (3Es) that will position Boards of Accountancy for growth and shape the future of the accounting profession. These 3Es include: Enforcing Board Rules, Educating for Optimization and Engaging Diverse Talent.

Further, he urged member boards to 1) be attuned to necessary changes to the standards to ensure proper accreditation of educational institutions and learning providers, resulting in quality education for CPA candidates and licensees; 2) strengthen the enforcement of board rules on peer review and continuing professional education (CPE) more efficiently through the utilization of tools such as the Accountancy Licensee Database; and 3) bring greater relevance and a broader perspective to the profession by introducing careers in accounting to a younger, more diverse demographic, and by considering diverse talent (i.e., African-Americans, Asians, Hispanics, Women and other minorities) for board appointment.

"Today, we have the information gathering ability, technology knowhow, resources and a diverse pool of talent that our predecessors ten years ago only dreamed of," shared Davenport. "Together, we can make things happen!"

President and CEO, Ken L. Bishop, is confident of Davenport's ability to advance NASBA and Boards of Accountancy as board chair. "I have known and admired Walter for many years and welcome the new leadership perspective he will bring to NASBA," said Bishop. "He has demonstrated the ability and skill to bring people together—an attribute that will be very important during the upcoming year—as we take on important issues impacting the profession. I look forward to working with Walter this year."

Prior to being named chair, Davenport served as the Board's 2013-14 vice chair. From 2003-2012, he served as director-at-large and as Middle Atlantic regional director of NASBA. He is also the former chair of NASBA's CPA Licensing Examinations Committee, CPE Committee, Strategic Initiatives Committee, Audit Committee and Administration &

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Finance Committee, and a former member of NASBA's Compliance Assurance, Examination, Relations with Member Boards, Nominating, Licensing Requirements, and Uniform Accountancy Act Committees, as well as the Standards Study Group.

In addition to his involvement with NASBA, Davenport is a past president of the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners. He also served as a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Board of Examiners from 1999-2005.

A graduate of Morehouse College, Davenport began his career in public accounting in 1970 with Arthur Andersen & Company in Atlanta, GA. In 1974, he returned to North Carolina to join Nathan Garrett, and in 1998, Garrett & Davenport, P.C., the largest and oldest minority-owned CPA firm in North Carolina, merged into Cherry, Bekaert & Holland. Davenport retired from Cherry, Bekaert & Holland in April 2008.

Additional board appointments include:

2014-15 Vice Chair (serving a 1-year term)

Donald H. Burkett, CPA, of West Columbia, S.C.

Directors-at-Large (serving 3-year terms)

A. Carlos Barrera, CPA, of Brownsville, Tex.

Jimmy Burkes, CPA, of Jackson, Miss.

Richard N. Reisig, CPA, of Great Falls, Mont.

Laurie J. Tish, CPA, of Seattle, Wash.

Regional Directors (serving a 1-year term)

Southwest - J. Coalter Baker, CPA, of Austin, Tex.

Southeast - Maria E. Caldwell, CPA, of Miami, Fla.

Middle Atlantic - Robert J. Cochran, CPA, of Farmville, Va.

Northeast - John F. Dailey, CPA, of Voorhees, N.J.

Great Lakes - W. Michael Fritz, CPA, of Columbus, Ohio

Central - Janeth Glenn, CPA, of La Vista, Neb.

Pacific - Ed G. Jolicoeur, CPA, of Spokane, Wash.

Mountain - Benjamin C. Steele, CPA, of Carson City, Nev.

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, license more than 700,000 certified public accountants and regulate 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, Tenn., with satellite offices in New York, N.Y., and San Juan, Puerto Rico, and an International Computer Testing and Call Center in Guam.

To learn more about NASBA, visit www.nasba.org.

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