

# STATE \* BOARD \* REPORT

A Digest of Current Developments Affecting State Accountancy Regulation

Fall 2024

# 2024-2025 NASBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bottom Row (L-R): Thuy T. Barron (WI) Great Lakes Regional Director, Colleen K. Conrad, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Stephanie M. Saunders (VA) Past Chair, Daniel J. Dustin, President and CEO, Maria E. Caldwell (FL) Chair, Nicola Neilon (NV) Vice Chair, Katrina Salazar (CA) Secretary, Kenya Y. Watts (OH) Directorat-Large. Middle Row (L-R): Nancy Glynn (VA) Executive Directors Liaison, Laurie A. Warwick (VA) Middle Atlantic Regional Director, Barry M. Berkowitz (PA) Director-at-Large, Wilhelmus J. Schaffers (AL) Southeast Regional Director, Dan Vuckovich (MT) Mountain Regional Director, J. Andy Bonner, Jr. (TN) Treasurer, Jason D. Peery (ID) Director-at-Large, Michael Schmitz (ND) Director-at-Large, Melissa Ruff (NE) Central Regional Director. Top Row (L-R): Troy A. Walker, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Haley Lyons (OR) Pacific Regional Director, Alison L. Houck Andrew (DE) Director-at-Large, Stephen F. Langowski (NY) Director-at-Large, Timothy F. Egan (CT) Northeast Regional Director, William Emmer, Vice President Operations, Wendy S. Garvin, Executive Vice President, Gerald P. Weinstein (OH) Director-at-Large, Jeannette P. Smith (TX) Southwest Regional Director.

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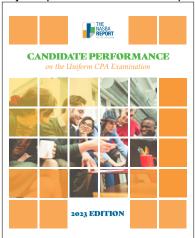
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# 2020-2023 CPA Exam Statistics Now Available

Since 1985, The NASBA Report: Candidate Performance on the Uniform CPA Examination (formerly Candidate Performance Book) has served as the go-to resource for annual statistics and trends of candidates taking the Uniform CPA Examination. Following a pause in publication to ensure the successful launch of CPA Evolution, the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 editions are now available for purchase on <a href="https://www.nasbareport.com">www.nasbareport.com</a>.

Key components of The NASBA Report include performance metrics



for the 55 U.S. jurisdictions to which a candidate applied to sit for the Exam, as well as university rankings and Exam performance breakdowns. In addition to the four primary sections (AUD, BEC, FAR, REG), the publication also includes performance metrics by cohort and trending data for the previous three years. (Note: All candidates who begin the Examination process

in the same calendar year are members of the cohort.) Additional features include country performance for the top five countries and jurisdiction rankings for number of sections, number of unique candidates, average age and percent pass. Section descriptions are also included to explain each view of the performance metrics. Presenting the data in this way allows for a more accurate analysis of trends in the accounting pipeline.

Among the universities with the most candidates sitting for a First-Time section in 2023 were: University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign (659), Baruch College CUNY (649) and California State University – Fullerton (519).

NASBA began gathering data on CPA Examination candidates in 1982 and has published reports on performance and selected

Excerpts from the

### THE NASBA REPORT:

Candidate Performance on the Uniform CPA Examination 2023



### **Jurisdictions with the Highest Pass Rates**

Iowa60.9%South Dakota58.3%Nebraska57.6%

# **Universities with Most First-Time Candidates**

University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign 659
Baruch College CUNY 649
California State University – Fullerton 519

characteristics since 1985, demonstrating NASBA's role as a trusted resource to Boards of Accountancy, the academic community and accounting profession. The publication offers the best overview of CPA Examination trends from around the world, and at the jurisdiction and university level.

For more information on *The NASBA Report*, and to place an order, visit *nasbareport.com*.

# CHAIR'S MEMO

¡Saludos! No puedo expresar lo emocionado que estoy de estar aquí, sirviendo como presidente de la NASBA, 2024-2025 (Translation: Greetings! I cannot tell you how excited I am to be here, serving as NASBA chair, 2024-2025!)

Today, I would like to share a little bit about myself, and the issues that I find most important for the regulation of our profession and for NASBA. A couple of months ago, I gave a talk to a group of interns at my firm who were studying for the CPA Exam. I told them my story of how I became a CPA. At the end of my talk, one of the interns came to me and said, "Your life is like a movie!" While preparing my first address to NASBA, those same words came to mind. And, I agree, my life has been like a movie...a movie of the American dream.

For those of you who do not know me, I am a Cuban immigrant who came to the U.S. as a teenager. Old enough not to lose my accent, but young enough to be able to integrate into the American way of life. Sadly, the Cuban government would not let my parents out of the country, so I came over with my two older sisters, all of us under the age of 18. I remember thinking, no problem, our parents will join us in a couple of weeks, but it was not until four long years later that the Cuban government finally permitted my parents to join us here in America. Can you imagine being separated from your parents as a teenager for four years? Unfortunately, this separation resulted in my parents missing so many milestones, including my high school graduation, my formal dances, my birthdays...and of course, I also missed them dearly. Those initial years were incredibly tough as I had to learn English while trying to make straight A's in school and adapt to a new way of thinking. For many years, I kept looking over my shoulder when I heard someone criticize the American government. I thought, certainly they will be punished just like they would be punished in Cuba. Needless to say, it took a long time to get used to the fact that we enjoy freedom of speech in America.

After being reunited, as an immigrant family, we did not have much. I remember driving my first car, which had little holes in the roof on the driver's side. When it rained, the water would drip all over me. It actually rained more in the inside of the car than on the outside. It was awful. Of course, now I can laugh about those years, because in the end, all that hardship made me who I am today.

My parents believed that

the way to financial

security was through

education and going

fortunate enough

scholarship,

to earn a college

to college was a

priority. I was

but I had to work full time and attend school full time. I was busy! When it came time to choose a major, I did not immediately choose accounting. Actually, I didn't even know what accounting was. But, when I did my career research, it showed there would be a high demand for accountants, and so, an accountant I became. Little did I know that choice paved the way for so many opportunities. Even today, after more than 30 years since my graduation, the demand for CPAs remains high.

After my college graduation, I was offered a staff accountant position at Deloitte, where I have worked for the past 31 years as an auditor of big and small, private and public companies. When I got the position, I was beyond happy, thinking, this is the greatest accomplishment of my career. Several years later, I was appointed to the Florida Board of Accountancy consecutively by three different governors, and I thought, this is the greatest accomplishment of my career. I have enjoyed promotions and milestones, but, when I was selected as NASBA chair, I have to admit, this IS the greatest accomplishment of my career! In the end, I think my story is not much different than many of yours. Perseverance and hard work opened many doors, including being a regulator. I am sure you feel the same as I do, proud to have been selected to be responsible for regulating our profession. Take a moment to think about that. Only a few CPAs enjoy that privilege. I deeply appreciate your incredible efforts as board members. Without your commitment, the CPA profession would not uphold the high standards that distinguish us as licensed professionals. I promise to work together to maintain the high standards our public demands.

This year, NASBA is 117 years old, and I am so honored and humbled to be following in the footsteps of so many other great chairs that have been such a beacon to our profession. I owe a debt of gratitude to Stephanie Saunders, Rick Reisig, Mike Fritz, Janice Gray, and so many others. I am also very excited for my work to begin with you, the state board members!

I have served on NASBA committees and the Board of Directors for more than 12 years, and I have seen the success NASBA has had in supporting the Boards of Accountancy. From the unique achievement of mobility to the ALD, to the implementation of CPA Evolution and the current initiatives surrounding the CPA Pipeline, we must be proud of all those accomplishments.

Every year we face new challenges, and this year is no different. We continue to address the persistent issue of the CPA Pipeline and the ability to attract and keep CPAs in the profession. We are now faced with serious issues that threaten CPA mobility and the added pressures of deregulation. In addition, private equity firms are buying public accounting firms and changing the ownership structure and profit sharing of firms, which blurs the lines of independence—a risk to public protection.

However, I believe for every challenge there is a solution. The continued efforts of CPA firms, state boards, state societies, the academic community, the AICPA and NASBA are making a positive impact on the pipeline. We have seen an increase in the percentage of candidates sitting for the CPA Exam and we did not experience the

Continued on the following page.

expected decrease, which normally occurs after changes have been made to the Exam. While the data and numbers are still concerning, especially the ones indicating fewer students attending college, I am optimistic that young students will continue to see the vast benefits of becoming a CPA.

As you know, we enjoy mobility in our profession. Like many of you, I am old enough to remember the "fight" for mobility. NASBA and the member boards believed in the benefits of mobility, and countless hours were spent to achieve it. In the end, mobility was possible due to all jurisdictions becoming substantially equivalent. In the quest to solve the pipeline issue, mobility is now threatened. Let me take a moment to elaborate. There is the notion that if we lower the requirements to become a CPA, more students will flock to the profession. A new pathway consisting of a bachelor's degree plus two years of experience is being discussed. However, if all the jurisdictions do not adopt this additional pathway, this will lead to a lack of substantial equivalency as it relates to the three Es: education, exam and experience. Remember that initially, in order to achieve mobility, there was a huge effort to ensure that all jurisdictions adopted the 150-hour education rule with one year of experience. As you know, jurisdictions that had a higher requirement would have never agreed to mobility without it. We are now at the opposite end of the spectrum as we are discussing the concept of automatic mobility without substantial equivalency. I would caution the adoption of such a concept. If a jurisdiction decides to adopt an additional pathway with much lower requirements, the states with automatic mobility will be forced to accept that pathway. Is that really the intention?

I know that some jurisdictions have proposed "guardrails." But, honestly, do all Boards of Accountancy have the capacity to monitor individual mobility? Are those guardrails more of a concept rather than practical application? I would propose that the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA) should be the guardrails for all jurisdictions. If the UAA adopts an additional pathway, jurisdictions adopting those pathways can all enjoy mobility.

I believe that changing the requirements to become a CPA should not be an easy process and it should be vetted by all stakeholders. UAA adoption will help preserve the quality of the pathways to become a CPA. I will emphasize, if all jurisdictions adopt the same pathways in the UAA to become CPAs, mobility will remain intact. Further, the current exposure draft related to the proposed new pathway explains in detail the collective thinking of NASBA and the AICPA. The exposure draft goal is two-fold: protect the public through meaningful professional experience while retaining the benefits and freedom of mobility.

I urge ALL Boards of Accountancy to take the time to comment and respond formally to the exposure draft. Know that we welcome all responses, whether positive or negative. I can assure you that the viewpoints of the state boards will be the viewpoint adopted by NASBA. Thank you for the incredible efforts of the many NASBA and AICPA volunteers and their staff for making the exposure draft possible.

Deregulation is another concern for Boards of Accountancy. While I am aware of the political and economic pressures facing legislators, I would like to remind everyone about the critical role that CPAs play in our society. As a profession, we have a long history and have come a long way to ensure that we have the highest ethical standards, that we mean what we say, and that our reputation for honesty and integrity is recognized for those holding the CPA license. NASBA will

continue to support the Boards of Accountancy to ensure the license is protected.

Finally, I would like to touch upon the impact that private equity firms are having on CPA firms. There is a fair amount of confusion related to the private equity transactions. No two are alike, and we do not know how each of these firms is complying with existing laws or rules established by Boards of Accountancy. I am not aware of any firm clearing their transaction with the state boards in advance of executing them. It seems to me the approach has been to ask for forgiveness rather than permission. One thing is for certain, audit failures, primarily around independence, will occur at some point. As regulators, should we simply wait for these failures to occur in order to react? Or should we be proactive? I would encourage you, the Boards of Accountancy, to solicit input from the firms in your jurisdiction that have finalized private equity transactions. These firms should properly inform the boards how they are complying with the existing rules and regulations, specifically around independence, advertising and ownership structure. Perhaps some of the current rules are outdated, a new approach is needed, or perhaps compliance can also be enforced by enhanced peer review procedures. I hope that there is a robust exchange of ideas regarding these transactions, and any inquiry by the boards should be guided towards fact finding and solution creation. As shared during the Annual Meeting, the Joint UAA Committee will be meeting to discuss this topic this year.

These are not the only issues that may have a long-lasting impact on our profession. We also have to tackle artificial intelligence, crypto assets and the globalization of the workforce. The role of the Boards of Accountancy have never been more important. We must endeavor to elevate our profession while enhancing regulations for the benefit of public protection. I encourage companies and firms to look at their CPAs as precious resources, to ensure their compensation is competitive and fair, which will certainly help the pipeline. All these challenges cannot be resolved by just the Boards of Accountancy and NASBA. We must continue to work with all stakeholders—listen to each other, exchange ideas, build consensus and work together for effective solutions. During my term, collaboration will be key, and we will work to have strong relationships and build trust. Although we must never forget our regulatory role, the truth is, common sense regulations protect the CPAs and in turn the public. There is no downside to working together.

As I look at the coming year, I am so pleased with the transition of leadership from Ken Bishop to Dan Dustin. Dan has kept the NASBA Board informed every step of the way, and the result has been a seamless transition. He has gathered a talented executive team that I know will keep NASBA strong and relevant for years to come.

So, I leave you with optimism for the future. NASBA will keep supporting and representing the Boards of Accountancy. We will continue to collaborate closely with the AICPA, the state societies, and other stakeholders. Together, we will tackle the challenges ahead and embrace new opportunities to keep our profession strong and relevant. Thanks again for your dedication and commitment to your important work!

Gracias!

Maria E. Caldwell, CPA NASBA Chair, 2024-2025

## 117th Annual Meeting: Innovate. Collaborate. Succeed.

NASBA's 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held October 27–30 in Orlando, FL, and featured year-end updates and developments, new Board of Directors appointments, as well as presentations from inspiring keynote speakers.

Kicking off the conference was business ethics expert and author Chuck Gallagher, who served as the featured keynote at the NASBA Center for the Public Trust (CPT) Ethics Workshop. Gallagher's address on *Every Choice has a Consequence* outlined his own experiences with poor decision making that landed him in federal prison and how his life completely changed as a result of his actions.

Alongside updates on Private Equity Investment in Public Accounting Firms, the Latest Developments from the AICPA, the UAA & Competency-Based Experience Pathway, and the Progress of the CPA Exam – shared during the opening plenary session – Annual Meeting goers also heard from Keynote Speaker Kevin Brown who spoke on *The Hero Effect® – Being Your Best When It Matters the Most.* In this presentation, Brown covered how raising his son who has autism taught him about growing and making positive changes in oneself no matter what. Later that day, attendees, NASBA leaders and CPT Board members participated in the CPT annual fundraising event, Ethics Feud: The Battle for Ethical Leaders, which raised

approximately \$46,500 in support of CPT programming.

On day two of the conference, President and CEO Daniel Dustin delivered the State of NASBA as his first address to membership since stepping into his new role on August 1, 2024. Dustin spoke about the changes in leadership at NASBA since assuming his role as well as the series of efforts he is working to establish at NASBA during his tenure as president and CEO. These include "revisiting NASBA's culture, refining NASBA's technology, reframing regulation, reasserting NASBA as the 'first-call,' and reflecting vigorously." He also provided clarity on the Competency–based Experience Pathway and shared insights on the Experience Learn and Earn Program.

Members of the 2024-2025 Board of Directors were elected to office and 2023-2024 NASBA Chair Stephanie Saunders (VA) passed the gavel to 2024-2025 NASBA Chair Maria Caldwell (FL). Caldwell began her term by outlining her goals for the coming year during an inspiring inaugural address.

On the final day of the meeting, Chuck Gallagher returned to the stage to speak on *Al Revolution: Unlocking the Future of Tomorrow.* Attendees then heard final updates impacting the accounting profession and closing remarks as the meeting adjourned.



NASBA Past Chair Richard Reisig and 2023-2024 NASBA Chair Stephanie Saunders share an embrace as Rick pins Stephanie as the newest past chair at the end of her term.



NASBA Center for the Public Trust (CPT) President Sedrik Newbern hosting the CPT fundraiser event, Ethics Feud: The Battle for Ethical Leaders.



NASBA 2024-2025 Chair Maria Caldwell giving her inaugural address to meeting attendees on day two of the conference.



Attendees sitting in on a presentation during the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.



Chuck Gallagher helping to close out the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting with his presentation on *Al Revolution: Unlocking the Future of Tomorrow.* 



NASBA President and CEO Daniel Dustin delivering the State of NASBA address to attendees for the first time in his new role.



Kevin Brown delivering his presentation The Hero Effect® – Being Your Best When It Matters the Most during the opening plenary session.

# PAST CHAIR'S MEMO

Serving as NASBA chair has been a very rewarding experience. While the time allotted exceeded my original expectations, the NASBA staff, Board of Directors and committee volunteers displayed their dedication exponentially, which resulted in a wonderful experience this past year. Allow me to highlight some of what we accomplished this year.

All of us have watched *Sesame Street* with our children or grandchildren. Our family's favorite character is Cookie Monster! His video and song "C is for Cookie" was played numerous times over the years in our home. I mention this as "C" was the letter of the alphabet that seemed to be a theme for NASBA this past year. Our major initiatives included the launch of the new CPA Exam under CPA Evolution, and we established a CEO Selection Advisory Committee to perform the time-consuming process to provide finalists to the NASBA Board of Directors to vote on the new CEO to lead the organization into the future. And last but not least, was the Competency-Based Experience Pathway to licensure, an additional licensure model that was the charge of NASBA's Professional Licensure Task Force.

### **CPA Evolution**

6 NASBA State Board

At our membership meetings in October 2019, Laurie Tish and Bill Reeb, incoming chairs of NASBA and the AICPA, presented the concept of CPA Evolution. The initiative

to recognize the ever-changing skills and competencies that CPAs need to meet the future demands of the marketplace.
The reason for the change was the shift in hiring by larger accounting firms to

transformed the CPA licensure model

accounting graduates.
The design, development
and launch of CPA Evolution was
the biggest, most challenging,

hire IT graduates versus

and expensive project NASBA has undertaken since the

transition to the

computerized CPA
Examination more
than 20 years
ago. NASBA
and AICPA
staff worked

tremendously hard to ensure that we launched on time, and on budget. NASBA cautiously monitored the launch of examinations in the early time zones in preparation for dealing with any unexpected issues. The launch's progress across the country was seamless with no failures.

The complexity of the transition to CPA Evolution caused an unprecedented number of inquiries and questions from candidates, which overwhelmed our systems and capacity. Due to the transition to the new Exam, a credit extension policy was recommended in 2022. Any candidate with CPA Exam credits on January 1, 2024, had their Exam credits extended until June 30, 2025. As of today, the majority of jurisdictions have adopted some form of extension to assist candidates with the transition.

Historically, when there is a change to the Exam, there is a major increase in the number of candidates who test prior to the change, which we saw in the last quarter of 2023. Conversely, there is a major drop in candidates testing under the new Exam. Again, this happened in the first quarter of 2024, but I am pleased to report that the candidates sitting for the Exam in quarters two and three have continued to increase substantially across all sections.

### **CEO Search**

As many of you know, our former President and CEO, Ken Bishop, announced his retirement at the NASBA annual meeting in October 2023. The NASBA Board was aware of his pending retirement in July 2023 and one of my first duties was to select a diverse group of NASBA members for the CEO Selection Advisory Committee for Board approval. NASBA's culture, Mission, Vision, Values & Objectives included in our strategic plan was part of the process in selecting the CEO. Carlos Barrera, former NASBA chair, was the chair of this important committee and along with the other members spent many hours reviewing the job description and applications, developing interview questions, interviewing candidates, creating a decision matrix, and ultimately providing finalists to the NASBA Board of Directors. The Board's choice and our new President and CEO, Dan Dustin, is continuing NASBA's culture and is ensuring NASBA and Boards of Accountancy remain relevant, both nationally and internationally.

Many of us have been through leadership changes and I believe this transition has gone smoothly due to Ken Bishop and Colleen Conrad's willingness to share their institutional knowledge. In addition, Dan has done an amazing job and put together a topnotch team.

Continued on the following page.

### **CPA Competency-Based Experience Pathway**

In my inaugural speech last year, I announced the formation of a Professional Licensure Task Force (PLTF), which was comprised of a cross section of NASBA, state board and society executives and members, and AICPA members. The task force was charged to "consider new concepts for CPA licensure that may be included in the UAA to update the current licensure model." This was a response to states considering legislation to allow licensure with 120 hours of education and two years of general experience, which is not currently included in the UAA and would threaten substantial equivalency and mobility.

It took decades to achieve substantial equivalency and uniformity in every state and territory in the United States. We want to ensure that any changes we make do not disrupt the success that only the U.S. licensed accounting profession has been able to achieve.

Throughout the year, the PLTF worked collaboratively with the AACSB Accounting Accreditation Policy Group, a group of state society government relations officers and NASBA's State Society Relations Committee with a key moment coming on May 2, when a joint meeting was held between the PLTF and the National Pipeline Advisory Group's (NPAG) Substantial Equivalency (SE) work group. During this meeting, it was agreed that a joint work group would be established between the PLTF and NPAG SE to further explore and develop an alternate off-transcript experiential learning pathway. The joint work group included some representatives of PLTF and NPAG along with additional stakeholders that included academia, a learning and development specialist and a government relations officer.

Subsequent meetings of the joint work group resulted in the members agreeing to establish two sub-work groups to focus on (1) the development of common skills and competencies that a newly licensed CPA should have (model), and (2) a national framework and standards on how the program functions (standards). The culmination of the work of these sub work groups was a presentation to the PLTF on the Competency-Based Experience Pathway, which would be an additional licensure pathway defined in the UAA. The PLTF also supported and recommended the release of an exposure draft on

September 12 with a comment period end date of December 6.

A total of 22 meetings of the PLTF, the joint PLTF/NPAG group and its sub work groups were held during the year. And there will be more when we review the comments. During these meetings, not only did I share my views, but I also listened to the diverse group of volunteers who had different views. We had four name changes for the model pathway: Structured Professional Program (SPP), Professional Experience Program (PEP), Enhanced Experience and finally we agreed to Competency-Based Experience (CBE). The initial SPP was a more robust and complex program, and due to comments made during presentations, the joint work group looked at other examples. The result is the Competency-Based Experience model, which was based on the AICPA Foundational Competencies Framework for Aspiring CPAs, a Global Accounting Alliance competency framework, feedback from firms on-transcript firm models, and feedback from many other stakeholders. The current licensure model remains in the UAA but in response to market changes and trying to expand opportunities for the next generation of CPAs, the Competency-Based Experience pathway is an option for candidates who cannot obtain an additional 30 credits on a transcript. It provides flexibility for candidates without compromising the rigor required to protect the public.

I want to thank the AICPA and those state societies for publicizing the CBE (Competency-Based Experience) as well as the UAA exposure drafts. We welcome your positive and negative comments, and any questions you may have. In addition, please know NASBA staff and volunteers are available to present to your boards and membership as well as answer any questions—at any time.

As previously stated, serving as chair of NASBA has been my distinct honor and privilege. I look forward to witnessing the continued progression of NASBA, Boards of Accountancy and the accounting profession.

Thank you, All.

Stephanie M. Saunders, CPA 2023-2024 NASBA Chair





# Lodden, Burkes and Johnson Honored

Telford Lodden, Jimmy Burkes and Doreen Johnson were awarded the 2024 NASBA awards at the Annual Business Meeting on October 29 in Orlando.

**Telford Lodden of West Des Moines, IA**, received the 2024 William H. Van Rensselaer Public Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have contributed to the development of a new program, improvement of a current program for State Boards of Accountancy, or who have influenced passage of rules or statutes to strengthen accountancy regulation. Lodden, a former chair of NASBA (2016-2017), is a member of the NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act Committee and Past Chair Advisory Council. As chair of the Continuing Professional Education Committee, Lodden is regarded for establishing a joint task force composed of NASBA, AICPA, providers and educators to review the CPE Standards.

**Jimmy Burkes of Clinton, MS**, received the 2024 NASBA Distinguished Service Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated an unswerving commitment and dedication to enhancing the mission of NASBA. Burkes is the former Compliance/ Assurance partner with Haddox Reid Eubank Betts PLLC and currently serves as a member of NASBA's Administration and Finance

Committee. He previously served as the organization's director-atlarge, Southeast regional director, chair of the Administration and Finance, Audit, Bylaws and Enforcement Resources committees, and was a member of the Compliance Assurance, Regulatory Response and Awards committees.

Doreen Johnson of White Bear Lake, MN, received the 2024 Lorraine P. Sachs Standard of Excellence Award, which recognizes a state board executive or administrator that has shown outstanding service to improving the effectiveness of accounting regulation-on local and national fronts. Johnson served as the executive director of the Minnesota State Board of Accountancy for two decades until her retirement in August 2024. During her tenure, she oversaw the adoption and implementation of significant administrative rule changes that eased the burden of the licensure process for licensees and applicants through mobility, modification to the licensure framework and a rigorous review of administrative rules.

# NASBA Welcomes Wendy Garvin, Conrad Preps for Retirement

NASBA welcomes Wendy Garvin as the new NASBA executive vice president. Garvin assumed her new role on October 1, 2024, as part of NASBA President and CEO Daniel Dustin's new leadership team.

As executive vice president, Garvin will serve as a senior executive responsible for assisting Dustin with directing the activities and programs for the organization. Her duties will also include specific oversight of member and leadership services; governmental, international and professional relationships; and risk and compliance.

Garvin, who previously served as the executive director of the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy, is stepping into her new role as current NASBA Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Colleen Conrad nears her retirement on January 31, 2025. Throughout her 13 year tenure, Conrad has made sizeable contributions to NASBA, the evolution of the CPA Examination and the accounting profession.



# **Pathway & UAA Exposure Draft Deadlines Approaching**

In recent months, NASBA and the AICPA have issued two exposure drafts concerning the CPA Competency-Based Experience Pathway and proposed changes to the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA). Board of Accountancy representatives are urged to submit comments on these important issues prior to their respective December deadlines.

Designed to increase flexibility for candidates, respond to market conditions, and protect the public, the <u>Competency-Based</u>
<u>Experience Pathway</u> would allow candidates to meet the final stretch of CPA licensure requirements by exhibiting competencies according to a model framework that has been developed by the AICPA and NASBA. The comment period for this exposure draft ends Dec. 6, 2024. To review the exposure draft, click <u>here</u>. To submit your comments, please click <u>here</u>.

The <u>Uniform Accountancy Act</u> (UAA) provides state legislatures and Boards of Accountancy with a national model that can be adopted in full or partially adapted to meet the needs of each jurisdiction. The proposed changes to the UAA would enable the potential adoption by states of the CPA Competency-Based Experience Pathway — an additional path to CPA licensure proposed by the AICPA and NASBA. To facilitate state adoption of the Pathway, the AICPA and NASBA boards of directors each approved for exposure changes to the UAA and are seeking input on the proposed changes through a comment period that will remain open until Dec. 30, 2024. To review the proposed UAA draft, click <a href="here">here</a>. To submit your comments, please click <a href="here">here</a>.

# NASBA

# 2025 Meeting Calendar



Board of Accountancy
Legal Counsel
and
Executive Directors
& Board Staff
Conferences

Clearwater Beach, FL March 25-27, 2025

# Western Regional Meeting

New Orleans, LA June 17-19, 2025

# Eastern Regional Meeting

Philadelphia, PA June 24-26, 2025

# 118th NASBA Annual Meeting

Chicago, IL October 26-29, 2025