

meet members



David Wall

Job: Partner with Tarbell & Co, PLC in West Des Moines

Hometown: Jacksonville, Fla. until age 10, then Indianola

Alma mater: AIB College of Business

Professional/community activities: AICPA member, ISCPA LEAP Committee member, treasurer for Waukee Area Christian Services, treasurer for Waukee Betterment Foundation, and serve at local church.

I was inspired to be a CPA because: I sort of stumbled into the profession. I took an accounting class my junior year in high school because that was the only thing that would fit into my schedule and it instantly clicked.

If I weren't a CPA, you might find me: As an architect

Your message for young people considering a career as a CPA? Some of the stereotypes I heard early on include the profession is filled with "bean counters" in gray suits with zero personality. Don't believe it! There are so many opportunities for an exciting career in accounting, and although I work in public accounting, there are many choices outside of public accounting, too.

How has being a member of ISCPA helped you? I've enjoyed the networking opportunities with fellow members and serving alongside others on various committees over the years.

I am passionate about: Helping the next generation of accounting professionals inside and outside of our firm see and reach their potential.

What are some of the biggest changes you see in the profession? As technology has changed, the way in which clients need our help has changed. Most notably, moving away from traditional book-keeping services to more advisory services.

What is your favorite thing about your job? The opportunity to work with a wide array of clients and types of work engagements.

Best advice I ever received: Larry Murphy, one of my college accounting professors, told me, "An investment in your accounting education today will yield substantial dividends in the future."

One of your philosophies toward work and life: Work hard, play harder.

When I have free time: After enjoying time with my wife and daughter, I can usually be found either on the golf course or out on a lake somewhere in my kayak.

Favorite quote: "Whenever I'm about to do something, I think 'Would an idiot do that?' And if they would, I do not do that thing," Dwight Schrute from The Office.

How has your background shaped who you are today? I came from a pretty blue-collar family, so working hard was instilled in me most of my childhood. I believe in treating people with respect.

Mentor who influenced you along the way: I had an amazing accounting professor in college, Larry Murphy, who encouraged me.

What is your biggest achievement to date? Personal is my marriage to my wife (14 years). Professional is being added to our firm partnership.

Something important to you outside of work: Serving at Waukee Area Christian Services (Waukee Food Pantry) providing for families in need through that organization or our local church.

Dave and his wife, Kara, live in Waukee with their daughter Lexi (9).

First job as a youth: Cedar Rapids Gazette paper carrier

Favorite movie: West Side Story

Favorite vacation spot: Italy

Favorite quote: No pain, no gain

Favorite band: Tower of Power - the R & B band

Go-to karaoke song: "Benny and the Jets," by Elton John. My wife cringes every time I (try) to sing this.

Best concert I've been to: Tie between Tom Petty and the Eagles

My hero: My mother and father

Place I'd love to live: Near my kids and grandkids