

meet members



Ardis Kelley

Job: Chief strategy officer with Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) Des Moines

Hometown: Pasadena, Calif

Alma mater: UCLA (undergrad) and USC (graduate)

Civic and professional activities: BRAVO of Greater Des Moines board member and GALA chair, Catholic Diocese of Des Moines Finance Council member and Audit Committee chair, Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines board member and Audit Committee, Des Moines Performing Arts (DMPA) board vice chair, Des

Moines Water Works Park Foundation board treasurer, Greater Des Moines Partnership – Downtown Des Moines board member, Greater Des Moines Public Arts Foundation board treasurer/secretary, Iowa Public Radio board member and Finance Committee, ISCPA DEI Committee and chair of the Pathways to CPA Licensure Task Force.

If I weren't a CPA, you might find me: Dancing ... anywhere and everywhere dancing.

My inspiration to become a CPA: My love of numbers and solving problems.

How has being a member of ISCPA helped you?

As part of the DEI Committee, I've had a chance to connect with Iowa youth and highlight the accounting profession and the benefits of being a CPA. I'm particularly interested in increasing the number of Black/Brown talent that become and remain CPAs.

Biggest changes you've seen in the profession: The number of women in the profession that hold high leadership roles in accounting and finance.

Favorite thing about your job: I've held so many different jobs, but the common threads in all my roles have been being a "thought partner" with the executive team and board of directors, standing-up a new bank function or area, and presentations to the board on accounting and finance.

Your message for young people considering a CPA

career: A career as a CPA is the best path you can take for yourself. You can do so many things with a degree in accounting and by earning those CPA letters behind your name. All businesses need accountants to be successful; that equals job security. The best part is every business in every industry needs accountants, and this is a great way to enter whatever industry you're interested in – medical, sports, entertainment, fashion. All these industries need

accountants to manage the books and help top executives make good decisions for the company.

Tell us about some of your philosophies and principles toward work and life. Work as hard as you can. Make sure you're doing good work and that your work is being valued – this goes for work and home.

How has your experience shaped who you are today? The rigor, drive, and work ethic I gained first working at PwC has served me well in all my roles since leaving public accounting. I know how to analyze problems, critically challenge answers, resolve inconsistencies, and close gaps (when it's material enough to do so).

What influences have helped you in life and in work? My parents, who were extremely hard-working people, and my husband who is incredibly supportive and understanding of my goals.

How I describe myself: Curious, indefatigable, and full of vim and vigor

How others describe me: Energetic, determined, committed, open-minded, motivational, optimistic

Ardis and her husband, Michael Joyce, have three children, Kieran (21), Aidan (19) and Regan (16) and live in Urbandale with their adopted pet turtle, Scooter.

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Pathways to CPA Licensure initiative in Iowa

Ardis Kelley is chairing the ISCPA Pathways to CPA Licensure Task Force, a member group charged with exploring various stakeholders' views on the 150 hour requirement for CPA licensure in Iowa.

As the chair of ISCPA's Pathways to CPA Licensure Task Force, please share more about its purpose.

As you know, ISCPA continues to advance various initiatives that address the CPA pipeline issue that is an immediate and growing concern in Iowa. At the request of ISCPA's board of directors, a task force was formed to address pipeline issues with a specific lens on the 120/150 hour education requirement and its impact on students, graduates, and mobility of Iowa CPAs.

The Pathways to CPA Licensure Task Force (Pathways), comprised of a cross section of members representing various constituencies, held its initial meeting in June. Subcommittee meetings across 10 stakeholder

groups are now underway. Through the use of data, focus group meetings across the state, and member surveys, the Pathways group will develop a recommendation on the 120/150 hour education requirement in

ISCPA Pathways focus group opportunities

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

- Sept. 6 | Clear Lake Public Library
- Sept. 7 | Atlantic Public Library
- Sept. 12 | Bettendorf Public Library
- Sept. 13 | ISCPA West Des Moines office
- Sept. 14 | Sioux City Public Library
- Sept. 19 | Cedar Rapids Public Library

Iowa and present to the board of directors in December for consideration and next steps.

Why is this important for ISCPA members? We need to preserve and grow the number of CPAs entering and remaining in the profession in Iowa and do so without compromising the perception of the CPA license, and

without inviting questions about the quality of new CPAs or the value CPAs bring to all aspects of business, industry, and users of financial statements.

How can members voice their opinions? Pathways, along with ISCPA leadership, will seek input through focus groups and membership surveys. Members across the state are encouraged to participate. Of course, you can also reach out directly to any member volunteering for Pathways or to ISCPA staff.

Anything else you would like to share? This is an exciting time for the profession as various states are coming together to address the pipeline issue and make meaningful and impactful changes for the good of our industry. I'm thrilled to be a part of this movement and excited to see the impact Iowa CPAs will have on the issue.

Register for the focus group date and location near you at www.iacpa.org/pathways.

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First job: Youth Peer Counselor at Planned Parenthood

What I wanted to be when I grew up: A medical doctor (OB/GYN) and a lawyer (yes, both)

Person you'd swap places with for a day: Janet Jackson

I never leave home without: Phone, sunglasses and Chapstick

TV series I'm currently obsessed with: Murder She Wrote and Columbo

Favorite food: Dirty martini with blue cheese olives

Special talent: Dancing

Last book I read: "Agatha Raisin and the Deadly Dance" by M.C. Beaton

Favorite movie: Back to the Future and The Joy Luck Club

Favorite app: Audible

Best vacation: Barcelona, Spain

Favorite quote: "Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you...." Marianne Williamson

Best advice I've received: Haste makes waste - my grandmother

Favorite musician: David Benoit

Fictional family I'd like to be a member of: The Huxtables (Cosby Show)

My first guest if I hosted a talk show: Oprah Winfrey

If I were famous, I'd want to be famous for: Singing

Place I'd love to live: Anywhere that's always warm and I can see the sun set over the ocean.