

# MEET OUR MEMBERS

IOWA CPA SPOTLIGHT



## JOSE LUIS GARCIA

**JOB:** Audit director with MHCS PC in West Des Moines

**HOMETOWN:** Winona, Minnesota

**ALMA MATER:** Winona State University

**COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:** Treasurer and member of the finance committee of HOME Inc., founding member and executive vice president of corporate development for the the Iowa chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA), and member of the ISCPA Pathways to CPA Licensure Task Force.

*Jose and his wife Susana live in Des Moines with their daughter, Camila.*

**My inspiration to become a CPA:** My sister.

**If I weren't a CPA, you might find me:**

As an actuary or electrician.

**How has being a member of ISCPA helped you?**

Building long lasting relationships and having an organization to use as a resource for my personal professional growth.

**What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the profession?** New standards year over year that keep people involved in the profession and create new opportunities.

**What is your favorite thing about your job?** The relationships and network you build by being a CPA.

**People don't know this about me:** I am originally from Mexico and grew up on a farm. I enjoy horse-back riding and being out in the country.

**Message for high school and college students considering a career as a CPA:** It's more than number crunching. Being innovative and a CPA can lead you to great opportunities. The doors that it can open in a future career are significant.

**Philosophy and principles toward work and life:** Work hard and play harder. You need to be consistent and focused at work but be able to step away and focus on your personal life to be able make a long lasting career without getting burnt out.

**In my free time:** I go to the gym or play soccer.

**Secret talent:** Remodel houses in my spare time.

**How has your background and experience shaped who you are today?** One hundred percent - seeing how hard my parents worked to set me and my siblings up for success is what instilled in me the work ethic that I have today.

**What influences have helped you in life and in work?** Having mentors along the way can point you in the right direction. Outside of my career, having close people that can keep me grounded and support me.

**Have you had mentors?** I've had mentors in every aspect of my career at this point, with my current mentor, Wendy Moran, playing an influential part in where I am today.

**Biggest achievement to date:** Being a father to Cami! It's the hardest, yet most rewarding job I've had.

**What my autobiography would be called:** Living My Seventh Life (I enjoy adrenaline and have been called a troublemaker).

**If I were famous, I'd want to be famous for:** Helping other people succeed.

**Best advice I ever received:** Treat the janitor the same way you treat the president of the company.

**TV obsession:** Soccer every Saturday or Sunday.

**Favorite food:** Posole, a Mexican soup.

**First job:** Server/waiter

**What I wanted to be when I grew up:** Actuary

**I never leave home without:** Chapstick

**Place I'd love to live:** Barcelona, Spain

**Favorite movie:** Blood Diamond

**Favorite app:** FanDuel

**Favorite quote:** You never fail if you never give up.

**Famous person I would like to meet:** Lionel (Leo) Messi

**My hero is:** My mother

**Favorite musician:** Joan Sebastian

**Best concert:** Carin Leon

**Go-to karaoke song:** Eso Y Mas by Joan Sebastian