

# meet members



## Nicci Lamb

**Job:** Finance Director with City of Urbandale

**Hometown:** St. Charles

**Alma mater:** University of Northern Iowa

**Professional/community activities:** Chair of Governmental Committee for ISCPA

**I was inspired to be a CPA:** My aunt passed her CPA exam when I was in high school, and around that same time I determined being a vet was not going to work out. Accounting was my second choice.

**Your message for young people considering a career as a CPA:** There is a surprising amount of variety available for a CPA. EVERY industry needs accountants, so the options are really limitless.

**Favorite thing about your job?** My staff and variety of activities.

**How has being a member of ISCPA helped you?** It's helped me create a good network of resources for help and information when I need it.

**I am passionate about:** Trying to make government operations transparent to citizens and teach people how Iowa property taxes work.

**Some of the biggest changes you've seen in the profession:** Not having to take the full CPA Exam at the same time and all electronic now. Seems like all should have to sit for two days with a #2 pencil!

**What is your biggest achievement to date?**

Raising three kids that are loving, confident, and compassionate.

**Best advice I received:** People won't remember what you said, they'll remember how you made them feel.

**If I weren't a CPA, you might find me:** Doing anything crafty and creative.

**Secret talent:** I taught myself how to weld so I can make my own garden art.

**People don't know this about me:** I coach two competition robotics teams for Norwalk Schools.

**Who would you swap places with for a day and why?**

A food critic so I can sample all kinds of food that I'd love to try, but not sure I'd like enough to order at a restaurant.

**How has your background shaped who you are today?** I was raised on a farm, so I learned about work ethic early on. Being an auditor with KPMG for six years gave me a strong background for internal controls and processes before I came to Urbandale.

**Interesting personal fact:** My husband and I bought 12 acres south of Norwalk to build our next home. We both have lots of creative hobbies, so our barn will include a woodshop, paint/finish booth, Co2 laser, and a welding bay!

**Mentors who influenced you along the way:** I've had so many. At KPMG, Kelley Ellis and Chuck Terlouw made me love working with governmental clients. With Urbandale, Don Brush and Bob Layton taught me so much about actually working in a city instead of just auditing one!

**What is your most memorable face palm moment?** My first audit job as a supervising senior with KPMG was auditing the ISU Athletic Department. On our last day of fieldwork I let staff go home, worked late to wrap up, and left after dark. I didn't realize the stadium gates would be locked and the building locked behind me, so I had to call ISU public safety to come let me out of the stadium. I was also dragging the huge rolling audit bag of binders with me, so they had to search it to be sure I wasn't stealing stuff from the building. So embarrassing!

**TV series I'm currently obsessed with:** Longmire, Mandalorian, The Queen's Gambit

**When I have free time:** I like to cook or bake, but only if there's someone around to help me eat it!

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*Nicci, her husband Tom, and children Tyler, Olivia and Miranda live in Norwalk with their two dogs and cat.*

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

**I never leave home without:** An audio book on my phone!

**My hero is:** My momma

**Favorite food:** Anything Mexican

**Favorite movie:** Notting Hill

**Best concert:** Garth Brooks

**Last book I read:** "The Tattooist of Auschwitz," by Heather Morris

**Favorite apps:** Cozi Family Calendar and Pinterest

**Favorite vacation spot:** Maui

**Best vacation:** Two weeks touring castles throughout England, Scotland, Wales

**Famous person I'd like to meet:** Harrison Ford

**Streaming on my device:** Firefly Lane

**Three words describe me best:** Loyal, hard-working, creative

**First job as a youth:** Grooming dogs