

meet **us** members



Liz Zager

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Alma mater: Bachelor's and master's in accounting from St. Ambrose University in Davenport

Young Iowa CPA Spotlight

What can we find you doing when you're not a work? Spending time with friends, family, and our dog! I also enjoy being active- running, going to the gym, and recreational sports are some ways I stay healthy and de-stress after a long day.

What's one thing you can't make it through the day without? Coffee! I love trying different coffee drinks from new shops. It helps me to jump-start my morning and get excited for the day ahead. My current favorites are all of the pumpkin drinks for fall- especially the pumpkin cold brew!

What has been the most challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic? The most challenging part of the COVID-19 pandemic for me has been dealing with the feeling of isolation and lack of social interaction. From a professional standpoint, that means making sure I stay connected to my coworkers remotely. I love to be social, so not having opportunities to catch up on everyone's weekend plans, activities, etc. around the "water cooler" was difficult at first. That being said, I love to see all the new creative ways to stay in touch virtually and really appreciate how we now collectively work to make sure we make in-person activities more meaningful.

What is your proudest professional accomplishment? First and foremost is passing the CPA exam! I spent a lot of time studying, but it was so worth it once I passed! Having the CPA certification has opened many doors for me in my career.

What ways have you been involved in ISCPA and how have they benefited you? I'm involved in ISCPA committees on topics that I'm passionate about- DEI and Career Awareness- and plan to attend the annual Women's Leadership Forum for the first time this year. This year I am the chair of the DEI Committee and I have been energized by the

passion the committee members have on the topic and all of the creative ways people have thought of to get involved! Being involved in a group of CPAs from various backgrounds/industries/locations for a common goal has been enlightening and has furthered my perspective on all the different ways CPAs function in our community. My involvement in the ISCPA has expanded my network beyond the company I work for and the community I live in which has given me a greater perspective on the profession and has sparked connections both personally and professionally.

What made you want to become a CPA? The experience I gained through my internships and the professionals I saw in leadership positions made me realize the value of the CPA certification. When I first heard about the CPA certification in school, I wasn't instantly interested. However, the more I learned about the credibility and respect that a CPA's expertise holds in the business community and differentiation it would give me when looking for meaningful employment and promotion, the more I realized how many more professional opportunities would be out there for me if I pursued my CPA.

What's your best piece of advice for a college student thinking about becoming a CPA? First, it's worth it! Achieving the CPA certification holds considerable value and can open many opportunities professionally. Second, get it done early! Life is always going to be busy and will likely only get busier as you get further in your career so get some good study materials, set a study schedule that works for you, and stick to it. Keep reminding yourself of the end goal and how good it will feel to achieve it!
