

# meet members



## Monica Steckel

**Job:** Assurance senior manager with Ernst & Young, LLP in Des Moines

**Hometown:** Hedrick

**Alma mater:** University of Northern Iowa

**Professional activities:** Chair of ISCPA's Membership Committee

**If I weren't a CPA, you might find me:** I recently found out that several members of my family thought I might end up as an interior designer, so I guess I could've been the next HGTV star!

**I am passionate about:** I love trying to help people understand and solve problems – not just professionally, but personally as well.

**How has being a member of ISCPA helped you?** Being a member of ISCPA helps keep me grounded in all of the ways that CPAs support people, businesses, and the community. I have had the opportunity to meet so many other professionals that I otherwise wouldn't have come across.

**Your message for young people considering a career as a CPA?** Becoming a CPA opens so many potential career avenues, many that are far outside any box that we might think of when deciding to study accounting or become a CPA. There is also a lot of career stability that cannot be underrated!

**What is your favorite thing about your job?** The best part of my job is getting to work with really smart people. I have always been a learner and love solving problems, and there is always something different and challenging to work through.

**Tell us about some of your philosophies and principles toward work and life.** As I have grown within my career and have become a parent, I've realized that trying to hold work and life in opposition always ends in one side "losing." I try to think about it more on a continuum and give myself the grace to let go of the little things. I think also realizing that what works for one person, may not work for you.

**Have you had any mentors who helped you along the way?** I have had so many people encourage and support me throughout my life and career. I am forever grateful to the people who saw potential in me and pushed me forward to where I am today.

**What is your most memorable face palm moment?** During one of my internships, I was asked to pick my boss up and bring him back to the office (a 2-hour trip). He had a reputation for being a fast driver, so I thought it would be a good idea for me to go faster than I normally would. I ended up getting pulled over and receiving my first speeding ticket, and then spent the rest of the summer laughing with everyone in the office about it.

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*Monica and her husband, Andrew, live in Waukee with their children, Henry and Isaac.*

**First job:** Lifeguard

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

**People don't know this about me:** I grew up on a farm

**Favorite food:** Ice cream

**Favorite movie:** You've Got Mail

**Favorite app:** Target

**In my free time, I like to:** Bake and read

**Best concert:** Justin Timberlake

**One place I'd love to visit:** Hawaii

**TV series I'm currently obsessed with:** Somebody Feed Phil and The Office (on repeat)