

meet members



Karla Jones-Weber

Job: Chief financial & administrative officer of Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines

Hometown: Des Moines

Alma mater: Drake University

Professional/community activities: ISCPA Nonprofit Committee Chair, FEI (Financial Executives International)

I was inspired to be a CPA because: I decided not to get my CPA after college because I didn't want to work at a CPA firm. After years working in the private sector, I decided it would bring additional value to my career, so I decided to go for it. During that time, the education requirements changed, so I needed 24 hours of college credits. As a single mom, I took online classes to fulfill the credit requirements at the same time I was taking the exam review courses and sitting for the exam. It was a busy couple of years, but well worth it to achieve that goal!

If I weren't a CPA, you might find me: Owning an organizing business, being a Top Gun pilot or taking care of babies as a neonatal nurse.

People don't know this about me, but: I am a cancer survivor. When I was 16, I was diagnosed with the same type of cancer that Dave Dravecky lost his arm to. Thankfully, mine was caught early.

Your message for young people considering a career as a CPA? Being a CPA doesn't mean only working at a CPA firm. There are so many opportunities available to help lead and guide businesses from within, and the CPA designation provides a valuable resource for you and the company.

How has being a member of ISCPA helped you? I give big thanks to Cindy Adams because when she joined the Society, more effort went into providing resources to industry CPAs. The Society has provided opportunities for me to learn and network with others.

Biggest changes you've seen in the profession: As a CFO, the shift from being responsible only for the financial aspects of a business to being a strategic partner helping to drive the future growth and

opportunities for my organization has been a very fulfilling change.

Favorite thing about your job: The challenge every day and the opportunity to be entrepreneurial at an organization that does amazing work to strengthen our community.

Some of your philosophies about work and life: I believe everything happens for a reason, every person you meet is for a reason, and you never know what impact you might have on someone or who you might inspire so you should always give your all.

What has inspired you? My parents have inspired me to work hard, my kids inspire me to enjoy life and question everything, and the great team at the Community Foundation inspires me to continue to put in the hard work for our community.

Have you had mentors? I've been fortunate to work with many amazing business leaders in our community. Several seasoned women professionals have poured into me in ways that I could never articulate. Our community has amazing, passionate leaders!

Biggest achievement to date: Raising amazing kids is my biggest accomplishment. Being recognized as Business Record's CFO of the Year in 2021 was my biggest professional accomplishment.

Special talent: Baking – it's my form of relaxing. I recently made cheesecakes for a wedding reception and realized that wasn't very relaxing at all!

Something you are passionate about outside of work: I love Des Moines! I enjoy our community, visiting local sites and attractions, enjoying live entertainment and supporting local businesses and artists.

What I wanted to be when I grew up: Accountant and business owner

Favorite food: Authentic Mexican food and a great margarita!

Three words that describe me best: Loyal, achiever, competitive

Favorite quote: "If you always do what you always did, you always get what you always got."

Last book I read: "Dare to Lead" by Brene Brown

Favorite movie: The Shawshank Redemption

Favorite app: As a busy mom and professional ... Reminders app is my best friend

Favorite vacation spot: Anywhere with a beach, sun and ocean

Best concert I've been to: New Edition, Al B Sure, Bobby Brown

Best vacation: Family cruise to the Caribbean

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