



ISCPA

IOWA SOCIETY OF CPAs

Young Iowa CPA spotlight Judi Steward Ogden

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Hometown: Omaha, Neb.

Alma Mater/Degree: Bachelor's degree in accounting and finance from Iowa State University

Where do you work and what's your role? After college, I decided I wanted to move to South Carolina, although I had never been there before. I found Moore Beauston & Woodham, LLP online through LinkedIn and was offered a position after several interviews. I worked in South Carolina for four years. When I decided to move closer to home again, they allowed me to work remotely. I luckily get to go back to South Carolina often enough to see my colleagues and friends. I started as a staff accountant and have slowly worked my way to a manager role doing a wide variety of work.

What can we find you doing when you're not at work? My husband and I bought some land in rural Iowa and we got married last June on our property. We converted a shed to an off-grid tiny home in order to save money and eventually construct our real home. Our lifestyle is one that requires us to be doing something constantly. Whether it's cutting and gathering wood for our wood stove, tending to our battery bank for our solar energy, planting 500 trees, or residing our barn.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? In a new home, not worrying about leaving the tv on too long. Also making it to partner. Those seem equal.

What is your proudest professional accomplishment? Receiving my CPA. School has never been my strong suit, so to be able to study on my own and pass all four parts while working full-time was an incredible feat. Getting my CPA has increased my upward potential exponentially. It has given me a sense of pride and accomplishment since receiving it. I am now certified in South Carolina and Iowa.

What ways have you been involved in ISCPA and how has it benefited you? When I moved to being a remote employee after working in the office for several years, it was a tough transition. I joined the LEAP (Leaders Emerging in the Accounting Profession) Committee and social subcommittee to help plan all our social events. It has given me the opportunity to meet other members in our area with the same drive and passion I have for our profession. I found it incredibly beneficial as a lone remote employee to get that social bucket filled.

What's your best piece of advice for a college student thinking about becoming a CPA? Don't give up. It is a tough exam but if we all can do it, so can you. If you need a mentor, ISCPA can definitely help point you in the right direction.