



# ISCPA

IOWA SOCIETY OF CPAs

## Young Iowa CPA spotlight Grant Rolfes West Des Moines

October 2021

**Hometown:** Urbandale

**Alma Mater/Degree:** Iowa State University, bachelor's and master's degree in accounting.

**Where do you work and what's your role?** Lead analyst, financial controls at Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB).

**What can we find you doing when you're not a work?** My fiancé and I spend as much time as we can with our friends and families. That fills up almost all of the time outside of work!

**What's one thing you can't make it through the day without?** My colleague Rick Kievits said 'oxygen' when he was spotlighted (a good answer)... but other than oxygen, I couldn't live a day without the people I interact with day in and day out (personally and professionally). I am incredibly lucky to be surrounded by the people I work and socialize with.

**What has been the most challenging so far during the COVID-19 pandemic?** I have missed interacting with my co-workers face-to-face. I started at FHLB in the middle of the pandemic and building relationships via Zoom was a challenge. I will never complain about an in-person meeting again in my life!

**What is your proudest professional accomplishment?** Getting my CPA! It has opened so many doors for me professionally and has allowed me to meet and work with incredibly talented people who have been patient enough to teach me some of what they know.

**What ways have you been involved in ISCPA and how have they benefited you?** I am a new member of the Financial Institutions Committee. I've also been able to attend the Emerging Leaders Conference, amongst other ISCPA-sponsored events. Getting involved at ISCPA has been an awesome way to meet and learn from others in the profession.

**What made you want to become a CPA?** My dad was a CPA, and I was fortunate enough to hear about his career experiences and what he thought a CPA designation might bring to my career as I was deciding my major at Iowa State. A CPA is so much more than just an accounting designation, which he was able to help explain to me as I was deciding what path to head down.

**What's your best piece of advice for a college student thinking about becoming a CPA?** Obtaining your CPA designation will only open doors for you in the future. The access and opportunity you can obtain with the designation is worth the price of admission. The CPA designation not only shows your competency in the accounting profession, but shows you understand the 'language of business' as a whole, which is an invaluable asset to have.